



**PORT (TRADE)
INFORMATION
NOTICE**

NUMBER: 2008 – 29
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SUBJECT: ACE Rail and Sea Manifests – Coming in the Fall

DISTRIBUTION: Carriers and Entry Filers Using the Service Port of Blaine

PURPOSE: Informational

See the following page for information.

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***DISCLAIMER:** This information has been prepared for your convenience by the Customs and Border Protection office at Blaine, Washington. This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in Customs matters, an importer may wish to obtain a binding ruling under 19 CFR Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Importers are referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, which was published in the **Federal Register** of December 4, 1997, and in the **Customs Bulletin** of December 17, 1997, for in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care.*

VIGILANCE



SERVICE



INTEGRITY

ONE TEAM ★ ONE FIGHT

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

ACE: Rail and Sea Manifest

U.S. Customs and Border Protection will introduce Automated Commercial Environment Rail and Sea Manifest capabilities in fall 2008. Incorporating existing automated system capabilities for rail and sea cargo processing, ACE Rail and Sea Manifest will set the stage for ACE multi-modal manifest processing that will provide a single, automated cargo control and release system across all modes of transportation. ACE Rail and Sea Manifest includes the following capabilities that will help identify high-risk shipments and facilitate processing of legitimate cargo:

Improved Cargo Security, Expedited Cargo Processing and Trade Facilitation

- A consolidated view of rail and sea shipment manifest and entry data at the bill of lading or container level will facilitate the identification of shipments that may pose a risk and expedite the prearrival processing of legitimate cargo.
- A three-dimensional view of conveyance stowage plans will allow unmanifested containers to be quickly identified.
- Officers will be able to place or remove holds at the container level, allowing suspicious containers to be held while the balance of a shipment is processed.

Faster and Easier Access to Data

- The ACE Secure Data Portal will provide CBP officers with integrated entry, manifest and risk assessment information for rail and sea shipments that is needed for informed cargo processing decisions.

Improved Communications

- ACE will provide enhanced visibility of cargo status through new shipment status advisory messages and more descriptive hold status notifications.
- Beneficial event reporting will enable officers to provide notifications when bonded cargo arrives at or is exported from its destination.
- An electronic messaging service will allow CBP to broadcast messages to and request information from the trade community.

- ACE will streamline the process for placing or removing holds by other government agencies.

Greater Flexibility and Time Savings

- Carriers will have the option to use their own commercial identifiers instead of CBP-assigned tracking numbers for in-bond cargo control.
- Trade partners will be able to update container seal information without needing to delete and resubmit the entire bill of lading.
- Initiation and resending of manifest transactions 24 hours a day, seven days a week will eliminate the time-consuming process of calling CBP to make these changes.

New Features

- “Broker download” will enable carriers to send a copy of the shipment record to a customs broker via Electronic Data Interchange, enabling the broker to verify and match the shipment information to the entry information and thereby facilitating the reconciliation of information needed for timely cargo processing.
- CBP and the trade community will be able to generate customized reports for specific business needs.
- Automated validation of bonded carrier identification will ensure the appropriate use of a carrier’s custodial bond and reduce the risk of penalties.



Looking Ahead: Future ACE Capabilities

Deployed in phases, ACE will be expanded to provide full multi-modal manifest capabilities across all modes of transportation, replacing four existing systems with a single, integrated system for cargo control and release.

For more information, please visit the CBP Modernization Web site at

<http://www.cbp.gov/modernization> or e-mail CBP at CBP.cbpcspo@dhs.gov.