



NCBFAA

The National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America, Inc.

News Release

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For Immediate Release

NCBFAA Questions ACE Timetables

Washington, DC: In an [open letter](#) recently shared with its members, the National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc. (NCBFAA) expressed some serious reservations about the current Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) implementation schedule and took issue with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) characterization of completed work.

“We have said that live testing of software by importers and exporters, by brokers and forwarders, by software providers, and by CBP jointly, without any further changes whatsoever, demand a minimum of sixty days,” the NCBFAA wrote. “Customs now says that its work is complete; the facts, however, suggest otherwise.”

Software refinements continue and system updates are being issued on an almost daily basis. In fact, some entry functions (such as the process for placing goods in a bonded warehouse), will not be available until the last minute, February 28, the transition date.

In its letter, the NCBFAA is asking for a complete stop to all software changes for processes going into effect on February 28. Such a halt, in the Association’s view, is necessary “. . . so that software developers can field a final product and so that we, and you, can adapt our own automation systems to these new ACE functions, sufficiently test that software through use in an operating environment and work in partnership with our customers to develop business processes to successfully transition to the new system requirements.”

NCBFAA has endorsed ACE as a vastly superior system to its predecessor. Brokers and forwarders have invested millions of dollars in matching the government’s commitment to the “Single Window.” Our goal is success for ACE, but more important is our commitment to our clients to achieve an uninterrupted flow of commerce.

“We have reached a critical juncture in the life cycle of this project,” in a final admonition, the NCBFAA concluded, “In order to avoid unprecedented delays and unnecessary out-of-pocket expenses, developmental work – to include meaningful testing and process development by the private sector - must be completed before use of the new system is mandated and the existing system is terminated.”

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the NCBFAA represents more than 1,000 member companies with 100,000 employees in international trade - the nation’s leading freight forwarders, customs brokers, ocean transportation intermediaries (OTIs), NVOCCs and air cargo agents, serving more than 250,000 importers and exporters. Established in 1897 in New York, NCBFAA is considered the national voice of the industry. Through its various committees, counsel and representatives, the Association maintains a close watch over legislative and

regulatory issues that affect its members. It keeps them informed of these and other related issues through its weekly Monday Morning eBriefing and various meetings as well as conferences throughout the year.

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