

## ACE Certification PGA Testing

In some cases, the Filer is the entity which both submits the Entry to CBP ACE and develops their own software. In most cases, the Filer uses an ABI program from a software vendor or ABI web-based service provider to create the entry data sent to CBP.

The following steps describes the typical sequence of steps to be taken when the Filer and software vendor are distinct entities.

- 1) The Filer works with their software vendor to confirm if the vendor is already testing or is set up to test in the CBP ACE Certification (CERT) environment. (Before the Filer or software vendor can begin testing, they must be set up in the ACE Certification (CERT) environment through the Client Representatives.)
- 2) To set up a new Filer or software vendor account, the Filer or software vendor will send an e-mail to the CBP Client Rep to request to be setup in the Certification environment. Key setup information includes:
  - a. Filer code
  - b. Filer name
  - c. Port code
  - d. Vendor Name (or self-programmer)
  - e. Point of contact name, email, phone
- 3) CBP Client Rep branch sets up Filer profile and software vendor profile in the ACE Certification environment, as necessary.
- 4) In Certification, all filers with an active profile for entry filing are also set up to submit all PGA data.
- 5) Filer and software vendor work with the PGA business team to create the flat-file that contains Entry data and PGA data. (The test submission must conform to the CATAIR message specification for the Entry, and the PGA must conform to the PGA Message Set message specification, as well as any Supplemental Guidance documents.)
- 6) Filer and software vendor works with CBP Client Rep and ITDS technical team, and PGA to coordinate test submissions to the ACE Certification environment.
- 7) Filer/vendor would then submit the file to the Certification environment.

Note that the task of creating, testing, correcting, and retesting the test file is an iterative process that can take several weeks.

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