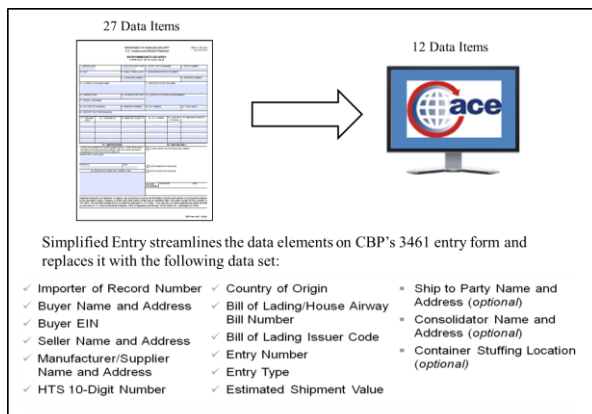**FACT SHEET**

Summary

Simplified Entry is the first phase of Cargo Release in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). ACE Cargo Release/Simplified Entry streamlines the release of goods and enhances cargo security. It segregates the filing of the transportation information from the filing of the shipment information. The Simplified Entry is filed much earlier in the import process, allowing an expanded window of opportunity to identify potential risks. It also allows filers to update entry information at any time up to arrival in the United States, providing U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with more accurate information.

CBP began an initial pilot of Cargo Release/Simplified Entry for the Air Mode of Transportation in May 2012 at three pilot ports. Based on the success of the initial pilot, CBP expanded to additional airports, for a current total of 16 major airports around the country. To date, Cargo Release/Simplified Entry for the Air Mode of Transportation is operational in 16 major airports nationwide. CBP has 20 trade filer participants in the pilot.

How Simplified Entry Works

CBP's approach to Cargo Release/Simplified Entry is in direct response to the trade's call for more predictability in the importation process, streamlined data submissions, and expedited release of cargo.

Working with representatives of five Trade Associations, CBP compared which data elements were needed for releasing cargo with what industry had available in the advanced, pre-departure environment. The result of this work was a Simplified Entry data set consisting of 12 required data elements with three optional elements, as compared to the 27 data elements required on CBP's 3461 entry form.

Simplified Entry streamlines the data elements on CBP's 3461 entry form and replaces it with the following data set:

- Importer of Record Number
- Buyer Name and Address
- Buyer EIN
- Seller Name and Address
- Manufacturer/Supplier Name and Address
- HTS 10-Digit Number
- Country of Origin
- Bill of Lading/House Airway Bill Number
- Bill of Lading Issuer Code
- Entry Number
- Entry Type
- Estimated Shipment Value
- Ship to Party Name and Address (optional)
- Consolidator Name and Address (optional)
- Container Stuffing Location (optional)

With Cargo Release/Simplified Entry, the filer submits the Simplified Entry data set, while the carrier submits the manifest/Air Cargo Advanced Screening security filing (as appropriate) as they do today. Filers provide the Simplified Entry information as soon as it is available.

With this advanced filing, CBP can run its targeting earlier and can then message a release indication on the goods. If additional data is required, filers can resolve these issues before the plane leaves, or during transit, resulting in fewer goods held at arrival and more goods released into commerce quickly.

Advantages to this Approach

Cargo Release/Simplified Entry leverages strides made in automation to truly transform CBP business processes. The result is a streamlined approach to the entry process, in which more accurate information is provided earlier in the process.

Further facilitative benefits to the Cargo Release/Simplified Entry process include a reduction in transaction costs and streamlined submission of entry information for the Trade. CBP and the trade benefit by the reduction in multiple requests for the same information.

Additional and Future Capabilities

CBP continues to expand capabilities for the pilot, including the recently added document image capability, which allows trade participants to electronically provide supporting Simplified Entry documentation via email. CBP will be adding new functionality to the pilot in 2013. The Partner Government Agency (PGA) Message Set will enhance automated data sharing between CBP and the PGAs. Entry corrections and cancellations will provide a mechanism for CBP to accept or deny corrections and/or cancellations to Simplified Entries on file with CBP.

ACE is the commercial trade processing system being developed by CBP to facilitate trade while strengthening border security. ACE Cargo Release is a key functionality that has garnered much interest from the trade community.

April 2013