



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

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# News Release

## **CBP Releases Schedule for Completing its Modernized Trade Processing System in ACE**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Customs and Border Protection released a schedule for completing core trade processing capabilities in its Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) by the end of calendar year 2016. ACE consolidates, automates, and modernizes border processing and when complete, will provide a single access point to connect the trade community with CBP and Partner Government Agencies.

“This announcement marks a significant step forward for us,” said CBP Acting Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski. “ACE is the backbone of CBP trade processing and risk management activities and the key to many of the agency’s trade transformation initiatives.”

CBP’s plan for completing core trade processing capabilities was developed after extensive consultation with internal and external stakeholders. The plan includes seven deployments of new features over the next three years. This approach is based on the Agile software development methodology, which produces smaller pieces of functionality more frequently.

CBP also announced three dates when certain functions will be mandatory:

- May 1, 2015: All electronic import and export manifest data must be transmitted via ACE.
- November 1, 2015: All data associated with the release of cargo, including PGA interactions, must be transmitted via ACE.
- October 1, 2016: Mandated use of ACE.

During the past 10 years, CBP has deployed key ACE capabilities which helped ease the transition to more web-based, paperless trade processing such as the Secure Data Portal, Periodic Monthly Statement and electronic manifest. The first deployment of new features using the Agile methodology is targeted for October 2013. For additional information, visit [CBP.gov/ACE](http://CBP.gov/ACE).

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*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.*