



Trade Benefits from the Automated Commercial Environment



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**Trade Benefits from the
Automated Commercial Environment**



The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) is the commercial trade processing system being developed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to become the “single window” through which international traders will electronically provide all information needed by federal agencies for the import of cargo. ACE is the enabler of further collaboration between the U.S. Government and the trade community to enhance the security, safety, compliance and flow of international trade. The following table depicts a summary of functionality currently deployed in ACE.

<i>Manifest</i>	e-Manifest: Truck
	e-Manifest: Rail and Sea
	Importer Security Filing (ISF) Low Volume Filings
<i>Release and Post Release</i>	Cargo Release/Simplified Entry
	Entry Summary Filings (Consumption and Informal Entry Summaries)
	Document Image System
	Post Summary Correction Filing
	Antidumping and Countervailing Duty (AD/CVD) Entry Summary Filings and AD/CVD Case Management
<i>Account Management</i>	ACE Secure Data Portal Accounts
	Periodic Monthly Statement
	ACE Reports
	Capabilities to Control Access, Create/Maintain Records and Respond to CBP Forms via the ACE Secure Data Portal

Benefits of ACE continue to grow as new capabilities are developed and deployed. The following is a list of trade benefits based on the functionality currently available in ACE. Please note that benefits are organized by trade sector in addition to, in some cases, ACE Portal role.

1. **ACE Secure Data Portal:** The ACE Portal is an on-line tool that provides CBP information via the internet for over 21,000 Trade Accounts free of charge. In addition, Participating Government Agencies (PGAs) are accessing data via ACE, which is a key step towards realization of the single window vision. Trade benefits include the following:

a. Trade Account Owners (TAOs)

- Control all access privileges within the account by assigning “no access,” “read only access” or “full access” to specific portal functionality such as Reports and Declarations.
- Offer cross account access to other ACE Portal accounts (e.g., brokers and third party providers) while maintaining control over access privileges.
- Request a merger if all parties involved have ACE Portal accounts.

b. Brokers

- Set up their ACE Portal account based on their individual company’s organizational structure.
- Create blanket declaration records such as the Non-Reimbursement Blanket Statement (AD/CVD) and North American Free Trade Agreement Certificate of Origin via the ACE Portal. Once created the declaration record can be viewed nationally by CBP.
- Electronically respond to CBP Forms 28, 29 and 4647, “Request for Information,” “Notice of Action” and “Notice to Mark or Redeliver” respectively, as well as attach documents via the ACE Portal. Please note that brokers cannot view their courtesy copy of forms sent to the importer via the ACE Portal.
- Create 5106 records via the ACE Portal.
- Link from the ACE Portal to the ISF (Importer Security Filing) Portal and request ISF reports.
- Create Border Release Advanced Selectivity System (BRASS) and Free and Secure Trade (FAST) entry banks. Brokers have the ability to create and maintain rail line release entry banks.
- In the area of Broker Management
 - Comply with 19 CFR 111 reporting responsibilities; and
 - Maintain and update account information including demographic data, contacts and employee lists.

c. Carriers

- Set up their ACE Portal account based on their individual company’s organizational structure.
- View and search bond information in the ACE Portal.
- Link from the ACE Portal to the ISF (Importer Security Filing) Portal and request ISF reports when acting as the filer.

d. Importers

- Set up their ACE Portal account based on their individual company’s organizational structure.
- Create blanket declaration records such as the Non-Reimbursement Blanket Statement (AD/CVD) and North American Free Trade Agreement Certificate of Origin via the ACE Portal. Once created the declaration record can be viewed nationally by CBP.
- Electronically respond to CBP Forms 28, 29 and 4647, “Request for Information,” “Notice of Action” and “Notice to Mark or Redeliver” respectively, as well as attach documents via the ACE Portal. Please note that brokers cannot view their courtesy copy of forms sent to the importer via the ACE Portal.
- Create 5106 records via the ACE Portal.

- View and search bond information in the ACE Portal.
- Link from the ACE Portal to the ISF (Importer Security Filing) Portal and request ISF reports. Importers who file infrequently will be allowed to file and track up to 12 ISFs annually through the ISF Portal.

e. Self Filers

- Set up their ACE Portal account based on their individual company's organizational structure.
- Create Border Release Advanced Selectivity System (BRASS) and Free and Secure Trade (FAST) entry banks. Brokers have the ability to create and maintain rail line release entry banks.

f. Sureties

- Set up their ACE Portal account based on their individual company's organizational structure.
- View and search bond information in the ACE Portal.
- Link from the ACE Portal to the ISF (Importer Security Filing) Portal and request ISF reports.
- Create and maintain their Corporate Surety Powers of Attorney via the ACE Portal using an alphanumeric Agent ID number.

g. All Users with Portal Accounts

- Set up their ACE Portal account based on their individual company's organizational structure.
- Search, display and print AD/CVD case information and AD/CVD messages. Users can track the life cycle of an AD/CVD case by accessing important case information such as duty deposit rates, entry summary suspension status, bond / cash status, administrative review information and events related to the case history (e.g., "Initiation," "Preliminary," "Final," "Order," "Terminated").
- Access AD/CVD messages with additional useful information in one easy location such as additional message header data elements (e.g., "message status," "Federal Register Notice cite," "Federal Register Notice publication date," "court order number").

2. **Periodic Monthly Statement**: ACE enables payment of duties and fees on a monthly basis. Presently over 60% of eligible duties and fees collected are paid via Periodic Monthly Statement. Trade benefits include the following:

a. Brokers (filing on behalf of their clients)

- Capability to transition to an interest-free monthly statement process.
- Monthly payment of duties and fees on the 15th working day of the month following release, resulting in significant cash flow benefits.
- Online tracking of trade activity through customized account views and reports in the ACE Secure Data Portal.
- Ability to choose a date between the 1st and 11th working day of each month on which the preliminary Periodic Monthly Statement will be generated.
- Ability to select either a national or a port statement.
- Access to the periodic statement quickview.

- Ability for brokers to request participation in Periodic Monthly Statement on behalf of their customers who do not have ACE Portal Accounts.

b. Importers

- Capability to transition to an interest-free monthly statement process.
- Monthly payment of duties and fees on the 15th working day of the month following release, resulting in significant cash flow benefits.
- Online tracking of trade activity through customized account views and reports in the ACE Secure Data Portal.
- Ability to choose a date between the 1st and 11th working day of each month on which the preliminary Periodic Monthly Statement will be generated.
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c. Self Filers

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- Monthly payment of duties and fees on the 15th working day of the month following release, resulting in significant cash flow benefits.
- Online tracking of trade activity through customized account views and reports in the ACE Secure Data Portal.
- Ability to choose a date between the 1st and 11th working day of each month on which the preliminary Periodic Monthly Statement will be generated.
- Ability to select either a national or a port statement.
- Access to the periodic statement quickview.

3. **ACE Reports:** ACE Reports provide unprecedented access to CBP data via more than 125 customizable reports on company specific compliance, transactional, liquidation and financial data that can be used to identify overall compliance issues and monitor daily operations. The data available can serve as an effective tool in making real-time business decisions and tracking import activity in a single, comprehensive, account-based view. Trade benefits include the following:

a. Brokers

- Access to the ACE reporting tool allows users to conduct expanded analysis, including the ability to:
 1. Identify unauthorized filers.
 2. Proactively monitor trade compliance and identify discrepancies.
 3. Monitor and check the accuracy of periodic monthly statements.
 4. Review entry summary data.
 5. Schedule Authorized Data Extracts to view large volumes of data.
- Review Broker Employee list.
- Monitor bill of lading (BOL), in-bond, manifest and equipment data.

b. Importers

- Access to the ACE reporting tool allows users to conduct expanded analysis, including the ability to:
 1. Identify unauthorized filers.
 2. Proactively monitor trade compliance and identify discrepancies.
 3. Monitor and check the accuracy of periodic monthly statements.

4. Review entry summary data.
 5. Schedule Authorized Data Extracts to view large volumes of data.
- Monitor liquidation of entry summaries.
 - Monitor status of bills of lading.
 - *Some importers have reported they been able to measure compliance better utilizing ACE and therefore have actually increased their compliance, much of which is attributable to ACE.*

c. Rail and Sea Carriers

- Access to the ACE reporting tool allows users to conduct expanded analysis including the ability to monitor, BOLs in-bonds, manifest, equipment and party data.

d. Sureties

- Access to the ACE reporting tool allows users to conduct expanded analysis including the ability to Review current Power of Attorney (POA) on file with CBP.

e. Truck Carriers

- Access to the ACE reporting tool allows users to conduct expanded analysis including the ability to monitor carrier activity, in-bonds and transaction detail.

f. All Users with Access to Reports

- ACE Reports provide near real time access to CBP data. Specifically,
 1. CBP updates periodic monthly statement data hourly.
 2. CBP updates BOL, in-bond, manifest, equipment and party data in the Trade Reporting sub-folder every two hours.
 3. CBP updates the following types of data nightly:
 - Entry and entry summary,
 - Truck carrier transaction,
 - Bond, and
 - Rail and sea manifest.
 4. CBP updates compliance data monthly for importers and brokers.
 5. ACE Reports can be customized and designed to fit companies' business needs. Customized reports can be saved so that they can be run as needed with an updated date range.
 6. ACE Reports can also be scheduled to run at the date, time and frequency of the user's choosing.
 7. The Shared Reports folder allows reports to be shared with all users within the ACE account who have access to reports.

4. **Cargo Release/Simplified Entry**: Cargo Release/Simplified Entry provides importers with the chance to file a streamlined set of data earlier in the filing process providing more information earlier in the process and reduces the time needed for cargo to be released by CBP and PGAs when the PGA Message set is incorporated. Trade benefits include the following:

a. Brokers

- Enhance cargo security, reduce cycle times, improve productivity, help eliminate redundant data transmissions, and potentially reduce costs.

- Streamlines the release of goods and enhances cargo security.
- Segregates the filing of the transportation information from the filing of the entry information which allows for the earlier filing of entry information.
- Allows CBP personnel to apply more time and resources to higher risk shipments, resulting in quicker release of other shipments.
- Update the entry information until the point that the conveyance arrives resulting in more accurate data for CBP and PGAs.
- Identify and address potential risks earlier in the entry and release process.
- Allows participants in the Cargo Release/Simplified Entry pilot to file release information earlier in the release process, receive releases earlier, and to electronically provide requested documentation supporting their Cargo Release/Simplified Entries to CBP via email.

b. Importers

- Enhance cargo security, reduce cycle times, improve productivity, help eliminate redundant data transmissions, and potentially reduce costs.
- Streamlines the release of goods and enhances cargo security.
- Segregates the filing of the transportation information from the filing of the entry information which allows for the earlier filing of entry information.
- Allows CBP personnel to apply more time and resources to higher risk shipments, resulting in quicker release of other shipments.
- Update the entry information until the point that the conveyance arrives resulting in more accurate data for CBP and PGAs.
- Identify and address potential risks earlier in the entry and release process.
- Allows participants in the Cargo Release/Simplified Entry pilot who file on the importer's behalf to file release information earlier in the release process, receive releases earlier, and to electronically provide requested documentation supporting their Simplified Entries to CBP via email.

c. Self Filers

- Enhance cargo security, reduce cycle times, improve productivity, help eliminate redundant data transmissions, and potentially reduce costs.
- Streamlines the release of goods and enhances cargo security.
- Segregates the filing of the transportation information from the filing of the entry information which allows for the earlier filing of entry information.
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- Identify and address potential risks earlier in the entry and release process.
- Allows participants in the Cargo Release/Simplified Entry pilot to file release information earlier in the release process, receive releases earlier, and to electronically provide requested documentation supporting their Simplified Entries to CBP via email.

5. **Entry Summary Filing:** Based on current CBP data, the programmed ACE entry types provide the capability to file 99% of all entry summaries through ACE, along with a host of accompanying entry summary benefits. Consumption (entry type 01), informal (entry type 11) and Antidumping/Countervailing Duty (entry type 03) entry summaries

can be filed in ACE. ACE filers can now use Remote Location Filing when filing Antidumping/Countervailing Duty entry summaries in ACE. Trade benefits include the following:

a. Brokers

- Ability to run the ACE Entry Summary query and receive more information than currently available from the Automated Commercial System (ACS).
- Ability to provide a preemptive Census override when filing the entry summary or to override a Census warning via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) after filing the entry summary.
- Ability to email a Single Transaction Bond (STB) to CBP for an ACE entry summary.
- Ability to provide AD/CVD Non-reimbursement statement indicator as part of the AE record transmitted.
- Ability to customize reports to include more data objects than are available in Account Management reports.
- Improved accuracy of data from ACE reports for entry summaries filed in ACE.
- Access to new reports for ACE filed entry summaries only.

b. Importers

- Ability to customize reports to include more data objects than are available in Account Management reports.
- Improved accuracy of data from ACE reports for entry summaries filed in ACE.
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c. Self Filers

- Ability to run the ACE Entry Summary query and receive more information than currently available from ACS.
- Ability to provide a preemptive Census override when filing the entry summary or to override a Census warning via ABI after filing the entry summary.
- Ability to email a STB to CBP for an ACE entry summary.
- Ability to provide AD/CVD Non-reimbursement statement indicator as part of the AE record transmitted.
- Ability to customize reports to include more data objects than are available in Account Management reports.
- Improved accuracy of data from ACE reports for entry summaries filed in ACE.
- Access to new reports for ACE filed entry summaries only.

Trade members have reported additional benefits from ACE entry summary capabilities including faster CBP response and turn-around, as well as decreased courier, administrative and paper/copies costs. Due to the increase in paperless entry summaries with ACE, one trade member has reported a 43% decrease in courier fees.

6. **Document Image System:** ACE and the Document Image System (DIS) facilitate the automated submission of CBP and Participating Government Agency (PGA) forms, document, associated trade data, and supporting information. Documents submitted via DIS must be transmitted via an Electronic Data Interchange message. Trade benefits includes:

a. Brokers

- Submitted documents are electronically processed and securely stored by CBP in the DIS, a central repository for documents submitted to CBP or PGAs by the trade.
- Documents are electronically submitted via an EDI message.
- Documents are made available to CBP and PGA users to review, comment and update the status.
- Status of the document can be updated to Received, Pending, and Accepted.
- Initiates single window submissions to CBP and PGAs supporting documents that may be needed during the cargo importation and entry summary processes.
- Reduces time and cost of paper process.
- Expedites the release and/or examination of imported cargo.

b. Importers

- Submitted documents are electronically processed and securely stored by CBP in the DIS, a central repository for documents submitted to CBP or PGAs by the trade.
- Documents are electronically submitted via an EDI message.
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- Reduces time and cost of paper process.
- Expedites the release and/or examination of imported cargo.

7. **Post Summary Corrections:** ACE offers the capability to electronically correct ACE-filed Consumption and Antidumping/Countervailing Duty entry summaries, providing the following trade benefits:

a. Brokers

- An electronic amendment process, via ABI, for ACE entry summaries.
- Elimination of paper Post-Entry Amendments for ACE entry summaries.
- A uniform process for submission of entry summary corrections.
- Nationwide visibility of corrections for CBP.

- Ability to file Post Summary Corrections (PSCs) up to 270 calendar days from the date of entry.
- No limit to the amount of PSCs that can be filed within the allowable timeframe.
- Ability to request accelerated liquidation.
- Ability for a filer to correct an entry summary filed by a separate filer.
- The creation of PSC reason codes at the header or entry line level.
- Enhanced reporting functionality.

b. Importers

- An electronic amendment process, via ABI, for ACE entry summaries.
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- No limit to the amount of PSCs that can be filed within the allowable timeframe.
- Ability to request accelerated liquidation.
- Ability for a filer to correct an entry summary filed by a separate filer.
- The creation of PSC reason codes at the header or entry line level.
- Enhanced reporting functionality.

8. E-Manifest: Truck: ACE provides the capability for truck manifests to be filed via EDI or via the ACE Secure Data Portal. Benefits of ACE Truck Manifest include the following:

a. Brokers

- A "broker download" feature enables carriers to send shipment details to the entry filer's ABI system. This data assists in the reconciliation of manifest and entry data, thereby reducing delays at the border.
- Secondary Notify Party capability allows a second party to receive the customs status message posted against a shipment.

b. Truck Carriers

- Expedited processing, as truck manifests are processed approximately 29% faster than prior to ACE truck manifest.
- Capability to file truck manifests via the ACE Portal free of charge.

- Truck carriers can record and track account details related to drivers, trucks, (conveyances), equipment, shippers and consignees via ACE. This eliminates the need to repetitively send this data via EDI or re-enter the data on each manifest, resulting in reduced errors during submission.
 - Capability to request in-bond moves directly from the manifest. Carriers may also report the arrival of in-bond freight via ACE when a shipment arrives at its U.S. destination.
 - Ability to correct a truck manifest via the ACE portal regardless of whether the manifest was initially filed via EDI or through the ACE Portal.
 - Capability to search the status of a manifest either using “manifest search” or “notifications” (this capability is limited to the role of the TAO).
 - A "broker download" feature enables carriers to send shipment details to the entry filer’s Automated Broker Interface system. This data assists in the reconciliation of manifest and entry data, thereby reducing delays at the border.
 - Secondary Notify Party capability allows a second party to receive the customs status message posted against a shipment.
9. **E-Manifest: Rail and Sea:** ACE provides a consolidated view of rail and sea shipment, manifest and entry data at the bill of lading or container level. Rail and sea manifests in ACE facilitate the identification of shipments that may pose a risk and expedite the pre-arrival processing of legitimate cargo. Trade benefits include the following:
- a. Brokers*
- An increase in the number of possible Secondary Notify Parties to 25.
 - An extension of the “broker download” functionality into the sea cargo environment.
- b. Rail Carriers*
- An increase in the number of possible Secondary Notify Parties to 25.
 - Capability of CBP Officers to place and remove holds at the conveyance, container, master bill as well as house bill level.
 - Notification to the carrier of which PGA has held their merchandise and the reason for the hold.
 - Ability to create and maintain trade partner authorization to use custodial bonds.
- c. Sea Carriers*
- An increase in the number of possible Secondary Notify Parties to 25.
 - Capability of CBP Officers to place and remove holds at the conveyance, container, master bill as well as house bill level.
 - Notification to the carrier of which PGA has held their merchandise and the reason for the hold.
 - Ability to create and maintain trade partner authorization to use custodial bonds.
 - An extension of the “broker download” functionality into the sea cargo environment.
 - Arrival of all bills that are associated with a Vessel Stow Plan when the vessel-operating carrier or CBP reports the arrival of a vessel.
 - Creation and maintenance of conveyance (vessel) information by trade partners using the ACE Secure Data Portal.

- Access to the UN/LOC code reference file.

For additional information or questions on ACE, send an e-mail to CBP.CBPCSP@dh.gov. You can also contact the Technology Service Desk at 1-866-530-4172. Please remember to sign up for the Cargo Systems Message Service (CSMS) by visiting www.cbp.gov/modernization to keep abreast of ACE changes, up-coming releases and updated instructions.