

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Government Issue Paper: ACE/Single Window

(August, 2017)



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Trade Transformation Office, Office of International Trade
ACE/Single Window
August, 2017

Action Required:

- Informational

Background:

- In December 2016, through close coordination with our partner agency and trade community stakeholders, CBP completed the “Single Window” for trade processing via the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) - a tremendous accomplishment which meets the deadline set by Executive Order 13659, Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America’s Business.
- ACE is the United States Single Window, the primary processing system through which the trade-related data required by all Government agencies is submitted and processed. This means a transition away from paper-based procedures to faster, more streamlined processes for both government and industry.
- To date, CBP has completed six of seven primary deployments established to achieve core trade processing in ACE. Currently:
 - 100 percent of import manifest, cargo release processing, Partner Government Agency (PGA) integration, and export processing functionality has been deployed in ACE.
 - All manifest, entries, entry summaries and export commodity filings must be filed in ACE.
 - In addition, more than 85 percent of post release capabilities are available in ACE.
 - Protest capabilities were deployed in ACE in August 2016.
 - In accordance with the December 2016 Final Rule, the Official Notices of Liquidation, Suspension, and Extension are now electronic and posted on the CBP.gov home page.

Issue:

- On June 27, 2017, CBP announced a delay in the deployment of the remaining ACE post release capabilities that had been scheduled for July 8, 2017. This deployment includes liquidation (with the exception of the previously deployed electronic posting of the Notices of Liquidation on CBP.gov), reconciliation, drawback, duty deferral, statements, collections and the Automated Surety Interface (ASI).
- With the exception of the collections functionality, which is primarily inward facing, these remaining post-release capabilities are ready and available for trade testing. Based on the results of rigorous testing of the collections capabilities, CBP has modified the deployment approach.
- The deployment approach is being replanned to enable:
 - Deployment of TFTEA Drawback capabilities in accordance with the legislative mandate; and
 - Deployment of the remaining post release business process functionality that CBP has committed to stakeholders.

- Since the collections capabilities are largely inward facing, CBP has replanned the deployment strategy to enable CBP to separate collections and deploy the other post release capabilities of ACE core using a phased approach. Developers are working software changes that will allow ACE deployment of these post release capabilities, while also ensuring that they continue to interface seamlessly with collections in the legacy system.
- The current draft of the deployment replan is as follows:
 - ACE Deployment G, Release 2 (September 16, 2017) – Non-ABI Entry Summary/Lineless (for CBP only), Duty Deferral, e214, and Manufacturer ID Creation;
 - ACE Deployment G, Release 3 (December 16, 2017) – Statements; and
 - ACE Deployment G, Release 4 (February 24, 2018) – Reconciliation, ACE Core Drawback and TFTEA Drawback, Liquidation and Automated Surety Interface (ASI).
- The rescheduled deployment dates will be published in a Federal Register Notice at least 30 days in advance of the deployment date.
- CBP will develop and deploy TFTEA drawback capabilities in accordance with the legislative mandate
- The re-planning required to address the issues with collections capabilities is continuing.
- The ABI Query for Foreign Currency Rates will remain in ACS until ACS is no longer available. In parallel, currency rate calculation information is also posted on www.cbp.gov/ace.
- CBP will be retraining our personnel and providing updated materials on each capability prior to these deployments.

Next Steps:

- Following this deployment, ACE will transition to the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) phase of its life cycle.
- There are no ACE Program funds for developing new or enhanced capabilities. Resources for the remaining life cycle of the core ACE system are dedicated to promoting supply chain predictability by ensuring ACE system availability and reliability through timely system bug fixes, program management, software sustainment, and infrastructure support for deployed core capabilities.
- The trade community should continue to engage with CBP on trade program priorities and the enabling automation updates/changes that may be associated with implementing trade program initiatives or process improvements.
 - The trade community can help by quantifying and articulating the trade benefit of desired CBP trade program enhancement initiatives, including those requiring automation.
 - Equally, the trade community can stay engaged with PGA updates and progress through representatives on the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) External Engagement Committee (EEC).

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