

# COMMON TERMINOLOGY

## *Customs Information Systems*

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<b><i>ABI</i></b>	(Automated Broker Interface) ABI is a component of CBP’s Automated Commercial System that permits qualified participants to electronically file required import data with Customs. ABI is a voluntary program available to brokers, importers, carriers, port authorities, and independent service centers. Currently, over 96% of all entries filed with Customs are filed through ABI.
<b><i>ACE</i></b>	(Automated Commercial Environment) ACE is the modernized U.S. trade processing system designed to consolidate and automate border processing to significantly enhance border security and foster our nation’s economic security through lawful international trade and travel. The current import system, ACS, was designed in 1984 and eventually will be replaced by ACE as part of a multi-year CBP modernization effort.
<b><i>ACH</i></b>	(Automated Clearing House) The payment (or collection) of outstanding invoices using electronic funds transfer (EFT) via a central clearing house bank between the bank account of a payer and the bank account of a payee. ACH replaces use of paper checks, and is generally better, faster and cheaper for all parties (payer, payee and the banks. Importers may set up their own ACH account with Customs by completing a simple application.). If you are the importer of record, payment to the broker will not relieve you of liability for Customs charges in the event the charges are not paid by the broker.
<b><i>ACS</i></b>	(Customs Automated Commercial System) The collective automation systems presently used by CBP to process cargo-related transactions, including Customs entry of merchandise, collection of customs duty and tax, control of merchandise (customs manifest processing), and selection of both import and export cargo for physical inspection.
<b><i>AES</i></b>	(Automated Export System) AES is the electronic method for filing Electronic Export Information (EEI) directly with CBP and the Census Bureau. AES has replaced paper Shipper’s Export Declarations (SEDs) so that export information is collected electronically and edited immediately.
<b><i>AII</i></b>	(Automated Invoice Interface) This is an ABI sub-system that enables an ABI filer to transmit to CBP the data contained on a foreign shipper’s commercial invoice or pro-forma invoice, together with the tariff classification of the goods listed on the invoice, shipping charges, and adjustments to value to arrive at Net Entered Value.

<b>AMS</b>	<p>(Automated Manifest System) A CBP automated system to receive and control inbound and outbound cargo on international carriers. The AMS system is now in wide use with ocean as well as air carriers, rail carriers, and NVOCCs. The primary initial function of AMS was to facilitate the control of inbound cargo to assure that every consignment remained under Customs control until it was released or transferred under a proper Customs entry or in-bond procedure, beginning with inbound ocean cargo, and then with air cargo. Automated manifest information enabled more efficient screening and targeting of suspect cargo for Customs inspection. Outbound AMS is used to facilitate the processing of carrier export manifests for integration with AES, and for more effective targeting of possible export violations under the Operation Exodus program.</p>
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### ABOUT SHAPIRO

Shapiro, a third generation family-owned business founded in 1915, provides creative and flexible logistics services. With six offices, over 100 employees, and worldwide strategic alliances, Shapiro is the supply chain partner that delivers customized, compliant, and reliable solutions to address your specific import and export needs. Only Shapiro has an experienced and personable staff that truly cares about your company and commits themselves to proactively achieving your business goals.