

PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Privacy Act:* Anyone can search the electronic form of all comments received in dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the Privacy Act Statement of DOT in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

*Information Collection Request:*

*Title:* Shipping Articles.

*OMB Control Number:* 1625-0006.

*Summary:* Sections 10302 and 10502 of 46 U.S.C., and 46 CFR 14.201 mandates that the owner, charterer, managing operator, master, or individual in charge shall make a shipping agreement in writing with each seaman before the seaman commences employment. Section 14.313 of 46 CFR mandates that shipping companies, after 3 years, deliver original shipping articles to Coast Guard custody for storage at the Federal Records Center in Suitland, MD. In addition, shipping companies must provide copies of shipping articles to the mariner and the Coast Guard upon request.

*Need:* The information collected provides verification, identification, location and employment record of U. S. merchant seaman to the following: (1) Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for use in criminal or civil law enforcement purposes, (2) shipping companies, (3) labor unions, (4) seaman's authorized representatives, (5) seaman's next of kin, (6) whenever the disclosure of such information would be in the best interest of the seaman or his/her family.

*Respondents:* Individuals or companies.

*Frequency:* Once.

*Burden:* The estimated burden is 18,000 hours a year.

Dated: August 30, 2004.

**Clifford I. Pearson,**

*Assistant Commandant for C4, And Information Technology.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

#### Automated Commercial Environment (ACE): Open Application Period for Participation in a National Customs Automation Program Test for Importers and Brokers

**AGENCY:** Customs and Border Protection; Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice clarifies that importers and their designated brokers may still apply to establish accounts so as to participate in a National Customs Automation Program Test for the ACE Secure Data Portal ("ACE Portal"). This notice also invites customs brokers to participate in the ACE Portal test generally. Prior to this notice, brokers could only participate in the ACE Portal test if they were designated by participating importers to make Periodic Monthly Statement payments on their behalf.

**DATES:** The test application period remains open until further notice. Comments concerning this notice and all aspects of the announced test may be submitted at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning this notice and applications to establish ACE Importer and Broker Accounts should be submitted to Ms. Sherri Braxton via e-mail at [acenow@dhs.gov](mailto:acenow@dhs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions regarding ACE Importer or Broker Accounts: Ms. Sherri Braxton via e-mail at [acenow@dhs.gov](mailto:acenow@dhs.gov) or by telephone at (703) 440-3000. For questions concerning general CBP Account Management issues contact Mr. Lamar Witmer by telephone at (202) 344-1320.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On May 1, 2002, CBP published a general notice in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 21800) announcing a plan to conduct a National Customs Automation Program test of the first phase of the Automated Commercial Environment. In this notice, CBP stated that it planned to select approximately 40 importer accounts from the list of qualified applicants for the initial deployment of this test. The notice also stated that additional participants may be selected throughout the duration of this test. In order to be considered as to be one of the initial participants, importers' applications had to be received by CBP by June 1, 2002.

On June 18, 2002, CBP extended the application period for those desiring to be one of the initial importer participants by publishing a second general notice in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 41572). That notice emphasized that applications to be an initial participant had to be submitted to CBP prior to August 1, 2002. Applications would be accepted after that date, but parties who so applied would be placed on a waiting list and considered for participation pending expansion of the technology.

On February 4, 2004, CBP published a third General Notice in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 5362) announcing the next step toward the full electronic processing of commercial importations in ACE, with a focus on identifying authorized importers and brokers to participate in the test to implement the Periodic Monthly Statement Process. The notice stated that participants in this test would benefit by having access to operational data through the ACE Portal, enjoying the capability of being able to interact electronically with CBP, and making payments of duties and fees on a periodic monthly basis. In order for customs brokers to apply, they had to provide names of the initial 41 importers participating in the test by whom they had been or will have been designated as the authorized broker.

##### Importer Accounts

Through this notice, CBP seeks to expand the number of ACE importer accounts.

##### Broker Accounts

Through this notice, CBP also seeks to expand the number of ACE broker accounts. In order to become an ACE broker account, a customs broker will no longer need to be designated specifically as the broker by an ACE importer account participating in the Periodic Monthly Statement Test.

##### Receipt of Applications

CBP will give priority to the first 1100 applications it receives. Additionally, once interested parties have been notified that their request to participate in the ACE Portal test has been accepted, they will be asked to sign and submit a Terms and Conditions document. The application requirements are set forth below.

##### ACE Importer Account Application

Each importer application for participation in this test must include the following information:

1. Importer name;

2. Unique importer number (e.g., SSN, EIN, Customs Assigned Importer #, DUNS #);

3. Statement certifying participation in Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), and

4. Statement certifying the capability to connect to the Internet.

#### ACE Broker Account Application

Brokers wishing to participate in this test must first establish an individual ACE Broker Account. Brokers must submit an application to establish an ACE Broker Account via e-mail to the e-mail address set forth in the ADDRESSES portion of the document. Each broker application for participation in this test must include the following information:

1. Broker name;
2. Unique identification number (EIN, SSN);
3. Filer code;
4. Statement certifying participation in C-TPAT;
5. Statement certifying capability of connecting to the Internet;
6. Statement certifying capability of making periodic payment via the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Credit or ACH Debit, if applicable; and
7. Statement certifying capability of filing entry/entry summary via Automated Broker Interface (ABI).

Additionally, all participants requesting to participate in Periodic Monthly Statement are required to provide a bond rider covering the periodic payment of estimated duties.

#### Notification from CBP

Applicants will be notified by CBP of the acceptance of their applications. Any applicant who does not meet the eligibility criteria or who provides an incomplete application will be notified and given the opportunity to resubmit his or her application.

#### Authorization for the Test

Pursuant to Customs Modernization provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Pub. L. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057, 2170 (December 8, 1993), CBP amended its regulations (19 CFR chapter I), in part, to enable the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection to conduct limited test programs or procedures designed to evaluate planned components of the National Customs Automation Program (NCAP). Section 101.9(b) of the CBP Regulations (19 CFR 101.9(b)) provides for the testing of NCAP programs or procedures. See T.D. 95-21. The ACE Portal test for which

participation is being sought in this notice is established pursuant to that regulatory provision.

#### Previous Notices

All requirements and aspects of the test discussed in previous notices are hereby incorporated by reference into this notice and continue to be applicable. Examples of such requirements and aspects are the rules regarding misconduct under the test and the required evaluation of the test (both of which are detailed in the notices published at 67 FR 21800 and 69 FR 5362).

Dated: September 2, 2004.

**Jayson P. Ahern,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.*

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**BILLING CODE 4820-02-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4903-N-67]

#### Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Recertification of Family Income and Composition

**AGENCY:** Office of the Chief Information Officer.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

This is a request for extension of current approval to collect information for recertifications. Recertification information is submitted by homeowners to mortgagees to determine their continued eligibility for assistance and to determine the amount of assistance a homeowner is to receive. The information collected is also used by mortgagees to report statistical and general program data to HUD.

**DATES:** Comments Due Date: October 8, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB approval Number (2502-0082) and should be sent to: HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New

Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; fax: (202) 395-6974.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, AYO, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; e-mail [Wayne\\_Eddins@HUD.gov](mailto:Wayne_Eddins@HUD.gov); telephone (202) 708-2374. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins and at HUD's Web site at <http://www5.hud.gov:63001/po/i/icbts/collectionsearch.cfm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Notice informs the public that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has submitted to OMB, for emergency processing, a survey instrument to obtain information from faith-based and community organizations on their likelihood and success at applying for various funding programs. This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Recertification of Family Income and Composition.

*OMB Approval Number:* 2502-0082.

*Form Numbers:* HUD-93101 and HUD-93101A.

Description of the need for the information and its proposed use: Recertification information is submitted by homeowners to mortgagees to determine their continued eligibility for assistance and to determine the amount of assistance a homeowner is to receive. The information collected is also used by mortgagees to report statistical and general program data to HUD.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion, Annually.