

The Association of Canadian Customs Trade Advisors (ACCTA) Government Relations and Advocacy Policy

Effective Date: March 11, 2026

1. Purpose

The **Association of Canadian Customs Trade Advisors (ACCTA)** represents the collective interests of professionals engaged in customs compliance, international trade advisory services, and related supply chain advisory activities.

This Government Relations and Advocacy Policy establishes principles and guidelines governing ACCTA's engagement with:

- Government departments
- Regulatory authorities
- Policy makers
- Parliamentary bodies
- Other public institutions

ACCTA seeks to support the development of transparent, efficient, and effective customs and international trade policies in Canada.

2. Advocacy Principles

ACCTA's government engagement activities are guided by the following principles:

Integrity

ACCTA will engage with government officials in a transparent, ethical, and professional manner.

Non-Partisanship

ACCTA is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse or oppose political parties or candidates.

Evidence-Based Input

ACCTA will strive to provide constructive, practical, and technically informed input based on industry expertise and professional experience.

Industry Interest

ACCTA will advocate for policies that support:

- Efficient trade compliance
- Fair and predictable regulatory frameworks
- Effective border administration

3. Scope of Advocacy Activities

ACCTA may engage in advocacy activities including:

- Participating in consultations with government agencies
- Providing written submissions on regulatory or policy proposals
- Participating in industry advisory committees
- Engaging in dialogue with policymakers
- Contributing to discussions on trade compliance best practices
- Supporting improvements to customs administration

Advocacy efforts are intended to advance **industry knowledge, compliance effectiveness, and trade facilitation.**

4. Representation of ACCTA

Only authorized representatives may speak on behalf of ACCTA in official communications with government agencies or policymakers.

Authorized representatives may include:

- ACCTA Board members
- Designated committee chairs
- Executive leadership
- Individuals specifically authorized by the Board

Members participating in meetings with government officials must clearly indicate whether they are:

- Representing ACCTA; or
- Expressing personal or organizational views.

5. Transparency and Accountability

ACCTA is committed to transparency in its advocacy activities.

Where appropriate, ACCTA may:

- Publish position papers
- Share consultation submissions
- Provide summaries of policy engagement activities to members

ACCTA will ensure that advocacy positions reflect the interests of the association and are developed through appropriate governance processes.

6. Compliance with Lobbying Laws

ACCTA will comply with applicable Canadian lobbying and transparency legislation, including requirements under the **Lobbying Act (Canada)** where applicable.

If lobbying registration is required, ACCTA will ensure that:

- Appropriate filings are made
- Reporting requirements are satisfied
- Communications with public office holders are conducted in accordance with legal requirements

Members representing ACCTA must also ensure compliance with applicable lobbying laws.

7. Conflicts of Interest

Members participating in ACCTA advocacy activities must disclose any conflicts of interest that may arise.

Conflicts may include:

- Representing a client with interests directly affected by a policy position
- Financial interests related to a policy issue
- Other professional obligations that could influence objectivity

ACCTA may determine appropriate steps to manage conflicts, including recusal from specific discussions.

8. Member Participation in Policy Development

ACCTA encourages members to contribute expertise to policy discussions through:

- Committees
- Working groups
- Industry consultations
- Submission drafting

However, participation in these processes does not grant members authority to represent ACCTA externally unless specifically authorized.

9. Use of ACCTA Name and Branding

Members may not represent themselves as speaking on behalf of ACCTA or imply ACCTA endorsement without authorization.

The ACCTA name, logo, and branding may only be used in accordance with ACCTA policies.

10. Changes to This Policy

ACCTA may update this Government Relations and Advocacy Policy periodically to reflect evolving governance practices and regulatory requirements.

Updates will be posted on the ACCTA website with the revised **Effective Date**.

11. Contact

Questions regarding this Policy may be directed to:

The Association of Canadian Customs Trade Advisors (ACCTA)

Email: governance@accta-accdc.com

Website: <https://accta-accdc.com>