



**AEO**  
HONG KONG  
Authorized Economic Operator  
香港認可經濟營運商

# Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme Trade Facilitation and Mutual Recognition **Hong Kong, China**

**Maggie TSE**  
Assistant Superintendent

Office of Trade Relations and Public Communication  
Hong Kong Customs

# AGENDA

- 01** Introduction of HKAE0 Programme
- 02** International Cooperation under Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)
- 03** Integration of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) into HKAE0 Programme
- 04** Way forward

# HKAEO PROGRAMME

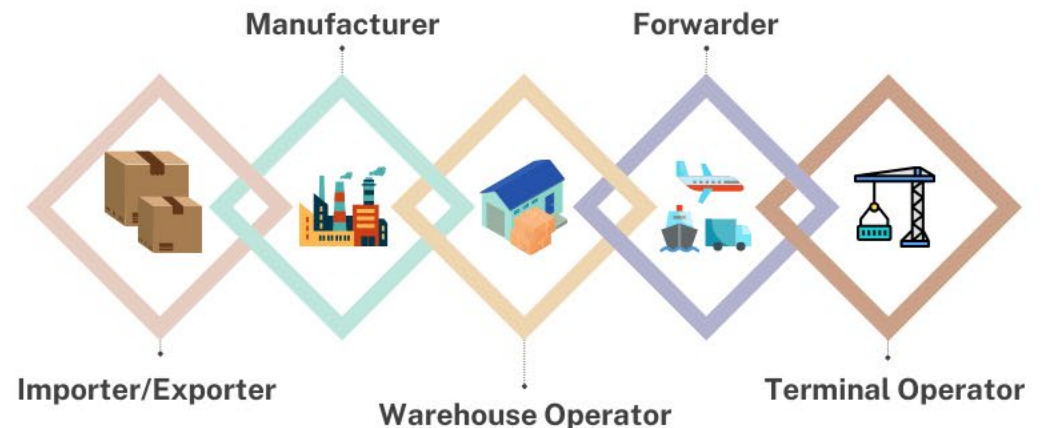


**Launched in 2012**  
- under an open and voluntary  
certification regime



**Full compliance with WCO  
SAFE Framework of Standards**

**All local enterprises** engaging  
in the **international supply chain**  
activities are eligible



# ACCREDITATION STANDARD

10

Tier 1

12

Tier 2

3-Year  
Validity

01

Customs Compliance

07

Conveyance Security

02

Maintenance of Commercial Records

08

Business Partner Security

03

Financial Soundness

09

Security Education & Training

04

Premises Security & Access Control

10

Info Exchange, Access & Confidentiality

05

Personnel Security

11

Crisis Management & Incident Recovery

06

Cargo Security

12

Measurement, Analysis & Improvement

# ACCREDITED HKAEOS

- All stakeholders of global supply chain
- MNCs & SMEs
- Various industries



Annual HKAEO Certificate  
Presentation Ceremony



92  
Accredited HKAEOs

# BENEFITS



Customs Clearance facilitation



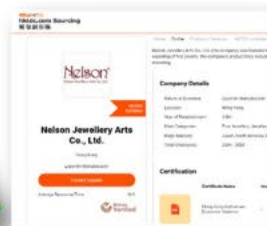
Recognized as HK Customs' trusted partner



=



Brand Building



Privileged benefits under MRA



Reduced Customs Inspection



Prioritized Clearance



Prioritized clearance upon recovery of major trade disruptions

# AEO MRA IN HONG KONG, CHINA

**M**utual **R**ecognition **A**rrangement (MRA)

Reciprocal benefits / facilitation to the mutually recognized AEOs

17

Concluded MRA

Chinese  
Mainland

India

Korea

Singapore

Thailand

Malaysia

Japan

Australia

2013

2013

2014

2014

2015

2016

2016

2017

New  
Zealand

Israel

Canada

Mexico

Indonesia

Macao,  
China

Bahrain

South  
Africa

Saudi  
Arabia

2018

2019

2019

2020

2022

2023

2024

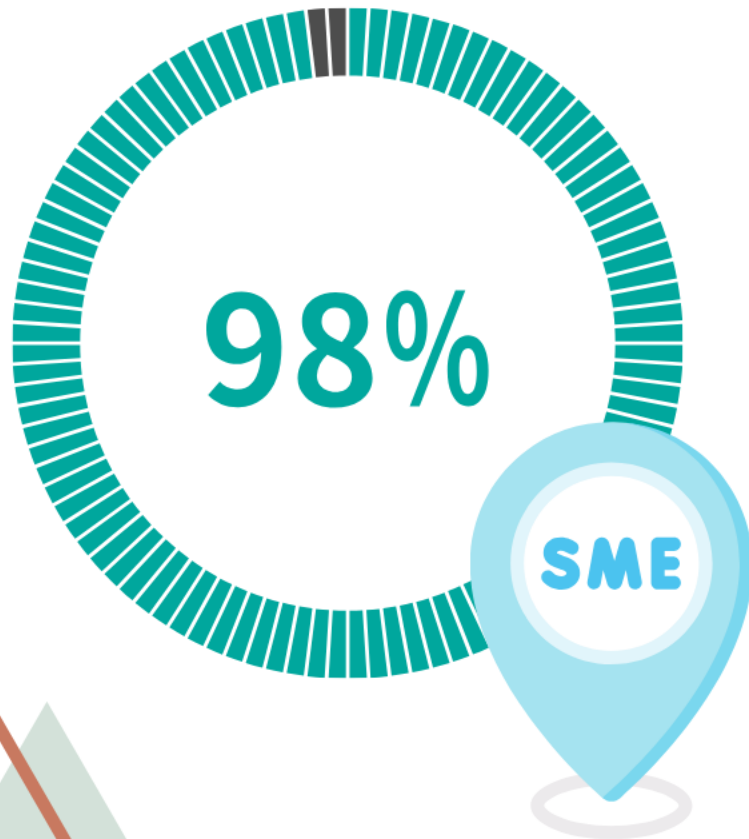
2024

2025

# AEO MRA IN HONG KONG, CHINA



# SMES IN HONG KONG



- Over **350,000 SMEs** in Hong Kong, China
  - Accounted for over **98% of business units**
  - About **44% of total employment**
- Most in the **import/export trade and wholesale industries**



# STRATEGIES TO HELP SMES TO JOIN AEO PROGRAMME

## Two-Tier Accreditation Regime



# STRATEGIES TO HELP SMES TO JOIN AEO PROGRAMME

## Multi-pronged Promotion Strategies



### Publicity & communication channels

- Website, Facebook page, e-newsletter
- Designated hotline & email box



### Collaboration with trade associations/other agencies



- Local trade associations & foreign chambers of commerce
- Promotion talks and activities
- Extended benefits for AEOs  
e.g. FTA prioritized processing & 10 free credit checks by HK Export Credit Insurance Corporation



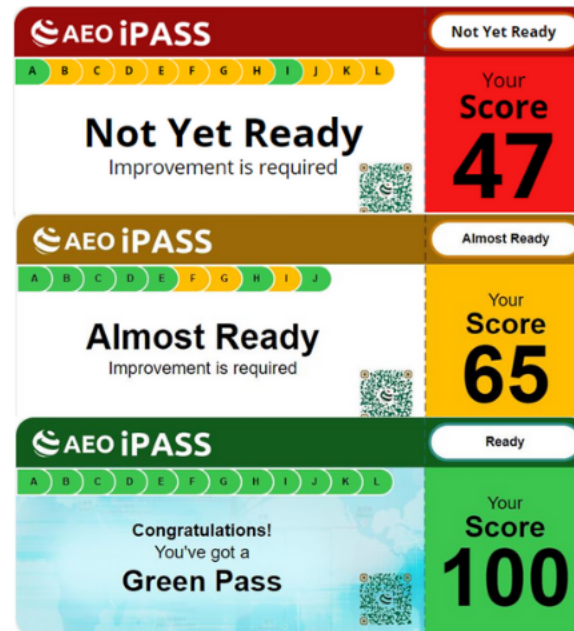
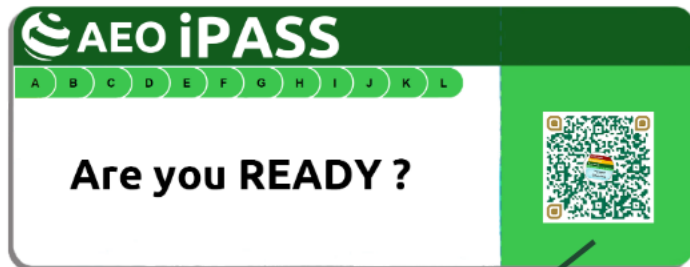
# STRATEGIES TO HELP SMES TO JOIN AEO PROGRAMME

## AEO iPASS – Online Assessment Tool



- Easy and quick way to know the readiness
- Improvement advice and e-learning packages

No. of YES/NO questions: 69-80



Criteria **G** Conveyance Security

Suggestions for improvement

Company should establish mechanism to track and monitor the activities of conveyances and cargo throughout the local transportation process, and provide security rules, procedures, or guidance to conveyance operators. All conveyances (including contracted trucks) shall be kept at secure locations after works and properly manage conveyance keys to prevent the conveyance from unauthorized use. The parking area shall be protected by security devices and access control measures.

# STRATEGIES TO HELP SMES TO JOIN AEO PROGRAMME

**FREE &  
VOLUNTARY**

## Professional Assistance



### Cultivation Team

- Identify potential companies
- Address problems and provide guidance



### Account Managers

- Assigned to each SME
- Help SMEs understand & fulfill AEO criteria



# WAY FORWARD

- **Encourage SMEs' participation** in the HKAEO Programme
- **Facilitate trade development** and uphold **global supply chain security**





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**THANK  
YOU**