

# CBP Automated Manifest Interface Requirements

## AIR AMS Requirements

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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection



# Requirements

*The requirements to participate in Air AMS are described in the procedures listed below.  
Each Air AMS participant is assigned a client representative who will coordinate the  
expansion of each participant to additional sites.*

The standard process needed to bring an Air AMS participant on-line requires five stages:

1. *Software Application*

An Air AMS participant, not utilizing an existing Air AMS Service Center, must build or acquire an application capable of creating and sending manifest data for shipments imported via air carrier. Air carriers, specifically, must be able to send a Flight Departure Message. All new Air AMS participants must be able to support air waybill inquiry functions through the FSQ and FSC message types.

2. *Communications link*

The participant has to develop or acquire communications software compatible with communication protocols supported and recommended by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Information and Technology, Infrastructure Services Division, Network Engineering Branch. At this point the carrier will attempt to establish a communications session with CBP.

3. *Certification Testing*

After a successful communications link has been established, each new Air AMS participant will complete a certification test specific to its participation in Air AMS. Air carriers, deconsolidators and express consignment carrier facilities each have a unique test. An Air AMS Service Center must complete the certification test related to the principal (primary) application of its client.

4. *Pilot Stage*

Once the client representative has confirmed that the new Air AMS participant has completed its testing, the new Air AMS participant may begin to transmit data for a designated port of arrival. Air AMS carriers will transmit manifest information for all air waybills arriving directly from foreign airports and arriving at the port of unloading aboard aircraft travelling under the provisions of a permit to proceed. During this stage, the new Air AMS participant and CBP personnel will monitor and review the performance and initiate any corrective action.

5. *Paperless Manifest Stage*

Please refer to the Trade Act of 2002 – Advance Electronic Information, available on the CBP website, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov), and the document “Air FAQs on the Trade Act of 2002 – Mandatory Advanced Electronic Cargo Information.”