

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

AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ACE) UPDATE

Government Report

November 15, 2013

Issue: CBP is working to establish 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:

- ACE will become the Single Window – the primary system through which the international trade community will report imports and exports and the Government will determine their admissibility.
- 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 the safety of cargo.
- ACE development has been underway for more than 10 years and significant capabilities have been developed and deployed; these capabilities have streamlined business processes and resulted in significant savings for CBP and industry.
- CBP has developed a plan to develop and deliver remaining core ACE functionality by 2016 using the Agile development methodology.
- Agile is a user-centric development method that will allow CBP to more quickly build and deploy key functionality. With Agile, the system users work side-by-side with the developers to ensure capabilities will meet user needs.
- As part of the plan to complete ACE by 2016, CBP has established three dates for the mandatory use of ACE:
 - **May 1, 2015:** Mandated use of ACE for Manifest – All electronic export and import manifest data must be transmitted via ACE.
 - **November 1, 2015:** Mandated use of ACE for Cargo Release – All data associated with the release of cargo, including PGA interactions, must be transmitted via ACE.
 - **October 1, 2016:** Mandated use of ACE for all remaining portions of the CBP cargo process.
- CBP is encouraging the trade community to begin transitioning to ACE now to ensure they are ready when new capabilities come out.
 - Currently, 98% of entry summaries are eligible to be filed in ACE and 26% of all entry summaries are filed in ACE.
 - Over 50 percent of the ABI entry summary software vendors have completed certification testing and are approved for ACE Entry Summary filing.

Current Status:

- The following functionality was deployed on November 2, 2013, as part of the first deployment of capabilities built using the Agile methodology:
 - ***ACE Cargo Release*** pilot enhancements including electronic entry corrections and cancellations, which will reduce the time and cost associated with the former paper-based process; integration of in-bond movements; and incorporation of split shipments and partial quantities.
 - ***PGA Integration***
 - PGA Message Set, which will facilitate more rapid decision making by multiple agencies. Pilots will begin in late November with the Environmental Protection Agency (ozone depleting substances and vehicles and engines) and Food Safety and Inspection Service (meat, poultry and egg products).
 - Streamlined entry of findings for CBP Agriculture Specialists, resulting in a 33 percent reduction in workload.
 - ***Entry Summary validations*** for tariff classification and Harbor Maintenance Fees will increase integrity of ACE entry summary data.
 - The November 2 deployment also included modifications to the ***ACE Reports*** user interface, resulting from a required software upgrade.
- CBP is also using the Agile methodology to re-engineer the existing Automated Export System (AES) and lay the foundation for automated export processing in ACE. The re-engineered AES is planned for deployment in April 2014.
- ACE Deployment B is scheduled for January 4, 2014 and will include:
 - Expansion of ACE Cargo Release pilot to include ocean and rail shipments and partial quantities with inbonds;
 - Single accept/reject message for ACE Cargo Release;
 - Expansion of Entry Summary validations to include Duty Calculations;