Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Government Issue Paper: ACE/ Single Window

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U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ACE) AND SINGLE WINDOW IMPLEMENTATION

OVERVIEW:

- On February 19, 2014, President Obama signed an Executive Order to streamline the import/export process by calling for the completion of a "single window" by December 2016.
- ACE is the platform that enables the "single window," the primary processing system through which the trade-related data required by all Government agencies is submitted and processed[1].
- To facilitate implementation of ACE/Single Window, CBP established mandatory dates for the use of ACE.
- Together with our partner agency and trade community stakeholders, we have made tremendous progress in the implementation of ACE over the course of the past year, and we look forward to meeting the President's Executive Order by the end of 2016.
- The input of our trade and PGA stakeholders remains vital as we develop and implement one of the most complex IT projects the U.S. government has ever seen.
- To date, the following ACE transition dates have been met:
  - **May 1, 2015:** ACE became mandatory for all electronic import manifest filings.
  - **March 31, 2016:** Filers were required to file in ACE electronic entry summaries for the most commonly filed entry types, AND electronic entries and entry summaries with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Lacey Act and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data.
  - **May 20, 2016:** Full transition of legacy AES*Direct* (export commodity filings via the portal) to ACE.
  - **May 28, 2016:** Filers were required to file in ACE electronic entries (cargo release) for the most commonly filed entry types, and Foreign Trade Zone entries and entry summaries.
  - **June 15, 2016:** Mandatory filing of ACE electronic entries and entry summaries with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) data.
  - **July 23, 2016:** Mandatory filing of ACE electronic entries and entry summaries for remaining entry types, specifically those entry types involving quota merchandise. At this point, ALL entries and associated entry summaries were required to be filed in ACE, and the legacy Automated Commercial System (ACS) was no longer available for entry/entry summary filing.
  - **August 27, 2016:** Mandatory use of ACE for electronic Protests.
  - **September 20, 2016**: Mandatory filing of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) data electronically.
- The remaining transition dates include:
  - **January 2017:** Mandatory use of ACE for all remaining electronic portions of the CBP cargo process: Duty Deferrals, Collections/Statements, Reconciliation, Drawback and Liquidation.
  - **TBD:** CBP and the PGAs will continue working together to close the PGA pilots and communicate when PGA data is required to be filed in ACE, which is subject to PGA regulatory updates.
- CBP recognizes and appreciates everyone's efforts in the past several months to get everyone on board.
- With the deployment of the post release capabilities targeted for January, CBP will have delivered all core trade processing in ACE.

Post Core Development

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[1] Application forms for permits and licenses excluded from the Single Window.

- Following the delivery of core trade processes in ACE, the system will move into the operations and maintenance phase of its life cycle.
- CBP is working to prioritize "post-core" development initiatives once core trade processing capabilities in ACE are complete.
- We will focus on continued ACE enhancements and simplifying CBP processes, in line with CBP's trade priorities and funding availability.
- Those priorities will be determined through future conversations and collaboration with CBP internal stakeholders, our PGAs, and members of the trade.
    - CBP Trade Program offices and policy priority initiatives will drive business cases for system enhancement and future trade capability modernization investments.
    - Resources for future work are constrained, so additional funding will be a key factor in assessing future work.
- The trade community should stay in tune with CBP trade program priorities and the enabling automation updates/changes that may be associated with implementing trade program initiatives or process improvements.
- The trade community can help by quantifying and articulating the trade benefit of desired CBP trade program enhancement initiatives, including those requiring automation
- Equally, the trade community can stay engaged with PGA updates and progress through representatives on the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) External Engagement Committee (EEC)
    - CBP is still working in collaboration with the PGAs through the BIEC framework to finalize and formalize the process for PGA updates in ACE.

Trade Readiness
- CBP has been assessing stakeholder readiness for the mandatory transition of post-release capabilities in ACE. CBP heard from key industry partners on the need for additional flexibility in this transition. In response, CBP published an updated timeline that identifies a target of January 2017 for deployment and mandate of the post release capabilities.
- All capabilities included in this upcoming transition are operational in the Certification environment (CERT) and CBP has encouraged trade users to take advantage of the additional time to fully test their software.
- The growth in ACE adoption and the successes we have achieved up to this point are tributes to the fact that ACE is a system that works and a system government and trade are using successfully.

PGA Readiness
- CBP and the PGAs will continue working together to close the PGA pilots and communicate when PGA data is required to be filed in ACE, which is subject to PGA regulatory updates.
- Requirement/Pilot Summary
    - 21 agencies have data requirements at entry/entry summary.
    - 14 of 21 will have their data requirements met via PGA Message Set.
    - 8 of the 14 have available PGA Message Set pilots; 2 are pending.
    - 5 of the pilots have been closed.
- All 151 PGA import forms and 58 PGA export forms have been automated due to the implementation of ACE and the single window.