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CBP Completes First Regional Installation of Nationwide Trade Processing System in Western Washington

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Washington, D.C. — With the successful deployment of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) trade processing system at Oroville, Washington, this week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) today announced the completion of ACE installations at ports in western Washington. A pilot of the ACE Secure Data Portal and the first ever electronic manifest (e-Manifest) capability for trucks was completed in Blaine, Washington, on April 14, 2005, clearing the way for ACE to be rolled out to additional ports. The ports at Sumas, Lynden, and Point Roberts in western Washington were launched in late April.

"This is a key step forward in the roll out of ACE, the next generation of technology designed to enhance national border security and expedite lawful trade," said CBP Modernization Office Executive Director Louis Samenfink. "We've learned a great deal with these initial installations and adjustments continue to be made, but ACE is now officially on the move to land border ports around the country."

In the next few months, ACE is scheduled to be deployed at ports near select hub cities, including Douglas, Arizona, and Detroit, Michigan.

Truck carriers are encouraged to begin to establish ACE truck carrier accounts as soon as possible to ensure smooth border operations when electronic manifest capabilities are eventually mandated at all ports. To date, more than 100 carriers have established ACE accounts, bringing the total number of ACE importer, broker, and carrier accounts to more than 500.

ACE Secure Data Portal

The ACE Secure Data Portal is essentially a customized computer screen similar to a Website home page that connects CBP and the trade community by providing a single, centralized, on-line access point for communications and information. The portal enables information to be pulled from multiple systems throughout CBP into a single, integrated system. Through the development of tools such as the portal, ACE will provide unprecedented integration of data and communication abilities among CBP, the trade community, and eventually other federal agencies, helping government reduce paper-based transactions. New system-wide enhancements to the ACE Secure Data Portal were launched on May 28, 2005, to improve portal navigation, enhance editing/reporting abilities, and improve CBP screening and targeting features.

For information about how to establish an ACE account, e-mail CBP at acenow@dhs.gov. Also, check for the latest updates for ACE application information on the CBP Web site at www.cbp.gov/modernization/.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) 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 the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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