

Vessel Entrance Clearance System (VECS)

Last updated: November 21, 2022



On **December 19, 2022**, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will enable a new button, Vessel Entrance Clearance System (VECS), in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Secure Data Portal. This enhancement will allow vessel agents who use ACE to see the VECS button. Users will only be able to use the VECS button to access VECS once their respective port has been onboarded.

The VECS process will be a complete digitization and automation of the Entrance and Clearance process. VECS will allow vessel masters, operators, and agents to submit certain vessel entry and clearance data and requests to CBP electronically, instead of submitting paper forms, as currently required by CBP regulations. This enhancement does not have any Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) impacts. For more information on this VECS rollout, please visit the [VECS Resource Page](#) on CBP.gov.

What will change for trade users?

- ACE users with Vessel Agency account types will be able to access VECS via the ACE Secure Data Portal. Each vessel agency will need to have a vessel agency top account within ACE, and each vessel agent will need to have their own user account/profile to access VECS. Anyone who wishes to participate in the pilot must sign up for and have a Vessel Agency Account in ACE.
- VECS will allow participants to submit the data required on CBP Forms 26, 226, 1300, 1302, 1303, 1304, and 3171 electronically through VECS prior to arrival or departure from designated ports.

What additional resources are available?

- **Training**
CBP will provide training to the port personnel AND to the vessel agents at each port as we expand. CBP will also be providing training materials to the vessel agents and will have local or regional CBP subject matter experts to help with any questions.
- **Federal Register Notice (FRN)**
Regulatory information related to this deployment is available in the FRNs published on July 20, 2022, and November 21, 2022.

FRN available here: [Vessel Entrance Clearance System FRN July 2022](#)

FRN available here: [Vessel Entrance Clearance System FRN November 2022](#)

Whom do I contact if I have issues?

Submit questions about Vessel Entrance Clearance System to OFO-ManifestBranch@cbp.dhs.gov.



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For technical questions related to the application or requests for an ACE Portal Account, including the VECS button, contact the ACE Account Service Desk by calling 1-866-530-4172, selecting option 1, then option 2, or by emailing ACE.Support@cbp.dhs.gov for assistance.

