

Update on Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)

as of January 2012

ACE is the commercial trade processing system being developed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to automate border processing, enhance border security and foster U.S. economic security through lawful international trade and travel. ACE is part of a multi-year CPB modernization program being implemented in phases. When fully developed and implemented, ACE will do the following:

- Allow participants access to and management of their trade information via reports
- Expedite legitimate trade by providing CBP with tools to efficiently process imports/exports and move goods quickly across the border
- Facilitate efficient collection, collaboration and compliance efforts between CBP and the trade community
- Provide an information-sharing platform for trade data between government agencies.

While ACE is not yet fully in place, a number of ACE capabilities have already been successfully deployed. As of January 2012, the following hold true:

- There are nearly 20,000 trade user accounts on the ACE Secure Data Portal, which allows users to check for unauthorized files as well as monitor compliance data that is not currently available through the Automate Commercial System (ACS). The ACE Secure Data Portal also allows truck carriers to file electronic manifests at no charge, and provides users with access to over 125 customizable reports.
- Twenty-six other participating government agencies are currently using ACE.
- More than 61 percent of all duties and fees are collected on a monthly basis via the ACE periodic monthly statement feature.
- Entry Summary, Accounts and Revenue (ESAR) are a series of ACE capabilities to act as a single source for master data and as an integrated account-based financial and entry summary processing system. ESAR began in September 2007, with the deployment of the first ESAR, Master Data and Enhanced Accounts, and was followed thereafter in April 2009 with enhanced capabilities for ACE entry summary processing for type 01 and 11 entries. More recently, in January 2010, CBP introduced additional ESAR capabilities specific to AD/CVD (type 03 entries), while in June 2011 CBP introduced Post Summary Correction (PSC) capabilities to supplement the October 2010 ESAR release. PSC replaced the Post Entry Amendment (PEA) hardcopy process for ACE entry summaries and, among other characteristics, does not limit the number of corrections at the header and/or line level.
- ACE e-Manifest: Trucks is processing an average of 190,000 trucks nationally per week and has been deployed nationally to all land border ports. This system allows the use of electronic data interchange for the transmission of required electronic cargo information required by the Trade Act of 2002 and its implementing regulations. Such a system both enables CBP to pre-screen the crew,

cargo, shipment and equipment information prior to the truck's border arrival, but also allows for greater efficiency and reduced redundancy.

- 56 approved entities are authorized to file ACE entry summaries using the Automated Broker Interface (ABI). Over 800,000 ACE entry summaries have been filed using ABI since it was introduced in April 2009. Additionally, the automated ability to submit corrections to ACE via Post Summary Corrections (PSC) for entry summary types 01 and 03 has streamlined the acceptance process, provided a uniform process for the submission of corrections and elimination paper corrections for summaries filed in ACE.
- In terms of Importer Security Filing (ISF), low-volume importers are able to file their ISF transactions using the ISF portal, while importers, filer and surety companies are able to request ISF reports via the ISF portal; as of December 31, 2011, CBP has discontinued email dissemination of ISF reports.

In addition to the above, a number of other ACE projects are still under development.

Three key International Trade Data System (ITDS) initiatives—the Document Image System (DIS), Participating Government Agency (PGA) Interoperability, and PGA Message Set Support—have begun and are meant to automate and enhance interaction between trade partners, CBP and participating government agencies by facilitating electronic collection, processing, sharing and review of trade data and documents required by federal agencies during cargo importation and release process. The DIS was deployed in October 2012, while the PGA Interoperability framework was initiated in August 2011, and pilot testing for the PGA Message Set Support began in November 2011. CBP expects that the PGA Message Set Support will be fully integrated with other ACE systems following the M1 release.

ACE's e-Manifest: Rail and Sea (M1) began its pilot phases in August 2011; in late November 2011, CBP began accepting e-manifests from trade users in the ACE system. Since that time, CBP has accepted sea and rail manifest transmissions from trade users in ACE and has been implemented, as of January 2012, at 17 U.S. ports. M1 serves to provide a consolidated view of rail and sea shipment manifests and entry data at the bill of lading or container level which in turn aids in identifying shipments that may pose risk as well as expedites the pre-arrival processing of safe cargo. Once M1 has been accepted, CBP intends to name ACE as the only approved electronic data system; ACA will be decommissioned for both sea and rail.

Additionally, CBP plans to establish ACE as the sole processing system for all export manifest, commodity, licensing and export control transactions. To do so, CBP will coordinate with a number of other participating government agencies, with initial focus on the export control and licensing agencies.

CBP deployed enhanced ACE capabilities on June 4, 2011, to allow for Post Summary Corrections (PSC) for entry summaries filed in ACE. The PSC process is replacing Post Entry Amendments (PEA) for entry summaries filed in ACE, and hard copy PEAs are no longer accepted for such entries effective September 22, 2011.

Anyone with questions regarding these International Trade topics should contact [Donna L. Shira](#) or [Kenneth R. Paley](#), at Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C., International Trade Counsel for the Toy Industry Association.