

New ACAS Required Information

AIR CARGO ADVANCE SCREENING (ACAS)

The Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) Program went into effect on June 12, 2018, requiring the submission of advanced air cargo information on shipments arriving in the United States from a foreign location. Previously a voluntary process in which many airlines already participated globally; the program requirements are now mandatory for airlines flying to the United States. This is a necessary measure as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues to raise the baseline on aviation security worldwide.

As part of the ACAS program, participating carriers submit a subset of required pre-arrival air cargo data to CBP at the earliest point practicable and prior to loading the cargo onto aircraft destined to or transiting through the United States.

There are two main updates to the ACAS program the first regarding Vague Merchandise Descriptions, note that this applies to the AMS, ACAS, and Entry descriptions, it also affects descriptions used in the AES system for Exports out of the United States. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the list of unacceptable and acceptable descriptions found on the below hyperlink. This list will be continuously updated by CBP.

VAGUE MERCHANDISE DESCRIPTIONS

A precise cargo description is a description of an item that is clear and concise. The description should be in plain language and detailed enough to allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection to identify the size, shape and characteristics of the commodity. Only the cargo description should be included in this field of transmission. Superfluous information, not relevant to the commodity description e.g., personally identifiable information (PII), type of packaging, carrier disclaimers, etc., should not be transmitted in the commodity description field.

A list of un-acceptable and acceptable cargo descriptions can be found at the following hyper link: [Examples of Unacceptable vs Acceptable Cargo Descriptions | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)](#)

7 NEW REQUIRED DATA ELEMENTS FOR ACAS TRANSMISSION

The United States Government (USG) recently issued new data requirements impacting shipments traveling to or transiting through the United States (US). In accordance with these requirements, this will require customers to include the seven data elements below as soon as is practically possible, in the transmission of both FHL and FWB messages sent to the Air Cargo Carrier. It is expected that the USG/CBP will mandate the submission of this information in the very near future, estimated date is October 7th 2024, more than likely the effective date will be pushed out due to programming that must be done by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the ACE system.

It is assumed that the Air Carrier is filing the ACAS as most forwarders do not file MAWB and Air Manifests directly to CBP. Note that your current E-AWB transmissions may already have these data elements in them. If the data fields are not available, then it may be necessary for your IT team or software vendor to update the software to accommodate these additional fields.

Note that it may be a simple task to add this information to fields the Shipper and Consignee software records of which would then show up in the AWB and HAWB details, each system will be different.

We recommend immediate action be taken to determine if there are any required programming changes so that you can commence with sending these data elements and confirm with the Carrier being used that they are receiving these 7 additional data elements on future shipments.

NEW DATA ELEMENTS FWB (MAWB)

1. Agent Account Name (foreign agent)
2. Agent Phone number (Number from agent office submitting E-AWB)
3. Receiving Agent Phone number (Green Worldwide Shipping office overseeing import)
4. Agent Account number with Airline (CASS number) or other assigned by carrier.
5. Shipper Account Issuer: This is the Carrier that you are using to ship cargo.
6. Agent Email Address (individual sending shipment, foreign agent)
7. Receiving Agent Email Address (Individual at Green Worldwide overseeing import)

NEW DATA ELEMENTS FHL CONSOLIDATION LIST MESSAGE

(House Manifest data message) or House Waybill details.

1. Actual Shipper Account Name
2. Actual Shipper Phone Number
3. Actual U.S. Consignee Phone Number
4. Actual U.S. Shipper Account Number (Green Worldwide account number for consignee, Cargo-Wise Organization code)
5. Shipper Account Issuer (Agent that is issuing HAWB) Foreign Agent.
6. Actual Shipper Email Address.
7. Actual U.S. Consignee Email Address

Information for the shipper and consignee records at the HAWB level would be collected from the actual shipper of the cargo, recommendation would be to update your current SIL (Shipper Letter of Instructions) or other form used to collect current HAWB shipment details the would include data elements 1, 2, 3, 6, 7.

Please feel free to contact the Green Compliance Group for more information regarding these matters, please share with your agents whom you currently work with for Air imports.