MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

ACE M1: Lessons Learned

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Leading the Way to Port Progress

MARITIME EXCHANGE
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About the Maritime Exchange

- Membership based non-profit trade association incorporated in 1875

- Comprised of nearly 300 members: steamship companies, private & public terminals, tug operators, law enforcement, first responders, importers, etc.

- Mission: To Promote/Protect Commercial Maritime Operations in the Delaware River Port Complex

- Two primary areas of operation: Government Affairs/Public Policy & Operations/Maritime On-Line®

Maritime On-Line® (MOL) is a Community-Based System

- Created as a single portal for conveyance, cargo, & crew data

  - Designed in cooperation with and at the direction of the port community

  - Developed by industry professionals who understand the business

- Security/access rules determined by the users and maintains confidentiality of proprietary data

- Originally designed to facilitate commerce -- now used by federal government agencies, law enforcement and responders to assist in security and safety missions

- Unique among systems of its kind by integrating real-time data with static information

Maritime On-Line® (MOL) Modules

- **Ship Reporting:** Advance scheduling information on expected ship arrivals and departures as well as real-time and historical ship movement information

- **TRACS:** Cargo manifesting and release system certified on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)

- **NOA/D On-Line:** Automated tool to submit advanced vessel arrival and departure notices, including crew list information, to CBP and the Coast Guard

- **Automatic Identification Real-Time System (AIS):** Real-time positions of commercial cargo vessels and tugs/barges transiting the Delaware River and Bay and the C&D Canal with links to the vessel schedule, cargo manifest, arrival/departure notice, and crew list

Conversion of TRACS to ACE M1

Timeline

- Pilot phase of the Automated Commercial Environment Multi-Modal Manifest (ACE M1) began in late 2010

- Maritime Exchange was one of only a few pilot participants

    - Port Authority System

    - Service Center

- Extensive testing continued throughout 2011 and 2012

- Test conversion in June 2012

- Final conversion to ACE M1 in August 2012

Lessons Learned

- START EARLY!!!

- Review the CBP specifications thoroughly – don't rely on the published list of changes

- Be an active participant:

  - Customs Electronic Systems Action Committee (CESAC)

  - Trade Support Network (TSN)

  - CBP Conference calls and webinars

  - Pilot programs

TEST!   TEST!   TEST!

- Develop use-case scenarios for all business functions

  - Do not skip functions you think have not changed

  - Test every screen, field, and button

  - Involve your end-users in testing

  - Test with trading partners

- Test your system conversion before final deployment

  - Leave enough time to make additional changes

  - Make sure CBP converts your account properly on its end

- Have a rollback plan

Post Conversion

- All hands on deck for the conversion and post-conversion support

- Budget additional resources beyond the initial conversion

  - Expect emergency fixes post conversion

  - Expect changes and fixes over the next several months

- Continue to participate in working groups, conference calls, webinars, etc.

- Actively monitor your data for hidden anomalies

Participating in the Pilot – Was it Worth it?

- There is additional cost and effort to being a pilot participant

    - Specifications will change

    - May have to reprogram multiple times

- Benefits

    - You can influence system development from both the operational and policy sides

    - More direct access to CBP support staff during the pilot

    - Much less of a chance that you will scramble to meet final deadline

    - Develop beneficial relationships with CBP personnel

Final Analysis

- The TRACS conversion to ACE M1 was successful without major issues

- Good idea by CBP to phase in ACE M1 rather than converting all participants at once (Big Bang)

- Challenges

  - Undocumented changes existed beyond the technical specification

  - Manual workarounds are necessary until ACE M1 fixes are deployed

  - Some fixes have unforeseen consequences – be prepared!

Questions?

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