

JAN 29 2015



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

Commissioner

Dear Members of the Trade Community:

I am proud to report that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is making important progress in developing all core trade processing capabilities in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), and decommissioning corresponding legacy systems by 2016. With our first mandatory filing date (of May 1<sup>st</sup>) quickly approaching, CBP is working with our stakeholders in the trade community, along with our Partner Government Agencies and our internal CBP users, to ensure all involved parties are aware of and fully prepared for the transition to ACE.

CBP values the support and engagement from those of you who have initiated the transition by filing entries or entry summaries in ACE, or who are participating in the Partner Government Agency ACE pilots. We recognize ACE is driving changes to business practices and requires major investment on your part. The next year will be challenging for industry and government, as we fully transition to ACE. For this reason, your participation in the process is greatly appreciated, as it helps us resolve implementation issues in support of greater commercial efficiencies and reduced processing costs.

CBP strongly encourages all companies who have not yet transitioned to ACE to begin immediately. Currently, ACE provides significant functionality that will benefit filers. CBP recommends that companies start using ACE now and be prepared well in advance of the mandatory dates. Implementation guides for current capabilities and draft guides for upcoming capabilities are available at [www.cbp.gov/ace](http://www.cbp.gov/ace).

ACE is a top priority for CBP, and we fully understand that early adoption by the trade community is crucial to its success. Please continue working with us and supporting our joint effort to implement the Single Window. If you have any questions, please e-mail [askACE@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:askACE@cbp.dhs.gov) or go online at [www.cbp.gov/ace](http://www.cbp.gov/ace).

Sincerely,

R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Commissioner

<b>May</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>
2015	2015	2016
Mandatory use of ACE for all electronic manifest filing	Mandatory use of ACE for all electronic cargo release and related entry summary filing	Mandatory use of ACE for all remaining electronic portions of the CBP cargo process