

Message Overview

Brief description of how messages are constructed and how message formats are presented in this document.

The current U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) ACE Air Import Manifest syntax was derived from International Air Transport Association Cargo Interchange Messaging Procedures (IATA CARGO-IMP) syntax in the late 1980's and migrated from the legacy CBP Automated Commercial System (ACS Air AMS) to CBP Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), Multi Modal Manifest in June 2016.

This EDI format utilizes a character string equivalent to a carriage-return and line feed to represent termination of a message line and the forward slant '/' as a field delimiter within the message line. The CBP ACE Air similarities to IATA CARGO-IMP message specifications include edits for input field positioning, data validation and message line sequence dependent upon the CBP ACE Air message type.

Message line status of "O" (Optional) indicates the manifest data is not required for validation of the message type, however any omission of mandatory air shipment information specified by Trade Act of 2002 CBP regulations 19 CFR 122.48a (Electronic information for air cargo required in advance of arrival.) will prevent transmission of the Freight Status Notification (FSN) messages reporting the disposition code corresponding to ACE Air transaction processing. FSN messages reference event transactions comprising CBP entry processing and/or transfer authorization. Refer to Message Types and Message Line Identifier chapters and Appendix A – Codes.

Note: Message lines may contain multiple data elements, some of which are conditional, optional or mandatory. As most data elements within a message line are delineated by the forward slant '/' character, free-format alphanumeric data (primarily cargo description information) not sanitized to replace a user-entered forward slant character with a space prior to transmission to CBP may incur ACE Air rejection or non-processing of the air shipment information (due to translation failure).

Message/Line Table Layout

1. Table Headers - Contain a description of the message/line data that the table is defining.
2. Column Headers - Describe the type of data contained in the associated column.
 - A. Element/Data Element - Identifies the elements/data elements of each line.
 - B. Element Description – Message types table only
 - C. Length/Class – Describes the format of each data element. Line table only
 - D. Status – Contains a code with the following meaning:
 - ‘M’ – Element is mandatory, needed for successful processing of the message type.
 - ‘C’ – Element is conditional, not needed for successful processing of the message type. The element may be required based on the factors associated with the function.
 - ‘O’ – Element is optional, not needed for successful processing of the message type. The element may be necessary to complete the manifest record for release of the freight status notification message(s).
 - E. “Notes” – Contains a number that refers to text under ‘Notes’ describing information pertinent to the element.