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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS OF
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (COAC)

February 11, 2015

AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ACE)/
INTERNATIONAL TRADE DATA SYSTEM (ITDS) UPDATE

Issue: CBP is establishing ACE as the Single Window for Government and the trade community. ACE will automate and enhance interaction between international trade partners, CBP, and Partner Government Agencies (PGA) during the cargo import and export process, significantly increasing efficiency and reducing costs compared to the manual, paper-based interactions in place to-date.

Background:

- The current trade process, involving 47 Federal agencies and CBP, is largely manual and paper-based, which is costly and time-consuming for both the Government and the trade. Approximately 30 agencies require nearly 200 forms for imported and exported products.
- Through the International Trade Data System (ITDS), the Federal government is creating a Single Window to streamline trade processes, and support economic competitiveness.
- The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) will become this Single Window– the primary system through which the international trade community submits import and export documentation required by all Federal agencies.
- Through ACE, Federal agencies will have earlier, automated visibility to shipment data, expediting their import or export assessments at the border and speeding the flow of legitimate trade while also improving security, health and safety of cargo.
- CBP is developing and delivering remaining core trade processing capabilities in ACE and will decommission the corresponding capabilities in legacy systems by the end of calendar year 2016.
- As part of the plan to complete ACE by 2016, CBP has established three mandatory use dates:
 - **May 1, 2015: Mandatory use of ACE for all electronic manifest filing** - filing of all electronic import and export cargo manifest data related to all transportation modes will be mandatory in ACE.
 - **November 1, 2015: Mandatory use of ACE for all electronic cargo release and related entry summary filings** - filing of all data associated with the release of imported cargo from the government's custody, including data related to PGA interactions, and the associated entry summaries will be mandatory in ACE.
 - **October 1, 2016 - Mandatory use of ACE for all remaining electronic portions of the CBP cargo process** - all electronic trade processing will be mandatory in ACE. This includes processes such as Drawback and Protest.

Recent and Upcoming ACE Capabilities:

Arrival/Manifest

- Ninety-three percent of core manifest processing capabilities have been deployed to production, including:
 - Vessel Management System (VMS) capabilities were integrated into ACE which provides CBP officers a modernized tool with which to monitor and control ocean vessels entering and leaving U.S. ports.
 - Ability to accept and process air import manifests via ACE (currently in testing/dual processing mode). All import manifests must be filed in ACE by May 1, 2015.

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Release/Cargo Release

- Seventy-five percent of core cargo release processing capabilities have been deployed to production, including:
 - Incorporation of the Mail Entry Writing System (MEWS) into ACE, which enables better collection of duties/fees on items delivered by the U.S. Postal Service;
 - Ability to query cargo release transactions via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI);
 - Filing of entry types 01 (Consumption), 11 (Informal) and 03 (Antidumping/Countervailing Duty) and certified from summary capabilities for air, ocean, rail and truck shipments; and
 - Expansion of capabilities for air, ocean and rail modes:
 - Processing of split and partial shipments, inbonds, and corrections/cancellations;
 - Ability to submit Importer Security Filing (ISF) and cargo release data in a single filing for ocean shipments.

Post Release/Entry Summary, Accounts and Revenue

- Sixty-three percent of core post release processing capabilities have been deployed, including:
 - Expansion of ACE entry summary system validations; and
 - Electronic processing of single transaction and continuous bonds (eBond).
 - In the first month of the eBond pilot, 11,059 bonds have been created in ACE and 8 of the 9 Surety Filer Agents have submitted eBonds.

Exports

- Sixty-six percent of core export processing capabilities have been deployed, including:
 - Automated Export System (AES) capabilities have been integrated into ACE, establishing a single window for the processing of all export commodity filings and placed export and import processing onto a single platform.
 - CBP has deployed to production the capability for filing electronic export manifests for air, ocean and rail modes (pilots for each mode will be initiated pending publication of Federal Register Notices (FRNs)).

PGA Integration

- Seventy-seven percent of core Partner Government Agency (PGA) processing capabilities have been deployed, supporting the initiation of PGA pilots:
 - Electronic submission of certificate of origin related to importation of tuna (National Marine Fisheries Service);
 - Electronic submission of data related to ozone depleting substances (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA));
 - Electronic submission of data related to vehicles and engines (EPA);
 - Electronic submission of data related to exported hazardous waste (EPA); and
 - Electronic submission of data related to meat, poultry, and egg products (USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service).
- CBP is actively working with all agencies with a role in the admissibility of cargo to ensure they are integrated into ACE by the November 1, 2015 mandatory use date for entries and entry summaries.

Next Deployment - ACE Deployment E

- Upcoming capabilities include:
 - CBP initiated corrections (April 2015)
 - PGA requests for redelivery (April 2015)