

ITDS e-Newsletter

June 2007



A Message from the Chairman

There has been much recent growth and change on the ITDS program. First, the Bureau of Industry and Security, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Drug Enforcement Administration recently joined the program. Each of these agencies has appointed a representative to serve on the ITDS Board of Directors. We welcome Gerry Horner (BIS), Ron Lord (FAS), and Mark Via (DEA) to ITDS! Second, the ACE support team has been reorganized into PGA-facing teams. This will allow more team members to serve as PGA advocates as PGAs integrate their business requirements into ACE. Finally, Peg MacKnight from the U.S. International Trade Commission retires this month. We are sad to see Peg leave and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

We can expect growth and change to continue on this program; both reflect the importance of ITDS to the Federal Government and the trade community, and are a result of accelerated engagement by the PGAs.

Tim Skud – Chairman, ITDS Board of Directors

To submit questions or comments,
e-mail ask.itds@associates.dhs.gov

June ITDS TSN Committee Meeting Highlights

The Trade Support Network (TSN) ITDS Committee is a forum that brings together PGAs and the trade to discuss ACE development. The last meeting held June 20, 2007, in Baltimore, MD, facilitated such discussion in an unprecedented way: four PGAs gave presentations describing their processes regarding international trade, how they currently interact with CBP, and how they hope to interact with CBP in the future through ACE.

The PGAs that presented were the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The following summarizes some of the questions asked by the trade and the answers given by the PGAs at the meeting:

Q: What is the “10+2” data filing requirement?

A: “10+2” refers to a proposed plan

that will require importers to submit 10 additional data elements 24 hours prior to foreign lading. It will also require 2 additional data sets from carriers. The proposed plan will be posted in the federal register and the trade will have the opportunity to comment. For more details, visit CBP.gov.

Q: What is a DUNS number? Will importers eventually be required to submit a DUNS number with an entry?

A: A DUNS number is a unique identifier created by Dun and Bradstreet that provides information about a business entity. PGAs are investigating the utility of the DUNS number as a solution to better identify business entities. However, the DUNS number is not the only solution PGAs are considering. It is likely that, in the future, some PGAs will require that a DUNS number or similar identifier be submitted with an entry.

Q: What are product codes? Why can't PGAs just use the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) to identify



Christopher Rogers of the National Marine Fisheries Service presents at the TSN

imported commodities?

A: Product codes are unique identifiers that provide information about commodities. PGAs currently use and will continue to use the HTS number. However, the HTS number alone does not give many PGAs the commodity detail they need to determine jurisdictional authority and execute their regulatory responsibilities. Remember, the purpose of the HTS is to assess duties, not determine safety and compliance.

Peg MacKnight Retires from ITC After 24 Years of Dedicated Service

Peg MacKnight is leaving the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) and the ACE program after 24 years with the Federal Government and 11 years working on ACE and its predecessors. “Although it is exciting to work on a large program that will help to streamline government and reduce the costs of international trade, the slow pace and delays can be extremely frustrating,” MacKnight said. “Hopefully, however, the final product will be worth the wait and expense.” Among other things, ACE/ITDS should make mission-critical data available to agencies on a real-time basis and help to make our commerce more secure.”

MacKnight, from western Massachusetts and with a newly minted MBA, entered the work force in the apparel business, taking on major roles with Maidenform in New York and then the William Carter Company (children’s clothes) in Boston. Several years and two children later, she followed her husband to Washington, DC and joined the ITC in the textiles area. Later, as trade issues grew in the steel area, MacKnight was loaned to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to work on international steel agreements and global trade negotiations.

Upon her return to the ITC, she took responsibility for computerizing probable economic effect studies conducted on proposed trade agreements. She also developed online versions of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule and a tariff database for computations. Out of her team’s work, the ITC “DataWeb” was born. This is an online interactive tool for obtaining international trade statistics, which now serves over 100,000 users from government, multi-national

organizations, the trade and the general public. MacKnight’s work on ITDS was originally to expand the ability of ITC staff to get confidential trade data for trade cases with the same ease as one can get public trade data from the DataWeb.

MacKnight’s colleagues will miss her eclectic knowledge of ITDS and relentless drive to get things done. Tim Skud, chairman of the ITDS Board of Directors, said large programs such as ITDS need people with Peg’s perseverance and attention to detail. “In addition to promoting ITC’s participation within ITDS and defending ITC interests in the ITDS process, Peg has acted as secretary to the Board,” Skud said. “In that role, she has ensured that the myriad of issues with which the Board is concerned don’t fall through the cracks. When Peg leaves, the Board will certainly miss her energy, organizational skills, and her enthusiasm for ITDS.”

Chuck Woods, a member of the ACE Support Team who worked with ITC as its agency liaison, said Peg will be “severely missed.” “Peg has been a very energetic individual who has volunteered to take on additional responsibilities for the ITDS project outside of the scope of ITC requirements,” said Woods. “She should be applauded for her efforts, from Data Harmonization, to the ITDS Board of Directors meetings and agendas, to Legal and Policy administration.”

“ACE is still a terrific idea but big ideas seem to take many years to develop,” MacKnight said. “The Harmonized System for tariffs took 15 to be accepted. Hopefully a government-wide ACE/ITDS program will be up and running in that amount of time or less.” MacKnight is retiring to travel and take at least two months “off.” She then may look at other opportunities.

Program Updates

Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 9:30 am, USITC

Program Support Group: Tuesday, July 31, 9:30 am, EPA



Robert Ehinger, former Executive Director of the ITDS Program Office, has joined the ACE Support Team as the ITDS Task Order Manager.

Mr. Ehinger retired from the U.S. Customs Service (now CBP) in 2001 after 33 years with with the agency. During his tenure with Customs, Mr. Ehinger directed the development of the Automated Commercial System (ACS) and the Automated Broker Interface (ABI). He is a dynamic leader with extensive knowledge of international trade, and the ACE

Support Team is thrilled to have him on board!