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# International Trade Data System



# ITDS

## Message From the Chairman

### A Message from the Chairman

First, I am pleased to announce that the United States Coast Guard has officially joined the program as a Participating Government Agency (PGA). Access to information distributed through ACE/ITDS will help the Coast Guard in fulfilling its mission. The Coast Guard's participation highlights the continued importance ACE will play in securing American borders.

In addition, the Trade Support Network (TSN) meeting on February 4-8, 2008, in Dallas, Texas provided an opportunity for several ITDS PGAs to showcase the benefits of their participation in ITDS. PGA presenters included the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bureau of Census, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). To see the PGA TSN presentations, please visit the PGA Resource Center at [www.itds.gov](http://www.itds.gov). The TSN was attended by over 300 representatives from a diverse range of international trade stakeholders that were highly interested in the progress of both ACE and ITDS.

- Tim Skud, Chairman,

ITDS Board of Directors

To submit questions or comments, e-mail [ask.itds@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:ask.itds@associates.dhs.gov)

## Consumer Product Safety Commission Announces Import

### Surveillance Division

CPSC has announced the development of a new *Import Surveillance Division*. The development of this division demonstrates CPSC's continued commitment to securing American borders. This new division will help further ensure that the American public is protected from any unreasonable risks or injuries associated with the over 15,000 consumer products the agency monitors. The Import Surveillance Division, headed by Carol Cave, looks forward to further integrating the ACE system into CPSC operations. Earlier this year CPSC was able to successfully use ACE to identify a dangerous shipment of ATV's entering the country via Houston. With the help of ACE and Customs and Border Protection, CPSC was able to quickly identify the shipment and ensure the dangerous products did not reach the American public. Looking to the future, the Import Surveillance Division of CPSC looks forward to focusing on enforcement at the port of entry. ACE will help the newly established division define targeted shipments prior to arrival, as well as improve screening criteria to avoid any delay to the trade community and Customs and Border Protection.

## ITDS/Participating Government Agencies Shine at TSN



The ITDS program had a significant presence at this year's Trade Support Network (TSN) in Dallas, Texas. ITDS Director Bill Inch addressed a room of over 250 international trade executives to highlight the significant growth the program has seen in 2007. Touching on the SAFE Port Act of 2006 and Presidential Executive Order issued on July 18, 2007, Mr. Inch explained that import safety is a growing concern for the President and the Country. With ITDS firmly positioned to effect change, Mr. Inch looks forward to streamlining port operations for international trade, while also further securing the borders of America. The progress the ITDS program has made in 2007 can be directly attributed to the inter-agency collaboration and hard work that has occurred between the current PGAs.

The TSN also provided the opportunity for some PGAs to demonstrate the progress they have made integrating into the ITDS program, as well as highlight the effect their participation will have on the international trade community. CPSC was one of the PGAs that drew a significant international trade audience. In addition to announcing the development of the new Import Surveillance Division, CPSC was also able to communicate recent statutory changes that have a direct effect on the trade.

Specifically the H.R. 4040 bill that recently passed has resulted in an increase in the strength of CPSC's authority regarding unsafe imports. CPSC was also able to clarify a variety of questions from the trade regarding the official position of CPSC on reconditioning and destruction of non-compliant products.

The Animal Plant Health Inspection Service also hosted a session at the TSN where they were able to highlight the success they have had using ACE to date, as well as some of the benefits the agency looks forward to seeing in the future. APHIS currently has 100 ACE users that perform a variety of actions using the ACE portal, that include accessing the portal to assist in quarantine decisions, recalls of animal and plant products, investigations into trade compliance issues, pathway analysis, and broker/shipper verification. As APHIS looks to the future, they anticipate streamlining their regulatory process in order to improve the facilitation of international trade. APHIS also looks forward to providing Trade stakeholders with additional information resources for imports and exports.

A TSN breakout session hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) high-

lighted the agency's three pronged plan to integrate with ACE. EPA is currently in the process of reengineering their business processes. In the near future, the agency will be upgrading/modernizing EPA's core data systems to include eForms, automated transactions, and improved business rules. As EPA moves toward fully integrating with ACE/ITDS, they will be leveraging their existing sophisticated data exchange technology to ensure a timely and smooth transition of data with ACE and the Trade community.

Audience response for each PGA breakout session at the TSN further demonstrates that the ITDS program is gaining momentum and is well positioned to make significant progress in 2008. TSN breakout sessions were also hosted by the Bureau of Census and Food and Drug Administration. For a complete summary of these presentations, or additional information on CPSC, EPA, or APHIS please



## THE TRADE'S VIEW



### Quotes from the Trade

"ACE has a lot of potential. I look forward to seeing what happens in the next few years."

"I don't think some people realize how important ACE is to International Trade. In today's global economy, America needs a program like this to facilitate more efficient operations."

visit the PGA Resource Center located on [www.itds.gov](http://www.itds.gov). You will find a link in the "Features" section of the PGA Resource Center to access the complete presentations.



## ACE Reports— A Great Tool Coming Your Way!

### *ACE Portal Reports Dictionary*

The first version of the ACE Portal Reports Dictionary has been completed and will be available for download to user's desktops this week. Formatted as a PDF file, the PGA Reports Dictionary will be posted on the PGA Resource Center at [www.itds.gov](http://www.itds.gov) under the "User Support Tools-What's New" section. The ACE Portal Reports Dictionary is a reference guide of the most frequently accessed reports designed to enhance the understanding of reports for ACE users, to assist in identifying the report that best fulfills a particular business need, and to encourage the overall use of the reporting tool. The dictionary defines each report and their corresponding data attributes (objects) making it easier for ACE users to identify specific reports that meet their data requirements. It also provides the exact location of each report in the ACE reporting tool, the categorical classification of each report, the standard report filters/prompts, and a description of each data attribute contained in the report.

