

ACE – Five Key Things to Know Now

CBP revealed its master plan for ACE during the Customs Symposium last month in Washington D.C. Hopefully you are already utilizing the reporting features and working with the data to identify errors for PEAs and to target risk areas for auditing. Although the November 11, 2015 mandatory deadline for filing entries and entry summaries through ACE and the 2016 ‘single window’ seem like a long way off, there are some significant changes coming up. It only behooves you to jump on board ACE sooner than later as it will provide many advances into the transparency of your declarations—both import and export. Here are five key things to know now:



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- 1) **Reference Guides & Release Dates:** First, you should know about the “[ACElopedia](#)” and the [Development Schedule](#). The ACElopedia which was published in March, 2014, summarizes all past and future development of ACE, budget information and some FAQs. The development schedule is crucial to understanding mandatory deadlines. On April 5th, ACE expanded with cargo release and includes the following new entry summary edits: Merchandise Processing Fee (MPF), complex duty calculations and line items with two HTS classifications.
- 2) **ACE Reports:** One of the most exciting additions to ACE has to do with the Automated Export System (AES). First, the AES filing process is being transferred to the ACE platform. Historical AES data was loaded in ACE back in October, 2013. Although this whole process has been transparent to the AES filers, this means AES data will be available on ACE for reporting purposes. According to Bill Delansky at CBP, AES reports should be available this Fall in ACE.
- 3) **Brokers:** Ensure your broker is using ABI certified software for ACE. There are many ABI software providers but only a fraction are certified for ACE. Check the list of [ACE-certified system](#) providers so you’ll know if your broker will be ready when ACE begins to supersede ACS as US Customs’ system of record starting next year. You can also check to see if your broker is filing via ACE if you run an AM-008 Entry Summary Line Detail Report. Look to see if “ACE” is listed in the System Control Code field instead of “ACS”.
- 4) **Bugs & Limitations:** ACE is not perfect. There have been some bugs reported with the most recent update. If you are having trouble running reports, there might be a [Java setting](#) that needs to be updated. Also note that when responding to CBP requests through ACE, the maximum size of an individual attachment cannot exceed 20 MB.
- 5) **Strategy:** ACE will change the way you perform your daily operations but you should also consider how it can improve your trade compliance strategy. You will now have direct online availability to data that has been traditionally stored in paper format or in multiple systems. ACE should make your operations more transparent and therefore easier to audit and to measure compliance metrics. Consider ACE a valuable tool to analyze trends in your business, import cycle time and post entry corrections that might indicate ongoing compliance issues.

Good luck with ACE and don’t forget to take the [ACE satisfaction survey](#).

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