



Periodic Payment (Release 3) Overview

The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Modernization continues to expand its capabilities in the Periodic Payment Release (Release 3). This Fact Sheet reviews these capabilities for both U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the trade community.

In the second release, CBP began moving operations from a transaction-by-transaction process to a consolidated approach for tracking imports in a single, comprehensive, account-based view. This nationally standardized process allows CBP to adopt modern, commercial business practices for managing accounts and revenue across the Bureau.

Periodic Payment (Release 3) At A Glance	
WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial account revenue periodic statements and payments (monthly) ACH credit and debit On-line business and collaboration tools
WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBP: Account Managers, Entry Specialists, National Finance Center Trade: ACE account participants, Importers (designate brokers), Brokers, Carriers
BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves from transaction-based to account-based payments Enables CBP and trade community to track open items Requires fewer payment transactions and decreases daily workload Quick access to important updates and revenue reports

Building a Foundation - Account Creation (Release 2) Review

"It's nice to have all of the account essentials in one place."

*-Teddy Rees
CBP Account Manager
Seattle, Washington*

Periodic Payment (Release 3) builds upon the success of the Account Creation (Release 2), rolled out in the beginning of 2004. The initial introduction of ACE in 2003 enabled the establishment of 41 importer accounts in ACE. These accounts are currently accessing the ACE Secure Data Portal to use new features such as **the Significant Activity Log (SAL); the on-line Account Action Plan; Quick Views; and multiple, customized reports covering CBP and trade activities.** In

addition to trade community users, authorized CBP personnel are using these same features and additional CBP-only capabilities in ACE to interact with these accounts, monitor compliance issues, and maintain a comprehensive view of account activity that can be viewed nationally by authorized users. For details about these capabilities, please refer to the "Release 2 Fact Sheet."

Periodic Payment (Release 3)

In Periodic Payment (Release 3), the capabilities of ACE have been expanded to include account revenue, expansion of trade accounts, and on-line business/ collaboration tools. The number of users is also growing, both in CBP and in the trade community.

Account Revenue: Changing Financial Operations at Customs

Understanding the operational changes that this release brings is the key to understanding this aspect of ACE Modernization. With the initial availability of Account Revenue, operations will be changed from the current transaction-by-transaction payment process to a consolidated periodic statement and payment for Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) debit and ACH credit participants. The release will do the following:



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- **Generate Periodic Statements** – A preliminary periodic monthly statement will be generated on a date defined by the trade participant. In order to participate, both the importer and broker will need ACE accounts. Payment of the preliminary statement will be due on the 15th of the subsequent month and full payment will generate a final periodic monthly statement. Statements will be sent to the trade participants via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) and will be viewable on the ACE Secure Data Portal.
- **Maintain Accounts Receivable Subsidiary Ledger** – Entry Summary Data will be passed from the Automated Commercial System (ACS) to ACE on a real-time basis. When goods enter the country, ACE will create an accounts receivable posting, which will be made on the sub-ledger account of the Importer of Record.
- **Process Payments** – In this Release, only ACH debit and credit will be accepted for periodic payment.

Expansion of Accounts

Periodic Payment (Release 3) begins the expansion to up to 1,100 accounts in ACE and enhances account management by enabling importers to designate brokers who can file on their behalf.

Enhanced On-line Business and Collaboration Tools

All account types will be able to merge accounts to support corporate acquisitions and mergers, and will be able to be defined by more than one business category, such as importer, broker, and/or carrier. Accounts will be able to sort search results in the SAL and will have additional reporting capabilities, such as entry reports and the use of additional filters.

Addition of Brokers and Carriers

In addition to expanding the number of importer accounts, the account set-up process will be expanded to include brokers and carriers. Brokers will be able to view entry summary historical data based on filer code. Truck carriers will be able to register crew, conveyance, and equipment. Both will have associated SALs.

There is so much stuff we will know because of ACE that we don't have any idea about now."

- Dale Wilson
CBP Client Representative
Houston, Texas

ACE: Periodic Payment (Release 3) Available Summer 2004

Periodic Payment (Release 3) capabilities are planned for release in summer 2004. Computer-based training will be provided to participating trade accounts, and instructor-led and computer-based training will be provided to CBP participants.

Questions?

If you have any questions or would like to know more about ACE and Modernization, please send your inquiries to: cbpmo@dhs.gov.