



ACE e-Manifest: Rail and Sea

Trade Update

Introduction

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) deployed the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) e-Manifest: Rail and Sea on August 27, 2011. CBP began successfully accepting manifests from trade users in the ACE production system (initiated the trade pilot) on November 28, 2011.

Background

CBP will operate rail and sea manifest in both ACE and the Automated Commercial System (ACS) during a transition period to avoid a “big bang” deployment of ACE rail and sea manifest and to allow trade partners ample time to implement the required programming changes prior to the decommissioning of ACS for rail and sea manifest. To do this, CBP converted a defined period of transaction data, approximately 18 months (1.6 billion records), from ACS to ACE and ensured that the interfaces keeping the data in synch were operating properly.

The deployment has proceeded successfully with CBP and our trade users working through ACE rail and sea manifest issues related to business requirements, code fixes and performance issues. Although CBP built slack in the schedule to account for these expected issues, the transaction data conversion and synchronization effort presented greater challenges than originally anticipated, resulting in a four week schedule delay.

As a result, the goal of beginning the trade pilot in late October 2011 was changed to begin instead on November 28, 2011.

Decommissioning of ACS - Automated Manifest System (AMS) for Rail and Sea

Upon the successful completion of the test and the acceptance of ACE as the replacement system for rail and sea manifests, CBP plans to announce, in a Federal Register Notice, that ACE will be the only CBP-approved electronic data interchange (EDI) through which rail and sea manifests may be transmitted. This Federal Register Notice will also announce a six-month timeframe for the transition to ACE and the decommissioning of the Automated Manifest System (AMS) for rail and sea manifests. This six month period will commence after CBP executives, following rigorous review and testing, accept ACE as the replacement system for rail and sea manifests.

CBP currently anticipates that the Federal Register Notice naming ACE as the only CBP-approved EDI will be published by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2012 and that rail and sea manifest capabilities for AMS will be decommissioned within six months of the publication date.

Projected Timeline

- ***Fall 2011 - Initiation of CBP Port rollout and Trade pilot. Trade capabilities include:***
 - Filing of all rail and sea manifests and relevant ABI applications in ACE for parties who have completed trade testing
 - Ability of brokers to create rail entry banks
 - Conveyance data loaded and available for carriers
 - In-bond authorization edit available for ACE rail and sea manifest filers
 - MultiModal Manifest report data in ACE for importer, broker and carrier accounts
- ***By the end of the first quarter CY 2012, CBP plans to publish a Federal Register Notice announcing:***
 - ACE as the only CBP-approved electronic data interchange (EDI) through which rail and sea manifests may be transmitted
 - A six-month transitional period to allow for any remaining rail and sea filers to complete the transition to ACE before decommissioning rail and sea manifest capabilities in AMS
- ***Within six months following publication of Federal Register Notice, CBP is planning for the:***
 - Decommissioning of AMS for rail and sea manifest
 - Transition to ACE for filing of all rail and sea manifests

Additional Resources

CBP initiated trade testing with rail and sea carriers, service centers and other EDI filers in May 2011. CBP invites and encourages additional EDI filers to participate in trade testing once they have completed programming per the e-Manifest Implementation Guides. The Implementation Guides for ACE e-Manifest: Rail and Sea can be found at

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/automated/modernization/ace_edi_messages/.

This deployment impacts not only rail and sea carriers but also terminal operators, ABI filers, port authorities and other entities who receive secondary party notifications. These trade entities may also need to test with CBP prior to their transition to ACE. Changes to ABI applications can be found at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/automated/modernization/ace_edi_messages/catair_main/abi_catair/cat_air_manifest_processing/.

The Cargo System Messaging Service will be the primary means of communicating with the trade community on this deployment. For information on how to subscribe, please go to:

http://apps.cbp.gov/csms/csms.asp?display_page=1.

Questions may be submitted to CBP at CBPCSPO@dhs.gov.