

**TSN ITDS Committee**  
**Announcing the Formation of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**  
**ACE/ITDS Trade 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 an upcoming **ACE/ITDS DEA Working Group** under the auspices of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (SAFE Port Act) and in accordance with the ITDS protocols for implementing ACE/ITDS in the spirit of the February 2014 Executive Order on Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America's Businesses.

**Working Group Purpose**

The purpose of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) ACE/ITDS Working Group will be to ensure that all stakeholders are invited to participate in a discussion of the technical solution and data elements that will be required by the DEA in the new cargo release and control functionality of ACE/ITDS. Primarily the workgroup will focus on the IT related issues associated with implementing the ACE/ITDS. The working group will consist of members of the international trade community, including trade software developers, that import commodities into the United States that are regulated by the DEA. Officials from the DEA and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that are working on the development and deployment of ACE/ITDS will be part of this working group. The engagement in ACE/ITDS will require electronic submissions of all DEA required import data for cargo admissibility processing, in an XML format under a NIEM standard. Your involvement is needed to ensure that the transition to ACE/ITDS will continue to support efficient and timely cargo releases while in compliance with DEA requirements.

**DEA Authority**

The DEA implements and enforces titles II and III of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, as amended. 21 U.S.C. 801–971. Titles II and III are known as the “Controlled Substances Act” and the “Controlled Substances Import and Export Act,” respectively, and are collectively referred to as the “Controlled Substances Act” or “CSA” for the purpose of this action. The DEA publishes implementing regulations for these statutes in title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), chapter II. The CSA and its implementing regulations are designed to prevent, detect, and eliminate the diversion of controlled substances and listed chemicals into the illicit market while ensuring an adequate supply is available for the legitimate medical, scientific, research, and industrial needs of the United States. Controlled substances have the potential for abuse and dependence and are controlled to protect the public health and safety.

Under the CSA, each controlled substance is classified into one of five schedules based upon its potential for abuse, its currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and the degree of dependence the substance may cause. 21 U.S.C. 812. The initial schedules of controlled substances established by Congress are found at 21 U.S.C. 812(c), and pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 812 (a), the current list of all scheduled substances is published at 21 CFR part 1308. Controlled substances include narcotics, stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogens that have a potential for abuse and physical and psychological

dependence, as well as anabolic steroids. Listed chemicals are separately classified based on their use and importance to the illicit manufacture of controlled substances (list I or list II chemicals). 21 U.S.C. 802 (33)–(35).

### **Working Group Task**

The working group is tasked with assuring that all technical and data requirements are transitioned to ACE/ITDS in a seamless, efficient, and timely manner, and in particular, that the ACE data assists the CBP to execute its import processing and review duties. ACE/ITDS will allow more efficient government decision-making associated with goods arriving at the border, reducing the time for clearing goods from many days to, in some cases, seconds. This will dramatically speed the flow of legitimate commerce across our borders. Furthermore, coordinated and automated messaging about these decisions will increase predictability in the private sector and allow them to plan supply chain movements with greater confidence and less cost. ACE/ITDS once deployed will decommission the current system known as Automated Commercial System (ACS). The official “single-window” system of record will be known as ACE. ACE will require that all data related to ACE Cargo Release and Control be submitted electronically under the Partner Government Agency (PGA) Message Set.

### **Working Group Commitment**

Working Group participants should be prepared to commit to weekly conference calls typically of a 2-hour 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 business process and technical data flows required for the above-referenced DEA Message Sets in order to define the programming and operational guidelines to be implemented by CBP, DEA, importers, and importer brokers when filing and processing entries for products subject to DEA jurisdiction at US borders. Regulatory and policy issues are outside the scope of this working group.

**To participate in the DEA ACE/ITDS Working Group please send your contact information to the persons listed below by cob Wednesday, September 23, 2015:**

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