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ITDS

Message From the Chairman

The ITDS program has gained significant momentum over the past few months. First, I am happy to report that on September 10, 2007, the Cabinet level Import Safety Working Group, (IWSG) led by HHS Secretary Leavitt recognized the importance of the ITDS project in developing the government's ability to ensure that imported products are safe and healthy. In particular, among the immediate actions that the group recommended were that:

“In order to accelerate implementation of ITDS, the Office of Management and Budget should issue a directive to PGAs requiring that within 60 days of the directive they establish or refine their Implementation Plan setting deadlines for developing, reviewing and finalizing conceptual operating plans (Concept of Operations), memoranda of understanding for the ITDS interface, and a set of technical and business requirements for identifying any program and system modifications needed to support the interface. This would include considerations for the budget process. OMB should give special priority to import safety agencies for this task in the budget process.”

Further, in order to accelerate implementation of ITDS, the Office of Management and Budget should direct that CBP, within 60 days, establish or refine its Implementation Plan setting deadlines to:

- Include information currently reported by importers and carriers to CBP in the ACE Data Warehouse, where it can be accessed by other agencies.
- Advise other agencies with an import safety mission how they can take full advantage of current ITDS capabilities and deepen their engagement in ITDS development.
- Implement World Customs Organization Data Model messages (new international standard for customs reporting), which could provide a platform for electronic reporting of health and safety information in advance of the current ITDS production schedule.

In addition, all PGAs are instructed to:

- Within their fiscal year 2009 budget submissions, identify the budgetary resources needed to support the ACE/ITDS interface.
- Within 60 days, designate a senior executive responsible for implementing the ACE/ITDS interface.

On September 10, 2007 OMB Deputy Director Clay Johnson, following up on the recommendations of the IWSG, issued a memorandum requiring agencies that collect information to clear or license cargo to designate a senior executive to work with the ITDS team and that by November 12, 2007 all Agencies must outline the steps they intend to take to complete each stage of its interface, including any necessary rulemaking and acquisitions. A subsequent OMB directive, incorporating further IWSG recommendations and elaborating on the Johnson memo was issued on September 28, 2007 by Karen Evans, OMB's Administrator for E-Government and Information Technology.

These recommendations and directives give our program a significant boost; we can look forward to the future of the program as progress accelerates in the coming months.

-Tim Skud, Chairman, ITDS Board of Directors



Above: CPSC Investigator Marcus Morris (right) and CBP Officer Don Barnes (left) collaborate

ACE Aids CPSC in Recent Investigation

The CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death. More than 15,000 types of consumer products fall under the agency's jurisdiction. Over the past 30 years, the CPSC has significantly contributed to the 30% decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products. While the CPSC has seen much success over the years, the organization has been heavily reliant on paper intensive processes and local relationships with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to carry out their mission. That is all changing. Today CPSC no longer has to rely solely on dated paperwork or local CBP relationships. CPSC can now access the ACE portal, which provides expedited access to electronic records and makes data available to CPSC agents regardless of location. This expedited access to data, specifically e-manifests, allows CPSC to conduct more targeted, timely intercepts of potentially dangerous products. ACE has also improved collaboration between CPSC and CBP on a national level.

In early September of this year CPSC collaborated with CBP to stop a potentially dangerous

shipment of ATV's. CPSC had been actively looking for a specific shipment of ATV's that posed a potential hazard to the public. With the expedited access to electronic records that ACE provided, CPSC was able to identify that the ATV's were being imported through Houston, contact a CBP officer in Houston prior to the shipment arriving, and request an inspection of the ATV's. This collaboration successfully blocked the hazardous ATV shipment from entering the United States and reaching consumers. CPSC and CBP collaboration successes like these are now happening on a regular basis thanks to expedited access to electronic records before shipments arrive.

In ACE today, CPSC has the ability to determine names of responsible individuals for imports, addresses of import locations, importer history, ports of entry by firm, types of products by HTS classification, and importer of record and consignee information. Since being trained in April of 2007, CPSC has already used ACE to significantly improve its operation.

Looking to the future, CPSC looks forward to the continuing improve-

ACE
AT WORK
FOR CPSC



Quotes from CPSC on ACE:

"We used to have to rely on what the importer was telling us during an inspection, now we can verify this with the information in ACE to make sure the two match"

"CPSC will develop specific criteria on manufacturer and importer surveillance, which will be applied systematically in the Field."

Carol Cave, CPSC, Director ,
Field Investigations Division

ment of ACE, and increased collaboration among all agencies, to assist in its mission of protecting the American public.



PROGRAM UPDATES



Register for the PGA Fall Planning Workshops Today....

Beginning in fall 2007, representatives from Customs and Border Protection and the ITDS support staff will begin meeting with Participating Government Agencies to define the detailed business rules and related technical aspects surrounding each PGA's entry and admissibility requirements. In preparation, CBP and the ITDS team will be conducting half day workshops that will detail what the fall sessions will cover, resource needs, and agency requirements. If you are a PGA, please visit the PGA Resource Center on www.itds.gov to learn more. The dates for the sessions are listed below. Registration is on a first come first serve basis, so please register at your earliest convenience:

- October 16th from 1-4 pm
(EPA Building East– Room 1153)
- October 18th from 1-4 pm
(1331 Pennsylvania Ave, NW ,National Place Conference Room, 15th Floor, Washington DC 20004)
- October 23rd from 1-4 pm
(EPA Building East– Room 1153)
- October 25th form 1-4 pm
(EPA Building East– Room 1153)

To register please email Kelly Evans: Kelly.evans@associates.dhs.gov

Program Support Group:

October 9 9:30-11:30;
EPA

Board of Directors Meeting:

October 18 9:30-11:30;
ITC

Web Based Training Met with Rave Reviews

The ACE support team's launch of customized web based training for PGA users on www.itds.gov has been an overwhelming success. This training is tailored to fit each user's specific ACE roles and responsibilities and provides the user with a series of courses that will bring them up to speed on new ACE functionality. The most significant benefit of the web based training is that it can be accessed anytime and anywhere via the web. As one user stated, "The overall training was well done. The most valuable aspect is that on-line training gives me the chance to do the training as my work schedule permits". The web based training also seemed to provide users with the hands on experience they were looking for: "I liked all the examples, and the screenshots were also helpful. Good job!". The ITDS training team looks forward to continuing web based training for future releases of ACE.