

AEOF certification

Finder SpA has attained '**Authorized Economic Operator - Full**' (AEOF) certification. This certification is the highest level achievable in the EU programme for Authorised Economic Operators (AEO), and comprises 'Customs Simplifications and Security'.

An AEO is a party involved in the international movement of goods that has been approved by or on behalf of a national customs administration as complying with World Customs Organization (WCO¹) supply chain security standards.

European Union companies involved in customs activities can apply for AEO status, which allows facilitations in security controls and a simplified customs procedure, with the ultimate purpose of protecting the entire international supply chain.

The concept of this certification is to regulate companies at global level, and the objective of the World Customs Organization is therefore to create this status in all adhering countries. At present, the AEO programme is in force throughout the entire European Union, and there is an on-going move towards mutual recognition with non-EU countries and trade areas such as:

- Japan and the United States (already effective)
- Norway, Switzerland and Andorra (partial agreement in force)
- China (under negotiation)
- Columbia and Morocco (pending)

The advantages of becoming an AEO operator in Finder's case are associated with greater speed and security in supplying customers with the company's products.

The benefits can therefore be summarized as follows:



- *A reliability and security status recognized throughout the EU and with increasing international validity*
- *Facilitations relating to customs and security*
- *Priority treatment of cargo if earmarked for inspection*
- *Customs simplifications*

The Italian Customs Agency awarded Finder an initial reliability rating of "AA". This top rating was reconfirmed in a subsequent audit.

¹ International organization with over 170 member states and headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.