U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20229

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

DATE: January 26, 2015

SUBJECT: ACE Cargo Release Policy for Non-Automated CFS, Bonded Warehouse and Terminal Facilities

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is currently transitioning the cargo release processing to a paperless workflow in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). CBP has established November 1, 2015, as the date for the mandatory use of ACE Cargo Release (formerly known as Simplified Entry) for all electronic entry filings by the trade community.

The ACE Cargo Release transaction data set consists of twelve mandatory and three optional data elements that will replace the twenty-seven data elements reported today on CBP Form 3461. Since ACE Cargo Release is a paperless program, filers are not required to submit the 3461 document to CBP; therefore, electronic entry data will only being accepted through the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Thus, CBP will not be stamping, perforating or signing courtesy 3461 copies moving forward. ACE Cargo Release also eliminates the current trade requirement of presenting a stamped/perforated/signed copy of the "paper 3461" to a non-automated Container Freight Station (CFS), bonded warehouse or terminal facility for the delivery of CBP-released cargo. CBP recognizes that converting to a paperless environment will pose challenges to non-automated entities who do not receive electronic releases from CBP.

In order to facilitate the transition to a paperless environment, CBP will allow non-automated facilities, **on an interim basis**, to release cargo based on screen printouts presented to them by filers (importers, brokers, etc.). The printout should have at a minimum the shipment ID and quantity being released, the type of release as well as clear identification of who presented the release information. For audit purposes, this will satisfy due diligence on behalf of the non-automated facility. In the event that cargo that is unreleased or on hold is released from a non-automated facility where they received a release from the filer, CBP will seek remedy from the party who provided such information to the non-automated facility. Record retention guidelines will also apply.

It is also important for all parties to understand that this is an interim process and that in order to effectively operate in an increasingly paperless environment, non-automated facilities are strongly encouraged to automate as functionality is delivered in the Automated Commercial Environment to modernize trade processing.