



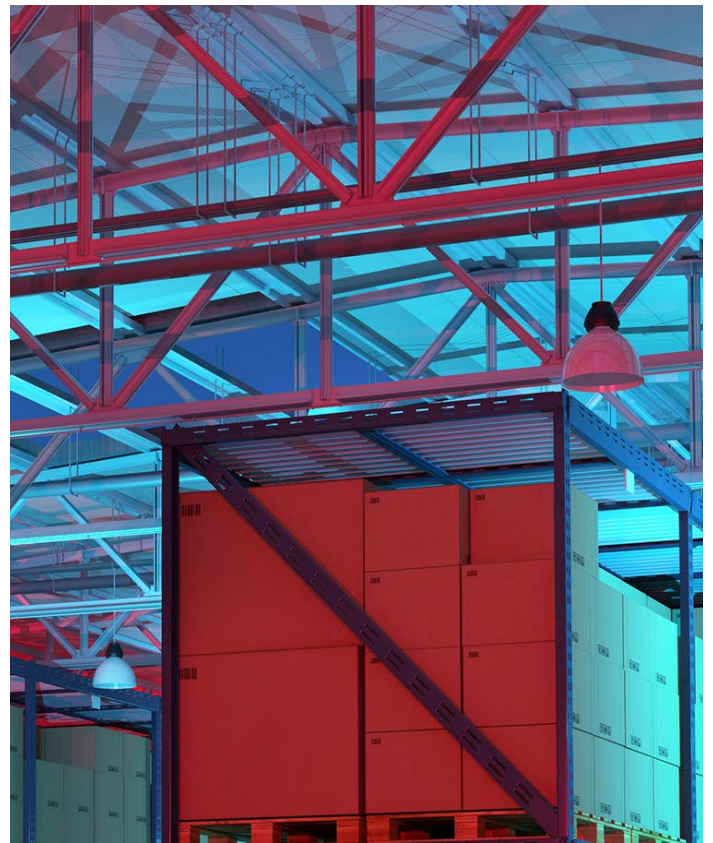
Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) authorisation

What is AEO?

AEO stands for Authorised Economic Operator and is an internationally recognised quality mark indicating that your role within the international supply chain is secure and your procedures and customs controls are compliant and efficient.

In order to gain an AEO authorisation the company must fulfil the following criteria:

- ▶ Comply with Customs regulations, have robust procedures covering all elements of Customs requirements
- ▶ Have a satisfactory system of managing commercial and, where appropriate, transport records
- ▶ Demonstrated proven financial solvency
- ▶ Demonstrated practical standards of competence or professional qualifications
- ▶ Have appropriate security and safety standards.



"BDO is a first-rate partner to assist businesses in achieving AEO accreditation, our consultant took time to understand the business expectations, was able to relate to our current processes, giving us an exceptionally detailed application. BDO's in-depth knowledge and experience assisted our internal teams through Brexit transition and establishing customs compliance within the business to the AEO Standard. I would fully recommend BDO."

– Heather Mackey, Continuous Improvement Manager, Foyle Food Group



Although AEO is not mandatory, the AEO authorisation offers numerous benefits to businesses such as:

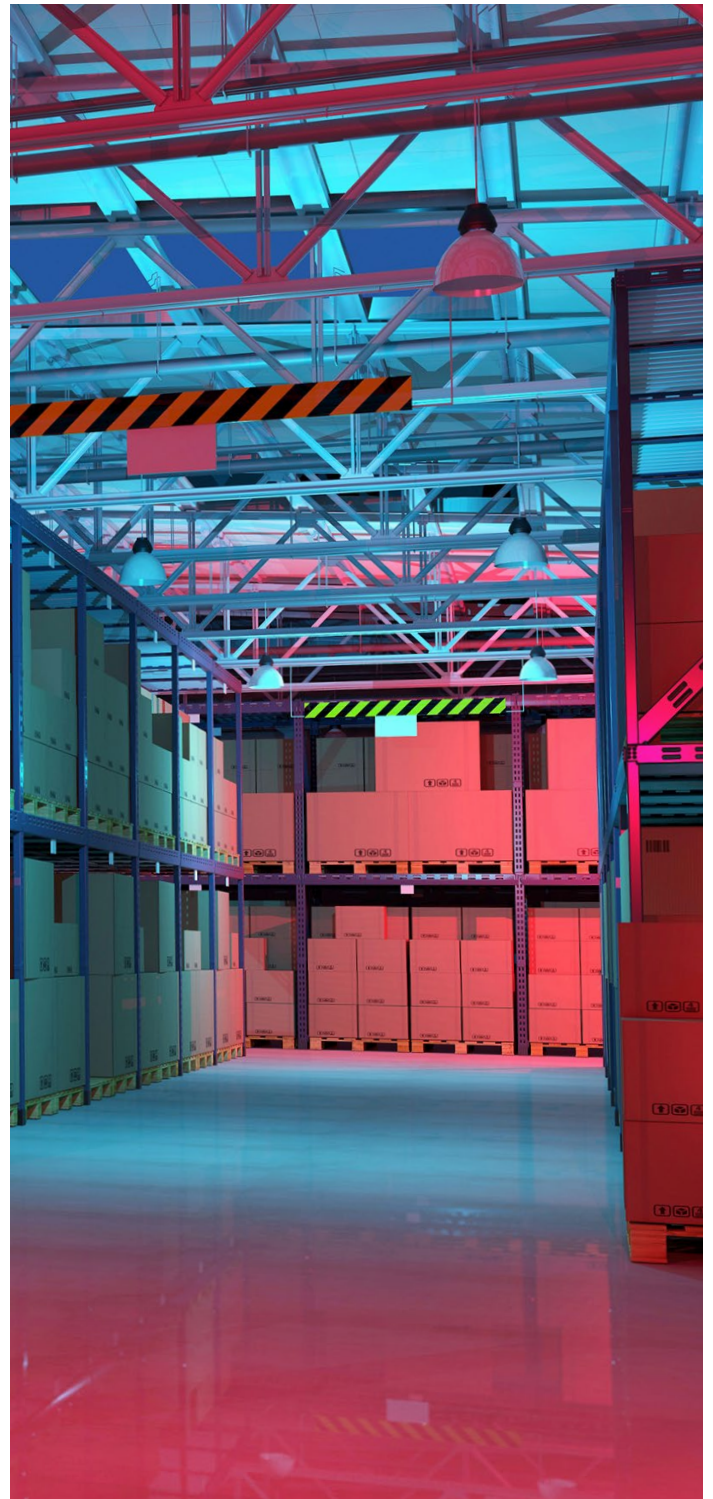
- ▶ International recognition as a safe, compliant business partner by other countries under Joint Customs Mutual Agreements
- ▶ A secure supply chain with lower risk scores when profiling
- ▶ Customs simplifications
 - Fewer physical and document-based controls
 - Priority treatment of consignments if selected for control
 - Easier admittance to simplified procedures
- ▶ Commercial benefits
 - Enhanced reputation for your business
 - Faster application process for customs simplifications and authorisations
- ▶ Financial benefits
 - A reduction or waiver of comprehensive guarantees.

Once the AEO authorisation has been granted, your company will be subject to continuous periodic audits by the customs authority. It is, therefore, critical to ensure your business remains AEO compliant after obtaining approval.

How can BDO support your business?

Obtaining AEO status can be a lengthy, complicated process. Our Customs and International Trade Services team in BDO in Ireland can assist and run the AEO application process ensuring that all AEO requirements are met and in turn, identify further opportunities for the company to help ease the burden that Customs can bring.

Our AEO experts will also continue to work and support your company to maintain its AEO status, to ensure you are compliant and are prepared for an AEO audit. We offer a tailor-made approach that allows our clients to benefit from our expertise with the AEO process, while doing as much of the work in-house, as required.



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