

TSN ITDS Committee
Announcing the Formation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
ACE/ITDS Working Group

Attention, Brokers, Importers, and Software Developers: The International Trade Data System (ITDS) Committee of the Trade Support Network (TSN) needs your input and participation in our new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) ACE/ITDS Working Group. Sandra Scott and Stuart Schmidt serve as the trade co-chairs of the ITDS Committee.

Working Group Purpose

The purpose of the FWS ACE/ITDS Working Group will be to ensure that all stakeholders are provided the opportunity to discuss the technical requirements related to the participation of FWS in the ACE/ITDS system. The working group will consist of members of the international trade community such as importers and exporters of commodities that are regulated by the FWS, the brokers that process such shipments, the software developers who support the business processes, and representatives from FWS and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) team developing the ITDS software system. The transition to the ITDS will change the way FWS, CBP, and members of the trade community do business. Your involvement is needed to ensure that transition to ACE/ITDS will continue to support efficient and timely cargo releases while in compliance with FWS requirements.

FWS Border Responsibilities and Authority

The FWS is the primary agency responsible for regulating the import and export of wildlife into and from the United States. The Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 grant enforcement and inspection authority to the FWS to detain and inspect any shipment and accompanying documentation necessary to effect a determination of admissibility.

Working Group Task

The ACE system will replace the ACS system, and therefore will require that the trade be capable of electronically submitting certain FWS data using the Partner Government Agency (PGA) Message Set. FWS and CBP have identified specific data elements that will need to be submitted by the filer in order to transact business in ACE. The working group is tasked with assuring that all technical and data requirements are transitioned to ACE/ITDS successfully. The working group will review the draft FWS PGA Message Set guidance as well as give input on the ITDS impact on business processes for the affected trade. FWS will use the input from the working group to refine the planned message set and business processes as necessary.

Working Group Commitment

Working Group participants should be prepared to commit to weekly conference calls typically 2 hours in duration over a four to six week period. A more definitive schedule will be determined at the Working Group's first meeting. The teleconferences will focus on the technical business processes and technical data flows required for the FWS Message Sets in order to define the programming and operational guidelines to be implemented by FWS and CBP for commodities subject to FWS regulations. Regulatory and policy matters are outside the scope of this working group.

To participate in the FWS ACE/ITDS Working Group please send your contact information to:

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