



Information Notice for Trade Community: Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Deployment A – November 2, 2013

Background:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is working to complete the development of core trade processing capabilities in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) and decommission the Automated Commercial System (ACS) by the end of 2016. CBP has posted the ACE [Development and Deployment Schedule](#) to CBP.gov which details upcoming deployments of new features in ACE. Included in the Deployment Schedule are three dates for the mandatory use of ACE features by the trade community:

- May 1, 2015: Mandatory use of ACE for Manifest - All electronic export and import manifest data must be transmitted via ACE.
- November 1, 2015: Mandatory use of ACE for Cargo Release - All data associated with the release of cargo, including PGA interactions, must be transmitted via ACE.
- October 1, 2016: Mandatory use of ACE for all remaining portions of the CBP cargo process.

ACE Deployment A is the first of seven planned releases of new features built using the Agile development methodology. Agile development is a methodology that focuses on building smaller pieces of software more quickly and incorporating system users into the build process.

Due to the Government shutdown, Deployment A was postponed from the originally scheduled date of October 5, 2013 to **November 2, 2013**.

Capabilities Included in ACE Deployment A:

- **Entry Summary Validations**
 - *Why Important?*
 - Provides edits for entry summary data received from the trade filers, thereby increasing data accuracy.
 - *What Changes?*
 - Edits for Harbor Maintenance Fee and tariff classification will be implemented with this deployment. Additional entry summary edits will be delivered in future deployments.



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- **ACE Cargo Release Pilot Expansion**

CBP will publish a Federal Register Notice in the near future that will open the ACE Cargo Release (also known as Simplified Entry (SE)) pilot to eligible filers of air shipments. CBP will endeavor to accept all new eligible applicants on a first come first serve basis; however, if the volume of eligible applicants exceeds CBP's administrative capabilities, CBP reserves the right to select eligible participants in order to achieve a diverse pool in accordance with the selection standards set forth in 76 FR 69755.

 - *Why Important?*
 - The capabilities added to the ACE Cargo Release pilot will provide for the elimination of a paper process that will expedite amendments, saving money for both CBP and the trade community.
 - *What Changes?*
 - The capability to transmit automated entry corrections and cancellations will allow the trade filer to make electronic changes to cargo entry data and CBP to accept or deny trade data changes.
 - In-bonds, split shipments and partial quantities (without an In-bond) will also be added to the scope of the ACE Cargo Release pilot.

- **Partner Government Agency (PGA) Message Set – Pilots targeted to begin late November 2013**

CBP will publish a Federal Register Notice in the near future announcing two initial PGA Message Set pilots.

 - *Why Important?*
 - The capability provided in these pilots will allow the trade community, as part of Single Window initiative, to electronically submit required data for importations regulated by PGAs that, to date, has been submitted on paper forms.
 - *What Changes?*
 - The initial PGA Message Set pilots will be conducted with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).
 - Trade filers will submit PGA Message Set data for EPA for vehicles and engines, and ozone depleting substances and for FSIS for food products (meat, poultry and eggs).



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- ACE will validate data against EPA and FSIS reference tables, and send the data to these partner agencies, who will then respond via ACE.
- The pilots will be initiated with the following ports and modes:
 - EPA: Newark, NJ and Long Beach, CA (Ocean only)
 - FSIS: Champlain, NY (Truck), Houston, TX (Ocean) and Philadelphia, PA (Ocean)
- **ACE Reports software upgrade**
 - *Why Important?*
 - Concurrent with Deployment A, CBP will implement a required software upgrade that will provide a modernized platform to facilitate currently planned and future ACE Reports fixes and enhancements. ACE Reports fixes and enhancement will be included as part of future deployments.
 - *What Changes?*
 - Significant changes to the ACE Reports user interface will result from this deployment, impacting how users view and run reports.
 - *What Do Users Need to Know in Advance of Deployment?*
 - Reports that are modified or created from October 28 through November 2 will **NOT** be migrated with the deployment. ACE report users are encouraged to make this a black out week and **NOT save** created or modified reports to their Favorites folder during this timeframe.
 - Only those ACE Reports currently saved in the users' "Favorites" folder will be migrated and available in the new interface. Users must save their reports to their "Favorites" folder in order to be able to access them following the deployment.
 - Scheduled ACE reports will be required to be rescheduled following the deployment.
 - *Training for Trade Community*
 - An updated ACE Reports User Guide will be posted on CBP.gov and disseminated via the Cargo Systems Messaging Service (CSMS) by October 29, 2013.
 - A series of webinars will be provided to highlight the changes following publication of the User Guide. The webinar schedule will be disseminated via CSMS.



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Additional Resources:

Additional information about ACE deployment and new capabilities can also be found on the “ACE: Modernization Information Systems” page on cbp.gov and by subscribing to the [Cargo Systems Messaging Service \(CSMS\)](#).