

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS OF  
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

**COAC Trade Modernization Subcommittee**

**Chair:**

**Jim Phillips, General Motors**

**October 2014**

**Introduction**

Since the May 2014 meeting the COAC Trade Modernization Subcommittee received briefings on the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) and work in process by the Simplified Entry Summary and Payment work group.

**Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)**

CBP provided an update on ACE development and deployment focusing on Participating Government Agencies (PGAs) and received feedback from the Subcommittee. The following was discussed:

- Trade representatives suggested that PGA areas of interest might be divided into the following areas:
  - PGA to CBP: Programming, processes and procedures
  - PGA to Trade: Information required to be submitted to the trade prior to a shipment
  - Trade to CBP: Transactional information needed at cargo release and throughout the import process
  - Timely availability of technical specifications (Implementation Guidelines) for the trade to complete programming is critical
- The ACE schedule that includes PGA deployment is updated approximately monthly. PGAs that are involved in the greatest number of import shipments are a high priority. In general significant changes to the schedule have not taken place.
- Pilots are going well and CBP will continue to look for trade volunteers. A workgroup has been created to develop an APHIS Lacey Act Pilot. Examples of other existing pilots are:
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
    - Vehicles and Engines
    - Ozone Depleting Chemicals
    - Hazardous Materials
  - Fish and Wildlife
- CBP is working closely with the PGAs and trade to meet regulatory requirements but minimize the amount of information required. The subcommittee suggests that this is no more than what is collected today (and ideally less than what is collected today).

## **Simplified Entry Summary and Payment**

CBP provided an overview of the ongoing work of the Simplified Entry Summary and Payment Workgroup. To date, two face to face meetings have been held with the next to take place October 1 – 2, 2014. Various conference calls have been held to discuss current processes and the Importer Activity Summary Statement (IASS). In addition the Workgroup has discussed processes used in other countries in order to obtain insights and ideas. An initial framework has been created that is under review and will be discussed in detail at the October 1 – 2, 2014 meeting. COAC will be briefed and expects to review the proposal in detail prior to the next COAC meeting.