



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013**

1. What is the status of the Trade Support Network (TSN) Plenary Session?

CBP is in discussion with the Trade Leadership Council (TLC) on evaluating options for the next TSN Plenary Session. CBP recognizes the value of a face-to-face meeting with the trade and is making every effort to schedule this session. The trade has offered to sponsor a TSN Plenary Session, and CBP will also consider that offer.

2. What is the difference between an ACE Ambassador and TLC Trade Ambassador?

ACE Ambassadors are CBP field personnel who submitted applications to serve as ACE Ambassadors (AAs). The AAs provide information and briefings to CBP port personnel as well as to trade users who do business at the ports.

Trade Ambassadors (TAs) are members of the TLC and/or Technical Advisory Group who have obtained Background Investigations (BIs) to participate in face-to-face meetings with CBP staff at headquarters facilities to discuss ACE technical functionality.

3. How will CBP ensure that all sectors of the trade, including importers, brokers, software developers, etc. are represented in the sprint team reviews? How will CBP choose members of the TLC to participate in the Sprint reviews?

CBP will work with the TLC to identify members, based on their functional expertise and trade roles, to participate in the sprint reviews as needed. For the current Sprint teams (PGA Message Set, Automatic Corrections/Cancellations, Entry Summary Edits, and AES Re-Engineering/Manifest Baseline) we will be looking for importers, brokers, software developers, exporters, freight forwarders, and carriers to participate in the reviews. We will ask the TLC to provide CBP with a list of those members who have expertise in these areas, and have the time and resources to participate in on-site meetings, and teleconferences, as required, for this effort.

4. If entries are filed through a Service Provider, can additional supporting documents be submitted via DIS by a different Service Provider?

Yes, a service provider can submit documents via DIS on behalf of an importer or broker. This policy will be clarified in the next FRN CBP plans to publish announcing the next phase of DIS.



5. What efforts is CBP making to train the ports?

CPB has an on-going training effort to keep port staff up-to-date on ACE functionality. We meet with the CBP field staff on a monthly basis and work with our ACE Ambassadors and Field Readiness Coordinators to initiate training and education programs as we deploy new ACE functionality to the ports. Webcasts and interactive webinars are some of the new training approaches we are using.

6. How is CBP encouraging the trade community to transition to ACE?

We believe if we build ACE functionality that has value to the trade community, businesses will want to take part in ACE. CBP is confident that what we plan to build in the coming months will add functionality that will facilitate the processing of import and export transactions more efficiently and at less cost to the trade.

7. How does ACE handle entries that are filed by a software provider?

ACE currently accepts ACE entry summaries submitted by software providers on behalf of brokers or importers.

8. When will CBP begin working with trade to start Document Image System (DIS) testing?

CBP is planning to begin this trade testing very soon. A DIS meta data message schema and the International Trade Data System (ITDS) DIS Implementation Guide were sent to the trade for review and comment, via the February 27 TLC Meeting Report. Comments are due to Monica Crockett by March 8. CBP plans to begin testing soon after the trade comments have been resolved.

9. We appreciate that CBP has prioritized enhancement to ACE reports. What is CBP's plan to insure that the Trade continues to have the ability to access data, including export data, via the ACE Portal through reports? The Accounts Committee is concerned that data accessibility is not currently built into the Sprint teams' action plans. We continue our commitment to work with CBP to insure data is available to all ACE Accounts.

As CBP begins to integrate export commodity and manifest data onto the ACE platform, the next step will be to provide the trade access to their data via the ACE Portal and ACE reports. CBP will need to identify and establish export related accounts and roles. CBP will work with the Census Bureau and PGAs to identify the requirements and build the foundation for that functionality.



10. Are the DOT and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) partnering with CBP in ACE?

CBP is working with these agencies, through the ITDS Board of Directors. Both agencies need to have final Memoranda of Understanding and Interconnectivity Security Agreements in place before they can interactively participate in ACE.

11. Will the PGA Message Set data requirements be available for the trade to review?

Yes. The latest version of the PGA Message Set documents are available at:  
[http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/automated/modernization/ace\\_edi\\_messages/catair\\_main/abi\\_catair/catair\\_chapters/future\\_pga\\_set\\_docs/](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/automated/modernization/ace_edi_messages/catair_main/abi_catair/catair_chapters/future_pga_set_docs/).

12. When will export trade accounts be built in ACE for U.S. Principal Parties In-Interest (USPPI/Exporter), freight forwarders, carriers, software providers, etc.?

This functionality is part of the ACE product backlog, but the schedule for its development has not yet been determined.

13. Is there a plan to continue with Option 4 (post departure filing) in the re-engineered AES?

Option 4 filing will be included in the re-engineered AES. However, Option 4 filing is frozen at the approximately 1,500 filers currently in the system. The Census Bureau and CBP's Office of Field Operations are discussing this issue. The long-term goal is to sunset Option 4 filing. Option 3 filing will be available in AES when final regulations are published. This will provide for certain data elements to be filed pre-departure with the remaining data elements filed post-departure.

14. As an importer with an ACE Portal account and log-in, can I see my export transactions?

Not at this time. This functionality is on the ACE product backlog and will be provided in the future.

15. When will the trade's Great Idea Forms (GIFs) be addressed?

We are using the trade's user requirement GIFs as we develop user stories, i.e. requirement statements, which are used in the Agile software development process to shape new functionality. The sprint teams are reviewing the trade GIFs and mapping them to the appropriate ACE functional development builds as they go through the development process.



16. When will the Simplified Summary work group be established?

CBP will soon make an announcement on that group.

17. Concerning the impact of sequestration – how will CBP alert the trade community?

CBP will provide updates on the CBP.gov home page and will issue CSMS messages, as necessary, to inform the trade of any trade processing impacts associated with sequestration budget cuts. CBP suggests that the trade closely monitor [cpb.gov](http://cpb.gov) and your local port of entry for any news on major operational changes.

18. At a previous TSN session CBP discussed the possibility of creating a web site which would provide liquidations rather than having the official liquidation posted at the port of entry. Is this going to happen?

This effort will be added to the product backlog and re-evaluated when we are ready to address liquidation.

19. As part of core functionality, will CBP be automating imports into the Virgin Islands (District 51)? Currently those entry summaries must be paper.

Automated imports into the Virgin Islands would not be considered part of core functionality, which is our immediate focus. Once CBP has delivered the core functionality, CBP will need to determine what areas to focus on in our modernization process.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013**

1. After a two-week sprint, will each Agile software development team be able to demonstrate the functionality they developed?

Yes, the team will be able to demonstrate functionality built during the two-week sprint. However, the full functionality is not considered shippable, or deployable, until after six sprints have been completed.

2. In a user story can you describe separate but related "what's"? As an example, an entry flag and entry type is needed to show and file reconciliation. However, a separate process is needed to file the reconciliation even if the flag/entry exists.

Yes, as long as it is clearly defined in the user story.



3. How will urgent legal and regulatory changes be handled in your Agile software development process?

That is the value of the Agile Software Development process and the two-week sprint cycle. CBP will have the flexibility to change/enhance functionality during the development process to accommodate legal and/or regulatory changes. We don't change our scope during a sprint cycle, however, at the end of a sprint, if an urgent legal or regulatory change is needed, we can insert it at the top of our ACE product backlog, and a sprint team will work it during the next two-week sprint or the change can be added to the last sprint.

4. Would CBP ever consider that a user story has failed?

Yes - if a user story does not meet all the acceptance criteria, then it has failed and will need to be carried over to the next sprint. If the acceptance criteria are found to be flawed, any changes would become a new user story.

5. How will CBP work with the trade on testing new functionality?

CBP will include the trade in user acceptance testing before any functionality is deployed into production. As with our past functional deployments, trade filers will go through a formal testing and certification process for user acceptance testing or pilot testing for the new functionality. During the sprint process, CBP will also bring the trade in for on-site meetings or use webcasts/webinars to demonstrate the functionality being developed. The Business Transformation team will coordinate with the trade on the most effective and efficient ways to do this which will include on-site review sessions, webinars, etc.

6. How much lead time will the trade get to make software changes? At what point do we get the requirements we need?

CBP is aware the trade needs advance lead time in order to make software changes that may be required. CBP will inform the trade as early as possible of functional changes that may require software changes. Also, as the trade will be involved in the sprint review process, they will be able to identify new functionality that will require software changes on their part.

7. On the ACE Moving Forward Roadmap it shows Automated Export Processing completed approximately October 2013, at which point Air Manifest (Import) starts. But I had understood that the Automated Export Processing October date was the completion date for only AES Re-Engineering. When is Automated Export Processing "phase 2" for the export manifests itself scheduled - will it be postponed behind Air Import Manifest?

The first phase of Automated Export Processing is AES Re-Engineering/Manifest Baseline development. During this phase the AES re-host and enhancements to AES will be developed, and export manifest baseline functionality will be built. CBP plans to begin initial



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development of an air export manifest and rail export manifest, followed by ocean and truck, but no final timelines have been established.