AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ACE) AND SINGLE WINDOW IMPLEMENTATION
For April 2016 COAC

OVERVIEW:

- On February 19, 2014, President Obama signed an Executive Order to streamline the import/export process by calling for the completion of a "single window" that will allow businesses to electronically transmit the data required by the U.S. Government to import or export cargo by December 2016.
- ACE will become that "single window," the primary processing system through which the trade-related data required by all Government agencies is submitted and processed[1].
- To facilitate implementation of Single Window/ACE, CBP has established mandatory dates for the use of ACE.
- To date, the following ACE mandatory transition dates have been met:
  - **May 1, 2016:** use of ACE became mandatory for all electronic manifest filings.
  - **February 28, 2016:** CBP began divesting the legacy Automated Commercial System (ACS). This transition shifted technical and customer support resources away from the legacy ACS system, a necessary step to focus critical resources in support of the new system, ACE.
  - **March 31, 2016:** Filers required to file in ACE electronic entry summaries for the most commonly filed entry types, AND electronic entries and entry summaries with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Lacey Act and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data. The legacy system, the Automated Commercial System (ACS), will no longer be available for these specific transactions.
  - **March 28 - April 8, 2016:** CBP provided War Room Support for the March 31 Mandatory Date.

Trade Readiness/ACE Filing Activity

- We are monitoring ACE cargo release and entry summary filing activity closely and the numbers are growing rapidly.
- During the week of April 4th, we had all-time highs of 70 percent of cargo release and 90 percent of entry summary filings in ACE.
- In addition, based on last month's statistics (end of March):
  - Approximately 79 percent of cargo release filers can file in ACE (*i.e*, have filed at least one entry/cargo release in ACE); and,
  - Approximately 88 percent of entry summary filers can file in ACE (*i.e*, have filed at least one entry summary in ACE).

PGA Readiness
- 22 agencies have data requirements at entry/entry summary.
- 15 of 22 will have their data requirements met via PGA Message Set.

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[1] Application forms for permits and licenses excluded from the Single Window.

- 10 of the 15 have available PGA Message Set pilots.
- 9 of 10 are currently receiving transactions via the pilots.

UPCOMING DELIVERABLES
- We will complete the mandatory transition to ACE in 2016.
  - **May 20, 2016:** Full transition of legacy AES*Direct* (export commodity filings via the portal) to ACE.
  - **May 28, 2016:** Filers will be required to file in ACE electronic entries (cargo release) for the most commonly filed entry types, and Foreign Trade Zone entries and entry summaries. The legacy system, ACS, will no longer be available for these specific transactions.
  - **Summer 2016:** Filers will be required to file in ACE electronic entries and entry summaries for the remaining entry types, specifically those entry types involving quota merchandise.
  - **Summer 2016:** As the PGAs, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), conclude their pilots, they will provide more information for filing electronically in ACE.
  - Our final mandatory transition will be **later in 2016 (specific date TBA),** when ACE becomes mandatory for the electronic filing of all remaining CBP processes. This includes processes such as drawback, liquidation, reconciliation, protest, *etc*.
- Following the deployment of core trade processing capabilities in ACE in 2016, CBP will continue to enhance ACE capabilities in an operations and maintenance mode. New projects/requirements, however, will need to be approved through our established governance process in line with CBP's trade priorities and funded.

BACKGROUND:

- Through ACE, Federal agencies will have earlier, automated visibility to shipment data, expediting their import or export assessments at the border and speeding the flow of legitimate trade while also improving security, health and safety of cargo.
- Interactions between Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) will be automated to enable near-real time decision making, reducing costs for business and Government.
- CBP and the PGAs have made signification progress on the implementation of ACE and single window filing capabilities and are on track to complete implementation by the December 2016 timeframe set forth in the Executive Order.
- Together with the Department of Homeland Security, the Border Interagency Executive Council and the White House, CBP announced on February 8, 2016 an updated timeline for mandatory transaction filings in ACE due to continued concerns about stakeholder readiness. This effort has alleviated industry concerns and enabled additional time for PGA integration and full and robust testing by our trade partners.

Overarching Deployment Status

- On the deployment front, CBP has completed six of seven primary deployments.
- More than **85 percent of Single Window** integration capabilities have been deployed.
  - Delivered core technical foundation for the PGAs and are now focused on integrating more PGAs.

- o Pilots are ongoing now.
- **100 percent of Import Manifest** functionality is now in ACE.
    - o ACE now processes import manifests in all modes of transportation.
- Nearly **95 percent of core Cargo Release processing** capabilities have been delivered in ACE.
    - o Cargo release functionality is now operational for all modes of transportation at all CBP ports.
- More than **80 percent of Post Release** capabilities are available in ACE.
    - o The most common entry summary types can be filed now in ACE. Entry types 01, 03, 06, 11, 23, 51 and 52 are available for filing in ACE.
    - o We are continuing work on capabilities for downstream processing – we have reconciliation, drawback and protest also scheduled for our final deployment in July 2016.
- More than **90 percent of export processing** functionality has been deployed in ACE.
    - o The Automated Export System (AES) is now part of the ACE platform.
    - o Capabilities have been deployed to support electronic export manifest filing for air, rail and sea modes.
        - Federal Register Notices have been published announcing pilots for the air, ocean and rail modes.
        - Initial pilots have recently begun for rail and ocean modes; air piloting is expected to start later this year.
        - Piloting for truck manifest is TBD.
    - o CBP has worked with Census to integrate AES*Direct* with ACE
        - ACE exporter accounts and export reports were delivered in June 2015.
        - Trade beta testing of ACE AESDirect filing capabilities began on September 21, 2015. ACE AES*Direct* was opened to all filers in November 2015.
        - The full transition to ACE AES*Direct* is targeted May 20, 2016.

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