

FEB 08 2005



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

NOTIFICATION TO ALL DATA ENTRY CENTER (DEC) PARTICIPANTS

Dear Data Entry Center (DEC):

The DEC Program will end on March 31, 2005. The U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau), Foreign Trade Division (FTD), would like to thank you for your cooperation and participation in this program. This letter serves as a follow up to the October 13, 2004, notification letter regarding the termination of the DEC Program as well as our written notification to terminate the agreement between your company and the Census Bureau as required by the signed Export Initiative Agreement.

On April 1, 2005, you must have a written authorization or power of attorney from the U.S. Principal Party in Interest in order to file or key information received on paper Shipper's Export Declarations into the Automated Export System (AES) or *AESDirect*, or transition to a certified service center.

- As an authorized agent, you will be responsible for the resolution of all edit failures, as well as, for complying with all regulatory requirements and associated penalties pertaining to the filing of these shipments.
 - ◆ DECs filing export information directly into the AES mainframe with a DEC indicator set to "Y" beginning April 1, 2005, will receive compliance alerts from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
 - ◆ DECs filing export information using *AESDirect* will have their account automatically switched to an authorized agent on April 1, 2005.
- As a certified service center, your company will be responsible for transmitting AES information from all external customers to the AES mainframe and to transmit AES generated responses from the AES mainframe back to all external customers. At no time will the certified service center file information on behalf of the external customer. The service center will be responsible for creating AES software and certifying the software with the CBP. Service centers are also responsible for distributing the software to all external customers and each external customer would be required to test individually with the Census Bureau. This newly created software must stand-alone and may not be integrated with existing *AESDirect* or *AESPCLink* functions.

We encourage you to transition from the DEC program prior to April 1, 2005. The AES system will continue to accept corrections to DEC shipments until March 1, 2006. If you decide to become an authorized agent prior to April 1, 2005, please send an e-mail notification to ftddec@census.gov to have your DEC status changed. If you decide not to become an authorized agent, please inform your clients that they will be required to file themselves or find an authorized agent to file on their behalf. The Census Bureau is available to assist them in this process. For additional information, please contact the AES Branch by telephone at 1-800-549-0595 or by e-mail at askaes@census.gov.

We have enclosed for your convenience a letter that can be provided to your clients concerning their filing options. Please contact the Data Collection Coordination Branch by e-mail at ftddec@census.gov, by telephone on (301) 763-2259, or by fax on (301) 457-1641 if you have any questions concerning the elimination of the DEC Program.

Sincerely,

C. Harvey Monk, Jr.
Chief, Foreign Trade Division

Enclosure

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