

ITDS e-Newsletter



Summer 2005

A Message from CBP

This e-Newsletter arrives bearing good news. . . the roll out of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Secure Data Portal to the Participating Government Agency (PGA) community is upon us! Access to ACE in advance of Release 5 deployment will have many positive effects on the way PGAs with the appropriate legal authority gather, consume, and distribute data. The ease of use and flexible reporting inherent in ACE will surely improve current operations. For more on ACE, read “Accessing ACE” below. If you have any specific questions about the ACE Secure Data Portal, or about the ITDS program in general, please feel free to email us at ask.itds@associates.dhs.gov. –Bill Inch, Director, ITDS.

Accessing ACE

The ACE Secure Data Portal Is Coming

In the very near future, PGAs will be able to perform research and analysis more quickly and comprehensively thanks to the ACE Secure Data Portal. Simply by logging on to the Internet, current reliance on monthly DVD deliveries, printed reports, or legacy systems will be supplemented by near real-time access to cargo entry and entry summary

transactional data. Prior to the arrival of Release 5, representatives from agencies with the applicable legal authority will be granted read-only access to ACE through a “PGA Commodity Analyst” operational role. This will enable the user to search and review trade account information, as well as view, query and customize over 30 existing reports that draw from cargo entry and entry summary detailed or aggregate data. A CBP-approved full background investigation will be a prerequisite to gaining access to the portal during this interim period. So, get your paperwork filed- ACE is coming soon to a desktop near you.

To initiate the background investigation process for your subject matter experts, please contact Christine Hogue, CBP ITDS Representative, at christine.hogue@dhs.gov.

The Government Support Network

Establishing the Single Window

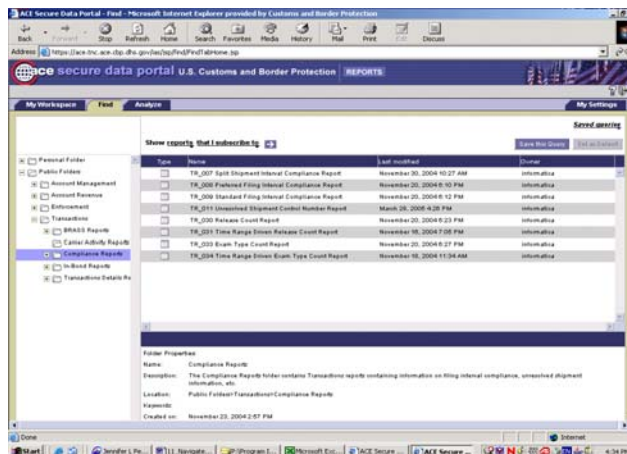
On the same day the World Customs Organization (WCO) adopted the “Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade” in Brussels, CBP, and its ITDS partners, were advancing the very principles outlined in that Framework at the GSN in Washington, DC. Representatives from 30 U.S. federal agencies and three

foreign countries attended the June 23rd conference, which serves as a forum to discuss safer and more efficient trade through PGA integration into ACE.

In his remarks, Lou Samenfink, Executive Director, CBP Cargo Management Systems Program Office, pledged continued support for the ITDS program and PGA involvement. He cited the additions of legal counsel and Office of Information Technology (OIT) expertise to the CBP ITDS team as well as Office of Field Operations (OFO) support as important steps in achieving success. The agenda covered such topics as the legal and policy implications of participation and the process used to evaluate PGA requirements for inclusion into ACE.

Bill Inch, ITDS Director, presented an ACE update,

Continued on page 2 . . .



'GSN' Continued . . .

focusing on the e-Manifest: Trucks deployment. Targeting Systems Program Director, Tom Bush, and his team, presented an overview of the risk management component of ACE, as well as provided attendees with demonstrations of Screening Foundation, Targeting Framework, and Advanced Trade Data Initiative capabilities.

Fittingly, the conference came to a close with presentations on the WCO Framework and ITDS Data Harmonization efforts. Bill Nolle, CBP ITDS International Data Harmonization Lead, informed attendees that the Framework, with its references to the Single Window concept, standard data, and information exchange, is a priority of CBP. PGA integration will enable ACE to become a Single Window, i.e., a single interface through which the trade community will submit all of its federally mandated import/export data to CBP and all pertinent PGAs, using a single harmonized, standard data set. Peg MacKnight, Co-Chair of the ITDS Board of Directors' Data Harmonization Committee, spoke about the progress made in creating this ACE/ITDS Standard Data Set (SDS), the data dictionary designed to ensure all parties involved in ACE are speaking the same language. The presentations at this GSN certainly provided proof that PGA integration

CBP 101

Ensuring ACE meets the needs of all end users calls for unprecedented collaboration between CBP, PGAs, and the trade community. With that premise in mind, the CBP ITDS team conducted a "CBP 101" session designed to present a big picture overview of their agency's way of doing business. According to Susan Dyszel, CBP ITDS Team Lead, the goal of this briefing was to "provide each PGA with a basic knowledge of CBP trade processes and a common language with which to describe those processes." Building upon a PGA's own relationship with CBP only strengthens the CBP-PGA partnership. "Since ACE is the system common to all," said Susan Dyszel, "helping each agency understand where its own processes fit into the broader scope is essential to deriving the full benefits of participation." The half-day interactive session covered manifest, entry release, and entry summary as well as provided an introduction to the Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT) initiative, which prompted an important discussion about the ways PGAs can leverage C-TPAT for more effective and efficient risk management.

into ACE is integral in meeting the standards spelled out in the Framework.



Bill Nolle, CBP, and Peg MacKnight, ITC, at the GSN

For Your Information

July 19: ITDS Program Support Group meeting

July 27: Legal and Policy Committee meeting

August 11, September 15: ITDS Board of Directors meeting

September 27, 28, 29: Trade Support Network

TSN ITDS Committee Update

The ITDS and Multi Modal Manifest committees are co-chairing the new Cross Border Harmonization Subcommittee (CBHSC). The CBHSC was established to coordinate the harmonization of border issues among the United States, Canada, and Mexico and is comprised of representatives from CBP, Canada Border Services Agency, Customs Mexico, and the private sector in all three countries. The subcommittee's focus is on resolving business and technical issues surrounding the standardization of the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) message sets from such data transmission standards bodies as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the United Nations EDIFACT with the framework model established by the WCO. The CBHSC will hold three days of working sessions from July 26-28 to delve more deeply into these issues.