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Descartes for Air Cargo Advanced Screening (ACAS) Initiative

Overview

The Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) pilot project is a joint effort driven by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agency to test and implement baseline requirements that carriers pre-file information on all air shipments in advance of loading using CBP's Automated Targeting System (ATS).

This is currently a voluntary pilot and activities are focused on a proof of concept for each of the key building blocks – data, targeting, and enhanced screening – building toward implementation of a comprehensive pre-departure targeting and screening regime. There are 4 phases to the pilot: Express (express cargo air caririer), PAX (passenger air carriers and forwarders), all cargo carriers and International Mail. Currently the pilot includes American Airlines, Delta, Lufthansa, and British Airways, As well as forwarders Expeditors, DHL Global Forwarding, FedEx Trade Networks, BDP International, SEKO and Kuehne + Nagel.

The CBP is expected to release a draft strategic plan for taking its ACAS system from a limited pilot program to a mandatory requirement that carriers pre-file information on all air shipments bound for the United States.

In order to be in compliance, the timely availability and accuracy of data is the key. Data required includes: HAWB Identifier, Message Originator, Shipper Name and Address, Consignee Name and Address, Weight, Piece Count and Description of goods.

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Forwarder Benefits

Adherence to the rules and regulations of ACAS can help forwarders: reduce costs of carrier associated filing services; achieve faster clearances of cargo; reduce data redundancy and rekeying; further automation of communication with air carriers and trading partners; and gain greater visibility and control of shipments in the supply chain.

Carrier Benefits

Adherence to the rules and regulations of ACAS can help carriers: achieve faster clearances of cargo; reduce the amount of data entry required; and gain greater visibility into shipment volumes, details of shipments and control of shipments once in the supply chain.

The Descartes Difference

With a history of providing Air customs and security filing solutions, Descartes has created a cloud-based solution to answer the requirements of ACAS, offering air forwarders an innovative way to comply while keeping operating costs in line.

Descartes' ACAS cloud-based solution has been built based upon consultative efforts between leading forwarders importing air cargo shipments into the United States and joint meetings between Descartes, TSA, CBP and these forwarders. The solution complies with the ACAS pilot project performing security threat threshold targeting using pre-departure air cargo information.

Descartes ACAS solution uses the Global Logistics Network to collect house bill information directly from forwarders enterprise systems to file directly to CBP without manual intervention thereby increasing data quality. Air forwarders also have the option to utilize web based tools to create and update additional required data. Embedded master reference data is used to perform data validation and value added compliance services such as denied party screening are available to identify potential risk issues with trading partners.