

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Government Issue Paper: ACE/ Single Window

March 1, 2017



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT (ACE) **AND THE SINGLE WINDOW**

OVERVIEW:

- The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) is the United States “Single Window,” the primary processing system through which the trade-related data required by all Government agencies is submitted and processed.
- This means a transition away from paper-based procedures to faster, more efficient processes for both government and industry, as well as the divestment of the legacy Automated Commercial System (ACS) – a system in use since the 1980s.
- CBP has completed six of seven primary deployments established to achieve core trade processing in ACE.
 - 100 percent of import manifest, cargo release processing, and export processing functionality has been deployed in ACE.
 - In addition, more than 85 percent of post release capabilities are available in ACE.
 - All electronic entry summaries are required to be filed in ACE
 - Protest capabilities were deployed in ACE in August 2016
 - In accordance with the December 2016 Final Rule, the Official Notices of Liquidation, Suspension, and Extension are now electronic and posted on the CBP.gov home page.

SINGLE WINDOW IMPLEMENTATION

- Through the implementation of the Single Window, CBP has worked with the partner government agencies (PGAs) to automate the collection of data/forms through ACE.
 - All 151 PGA import forms and 58 PGA export forms have been automated due to the implementation of ACE and the Single Window.
- On February 7, 2017, CBP published on CBP.gov an updated PGA Filing Status, and PGA forms documents both for import and export.
 - These documents outline the status of PGA required filing in ACE, the accompanying regulatory authority and how information required by a specific PGA is to be electronically submitted to ACE.

COMPLETION OF CORE TRADE PROCESSING IN ACE

- One deployment remains for the completion of all core trade processing capabilities in ACE.
- On January 11, 2017 CBP announced to stakeholders the postponement of the January 14, 2017 deployment of post release capabilities, which include the remaining electronic portions of the CBP cargo process in ACE.
- In consideration of stakeholder feedback and the complexity of the ongoing integration testing, CBP has provided additional time to prepare for the final deployment of core trade processing capabilities in ACE, in order to ensure a smooth transition of liquidation, drawback, reconciliation, duty deferral, collections, statements and the Automated Surety Interface.
- We are finalizing testing for the deployment of our post release downstream processing.
- Discussions are underway to determine a rescheduled deployment date in 2017. The rescheduled deployment date will be published with a notice in the Federal Register Notice at least 30 days in advance of the actual deployment/mandatory transition.

- CBP recognizes and appreciates the efforts of our CBP, trade, and PGA stakeholders to get all parties successfully transitioned to ACE. Input from our stakeholders has been, and remains, vital as we develop and implement one of the most complex IT projects the U.S. government has ever seen.

POST-CORE ACE

- Following the delivery of core trade processes in ACE, the system will move into the operations and maintenance phase of its lifecycle.
- CBP is prioritizing “post-core” development initiatives while completing the working to complete the final deployment of core trade processing capabilities in ACE.
- We will focus on continued ACE enhancements and simplifying CBP processes, in line with CBP’s trade priorities and funding availability.
 - Our near term top priorities are truck refactoring, drawback simplification, and other Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (TFTEA) (Pub. Law 114-125) requirements.
 - Additional post-core priorities will be determined through future collaboration with CBP internal stakeholders, our PGAs, and members of the trade.
- 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.
- Our trade partners 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.