



ESAR A1 Account: Importer

I. Description

The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Secure Data Portal has provided importers with account functionality since the summer of 2003. With the August 2007 implementation of Entry Summary, Accounts, and Revenue (ESAR) A1, importers will see enhancements to their existing account functionality.

II. Functionality

Using the ACE Portal, importers will have the following additional capabilities: view, sort, and print account lists by name and number; create their CBP Form 5106 (importer ID Input Record) information; and access an expanded number of reference files, including Harmonized Tariff Schedule, port and country codes, Manufacturer ID, and currency and gold conversion information. An importer may also view related blanket licenses, permits, or certificates (LPCs) posted by participating government agencies (PGAs) on goods that they routinely import. To date, the following PGAs that have a potential impact on importers have expressed an interest in participating in the LPC functionality:

- Agricultural Marketing Service
- Food Safety Inspection Service
- National Highway Safety Transportation Administration
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Office of Foreign Assets Control
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
- Alcohol, Tobacco Tax, and Trade Bureau

Additional functionality afforded importers includes the capability to offer cross account access to other ACE portal accounts (e.g., brokers) while maintaining control over access privileges, and the ability to request a merger of accounts via the Portal, when both parties are ACE portal accounts. Information on these new capabilities will be the subject of a subsequent information notice.

Importers will continue to have the capability to run reports through the ACE Secure Data Portal. Users will find that running reports and extracting their Customs data from ACE is easier because the reports are now more customizable. This is due to recent enhancements of the reporting tool. With the implementation of A1, ACE accounts will also have the ability to schedule large bulk data download reports that can be tailored to meet their business needs.



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III. Benefits to Importers

By establishing an ACE portal Account, an importer will be able to view and update information that is maintained in the account. An importer will also be able to share its account information with other ACE portal accounts, if mutually agreeable, and initiate a change with CBP to modify its account structure and obtain historical data, if acquiring a company or part of a company that is also an ACE portal account. For importers who are subject to PGA LPC requirements, they can view the applicable blanket LPC information within their account. By using the Business Activity Log (BAL), importers will be able to communicate with or respond to CBP on compliance and operational issues, and attach scanned or electronic information to the account, as deemed appropriate by CBP or the trade account owner. Other importer benefits include the ability to track any compliance issues via the Action Plan, and access bond information to determine if any updates are necessary. Finally, importers will be able to view reference data on-line, minimizing the need to cross reference this same information in other automated or manual files.

All portal accounts will be able to access important information regarding any ACE updates via their “News” view. Additional benefits include: 1) the ability to track who made changes in account information, and 2) the ability to establish quick links with frequently used web-sites without exiting their account view.

IV. How Do I Become an Account?

The revised ACE Application and instructions will be posted on CBP.gov in the ACE: Modernization Information Systems section in the near future. Importers desiring to become an ACE portal account will be required to complete the ACE Application, as they currently do.

Once the request to become an account is received and approved by CBP, the account will be created in ACE. The importer will be subsequently contacted with information on how to access and update the account information.

V. Additional Information

As of July 31, 2007, interested trade members are able to take an introductory Web-Based Training (WBT) Course on ESAR A1 functionality. The course, “Enhanced ACE Accounts and Master Data,” is highly recommended for anyone interested in understanding the new functionality.



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The link to the training is posted on [CBP.gov/ACE](https://www.cbp.gov/ACE): Modernization Information Systems or you can access it directly through the Internet by entering URL: **https://nemo.customs.gov/ace_online**. The user name is *user01* and the password is *1Password*. Please note that both the user name and password are case sensitive.