U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Making ACE Work for You: Importing FDA Regulated Products

Office of Enforcement and Import Operations and
Office of Information Systems Management

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US Food and Drug Administration

October 2019

Agenda

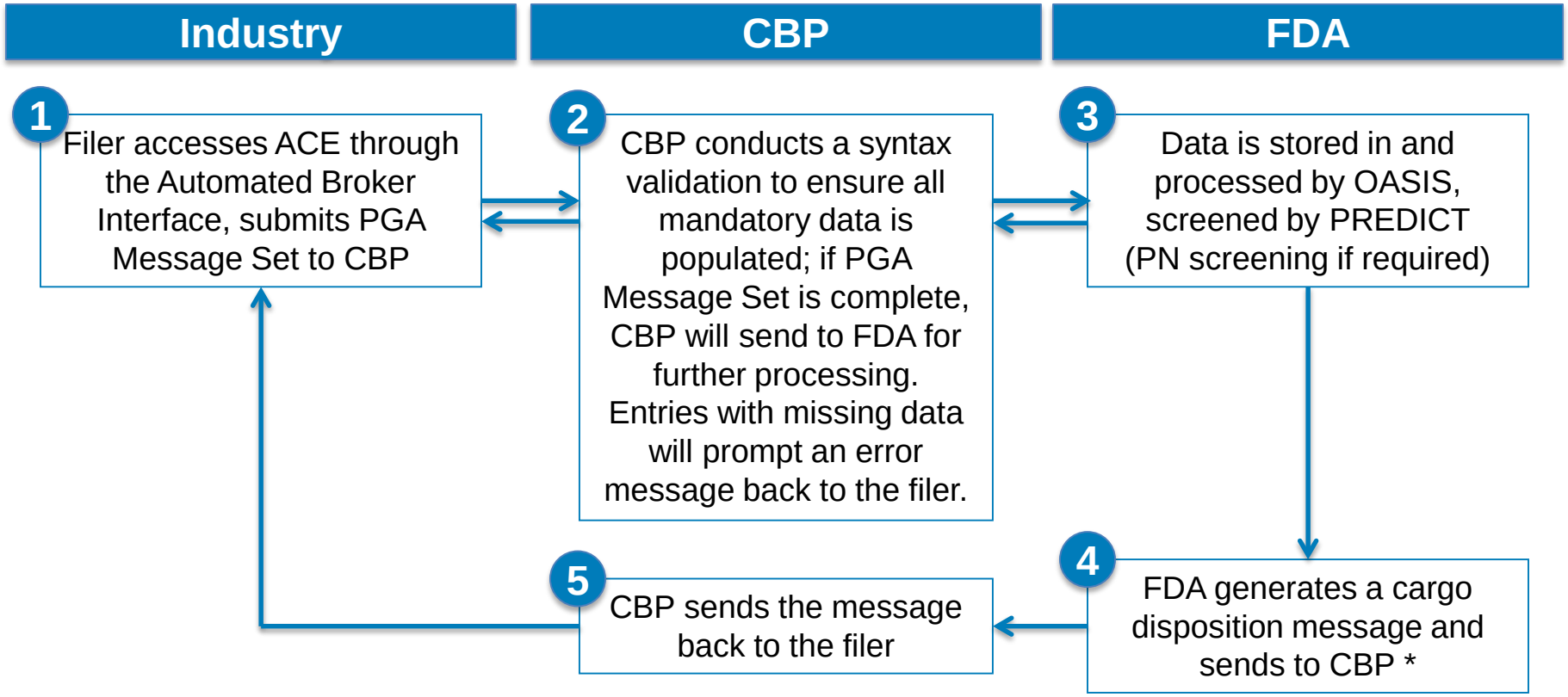
Overview: ACE and FDA	Commodity Specific Information	Information and Resources for All FDA Regulated Products
• What is ACE? • How ACE Works for FDA • FDA Current Status • Most Common CBP and FDA Rejections • Common Data Errors • FDA Flags • FDA ACE Final Rule Changes	• Know the Product Being Imported • Information Needed for Submission • Common Reasons for Commodity Specific Entry Processing Delays • Commodity Specific Resources	• Avoiding Delays with FDA • Use the Supplemental Guide • Summary • Frequently Asked Questions • Resources • FDA Points of Contact for Imports

OVERVIEW: ACE AND FDA

What is ACE?

The Automated Commercial Environment is a centralized system for all transactions related to imports and exports. Filers electronically submit all information related to an inbound shipment and the government processes the transaction systematically and sends status updates.

How ACE & PREDICT Work for FDA



* Data that is electronically validated may be automatically "May Proceeded"

FDA Current Status

- ACE became mandatory in June 2016
- Final Rule issued in November 2016
- FDA Supplemental Guide version 2.5.1 released April 2018
- FDA continues to work closely with importers, brokers, and software developers to ensure understanding and compliance of the ACE process
- FDA also continues to collaborate with CBP to troubleshoot issues and make system enhancements

FDA Current Status

- Automated May Proceeds have increased in ACE, and the percentage of lines requiring manual review have decreased.
  - In 2014, only **26%** of (ACS) lines were Automated May Proceeds.
  - In 2018, **70%** of lines were Automated May Proceeds.

FDA Current Status

- In ACE, FDA requests less documents.
  - In 2014, approximately **3%** of (ACS) lines needed additional information to make an admissibility decision (Documents Required).
  - In 2018, approximately **2%** of (ACE) lines needed additional information to make an admissibility decision (Documents Required).

Most Common CBP & FDA Rejects

CBP Rejects Jan – Sep 2019	FDA Rejects Jan – Sep 2019
• Missing or Invalid Affirmations of Compliance	• Invalid Product Code
• Missing or Invalid Entities	• Cancelled Food Facility Registration
• Missing or Invalid PG21 Record or Individual Qualifier Code	• Invalid State/Zip Combination
• Missing or Invalid Entity ID Code for FEI or DUNS	• Food Facility Registration Not on File
• Missing or Invalid FEI or DUNS Number	• Food Facility Registration Invalidated by PGA
• Only Mandatory Entities Allowed	• Mismatch Between Food Facility Registration and Manufacturer

Common Data Errors

Areas for Improvement

- Must know the Intended Use Code of the product prior to transmitting entry data (foods do not require an IUC)
- Know required Entities and Affirmation of Compliance (AoC) Codes for commodity type
- Other than the few repeatable AoC codes listed in the SG, do not submit the same AoC code more than once per line
- Submit correct entity addresses and DUNS or FEI number

Common Data Errors

Consumer Use is different than Personal Use

- Base Code 130 For Consumer Use as a Non-Food Product
- Base Code 100 For Personal Use as a Non-Food Product
- Base Code 210 For Personal Use as Human Food

FD Flags

- **FD1** – Indicates that the article may be subject to FDA jurisdiction, including FDA review under 801(a) of the FD&C Act. For products not subject to FDA jurisdiction, a filer can "Disclaim" product from FDA notification requirements.

- **FD2** – Indicates that the article is under FDA jurisdiction and review of entry information by FDA under section 801(a) will take place. However, the article is not "food" for which prior notice information is required.

- **FD3** – Indicates that the article may be subject to prior notice under section 801(m) of the FD&C Act and 21 CFR Part1, subpart I. , e.g., the article has both food and non-food uses.

- **FD4** – Indicates that the article is "food" for which prior notice is required under section 801(m) of the FD&C Act and 21 CFR Part1, subpart I.

Final Rule

The Final Rule for submission of information to the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) was published in the Federal Register on November 29, 2016.

Reminders

- **Optional** – Line Value
- **Optional** – Quantity and Unit of Measure
  - Except for Radiation Emitting Products subject to a Form FDA 2877, Declaration for Imported Electronic Products Subject to Radiation Control Standards
  - Prior Notice datasets
- **Mandatory** – Importer of Record contact information is required for all non-food lines

• Although data elements may be optional, transmitting them may expedite processing •

HUMAN AND ANIMAL FOOD

Submitting Human and Animal Food Entries in ACE

- Know the Product Being Imported
- Information Needed for Submission
- Common Reasons for Food Entry Processing Delays
- Additional Resources

Know the Product Being Imported

The term "**food**" means

- Articles used for food or drink for man or other animals
- Chewing gum
- Articles used for components of any such article

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Know the Product Being Imported

Examples of food products

- Fruits and vegetables
- Seafood
- Bottle water
- Dietary supplements
- Pet food
- Animal feed

Overview: Products Requiring Prior Notice

- Human and animal food products requiring Prior Notice include:
  - Food imported for use, storage, or distribution in the United States
  - Food transshipped through the United States to another country
  - Food imported for future export
  - Food for use in a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)
  - Food for Trade Shows
  - Food to be sold in Duty Free Shops

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Options for Submitting Human and Animal Food Entries in ACE

- Stand Alone Prior Notice Submission [PN Standalone]
- Food Commodity Combined Entry Submission [PN + 801(a)]
- Non-PN Food Commodity or PN Requirements Previously Met [Non-PN and PN Previously Met]

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Information Needed for Submission

Program & Processing Codes

Program Code for all food commodities is **FOO**.

The **Processing Code** will be determined by the commodity sub-type:

PG01 - Government Agency Code	Commodity Type	PG01 - Government Agency Program Code	Commodity Sub-Type	PG01 - Government Agency Processing Code
FDA	Food	FOO	Natural State Food	NSF
FDA	Food	FOO	Processed Food	PRO
FDA	Food	FOO	Animal Food (includes pet food, medicated feed and feeds)	FEE
FDA	Food	FOO	Additives and Colors	ADD
FDA	Food	FOO	Dietary Supplements	DSU
FDA	Food	FOO	Ceramicware or Food Contact Substance	CCW

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Information Needed for Submission

Product Code Overview

Structure of the FDA Product Code					
Position	1-2	3	4	5	6-7
Name	Industry Code (N)	Class Code (A)	Sub Class Code (A or “-”)	Process Identification Code – PIC (A or “-”)	Product (AN)
Legend: N – Numeric; A – Alphabetic; AN - Alphanumeric					

- FDA Product Code errors are among the most common reasons for FDA Entry Rejections.
- Use a valid FDA Product Code per the FDA Product Code Builder.

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Information Needed for Submission

Product Codes

- Product code is mandatory.

PG01: Program Code & Commodity	PG01: Processing Code & Commodity Subtype	PG02: Industry Code
FOO – Food*	NSF - Natural State Food	01-46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 69, 70, 71 or 72
	PRO - Processed Food	
	FEE - Animal Feed	
	DSU - Dietary Supplement	
	ADD - Additives and Colors	
	CCW - Ceramicware or Food Contact Substance	52

LACF and Acidified

- **LACF** Industry Codes: 02-39, 41, 71, & 72 with PIC: **F** (Aseptic) and **E** (Commercially Sterile)
- **AF** Industry Codes: 02-39, 41, 71, & 72 with PIC: **I** (Acidified)

Information Needed for Submission

Packaging and Condition

Data Element	PN Standalone	PN+801(a)	Non-PN and PN Previously Met
Quantity	Mandatory	Mandatory	Optional but highly encouraged
Unit of Measure	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory if Quantity is entered
Lot Number Information	Mandatory for Infant formula, Acidified Foods, and LACF products	Mandatory for Infant formula, Acidified Foods, and LACF products	
PGA Line Value	Optional but highly encouraged	Optional but highly encouraged	Optional but highly encouraged

* See FDA Supplemental Guide for ACE for valid units of measure for Human and Animal Food Packaging Containers.

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Information Needed for Submission

Intended Use Codes

- Intended Use Code is not required for foods, food contact surfaces, and prior notice.
- If providing an Intended Use code, the following are applicable options:

CFSAN Regulated Products Import Scenario	Intended Use Code	CBP Intended Use Name
For Research Use as Human Food	**260.000**	For Research Use as Human Food
For Research Use as an Animal Food	**015.000**	For Research Use as an Animal Food
Personal Importation	**210.000**	For Personal Use as Human Food

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Information Needed for Submission

Entities

Entity Data Requirement	PN Standalone	PN+801(a)	Non-PN and PN Previously Met
Prior Notice Submitter (**PNS**)	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Prior Notice Transmitter (**PNT**)	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Manufacturer (**MF**) or FDA Consolidator (**FDC**) or Grower (**DFI**)	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory (Only MF allowed)
Shipper (**DEQ**)	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
FDA Importer (**FD1**)	Mandatory (Except for T&E entries)	Mandatory	Mandatory
Ultimate Consignee (**UC**)	Mandatory (Except for T&E entries)	Mandatory	
Owner (**DFP**)	Mandatory (Except for T&E entries)	Mandatory	
Location of Goods (**LG**)	Mandatory when the article of food/feed was refused for inadequate PN and moved under CBP Supervision	Mandatory when the article of food/feed was refused for inadequate PN and moved under CBP Supervision	
Foreign Supplier Verification Program Importer (**FSV**)		Mandatory beginning May 30, 2017	Mandatory beginning May 30, 2017
Delivered to Party (**DP**)			Mandatory
Broker/Filer Point of Contact (**PK**)	Optional but highly encouraged	Optional but highly encouraged	Optional but highly encouraged

FSVP Reminders

- FSVP Data Elements:
  - Firm name
  - Firm address
  - Email Address
  - Duns #
  - Individual's name and phone # (optional)

- FSVP Exemptions:
  - Affirmations of Compliance
    - Research and Evaluation (RNE)
    - FSVP Exempt (FSX)

- CSMS message #17-000314 titled DA Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) Initial Compliance Date: https://apps.cbp.gov/csms/viewmssg.asp?Recid=22717&page=&srch_argv=17-000314&srchtype=all&btype=&sortby=&sby
- Infographic depicting who is subject to FSVP Requirements: https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/UCM472461.pdf
- For regulatory, technical, and policy questions that are not already addressed online or internally about FSVP (and Preventive controls), the Technical Assistance Network (TAN): https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm459719.htm

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Information Needed for Submission

Affirmations of Compliance

Required Affirmation of Compliance Codes	PN Standalone	PN+801(a)	Non-PN and PN Previously Met
PFR or **CFR** or **GFR** or **FME**	Mandatory	Mandatory	
RNO Required for Rail or Containerized Rail	Conditional	Conditional	
CAN Required if using PG13 or if SCAT or IATA not provided	Conditional	Conditional	
VFT Required for Air, Rail, Truck, or Ocean	Conditional	Conditional	
VES Required for Ocean	Conditional	Conditional	
FCE Required for LACF and AF products		Conditional	Conditional
SID Required for LACF and AF products		Conditional	Conditional
VOL Required for LACF and AF products if container dimensions not provided		Conditional	Conditional
FSX Required if applicable beginning May 30, 2017		Conditional	Conditional
RNE Required if applicable beginning May 30, 2017		Conditional	Conditional

	Optional Affirmation of Compliance Codes (O for Optional)																				
	SFR	UFR	IFR	TFR	ORN	SRN	CFR	GFR	LFR	CCC	CIN	ERR	FAP	FCC	IBP	IFE	PKC	AIN	JIF	SIF	VQI
PN Standalone	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O												
PN+801(a)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O		O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Non PN & PN Prev. Met										O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

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Information Needed for Submission

Origin, Shipment, and Arrival

Data Element	PN Standalone	PN+801(a)	Non-PN and PN Previously Met
Country of Production or Place of Growth	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Country of Shipment	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Country of Refusal	Mandatory if refused by other country(-ies)	Mandatory if refused by other country(-ies)	Mandatory if refused by other country(-ies)
Container Number	Mandatory if containerized cargo by water, air, rail, or land	Mandatory if containerized cargo by water, air, rail, or land	
Express Courier Tracking Number	Mandatory for mail/express courier in lieu of AWB/BOL/Flight #	Mandatory for mail/express courier in lieu of AWB/BOL/Flight #	
Anticipated Arrival Date	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Anticipated Arrival Time	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Anticipated Port of Arrival	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Anticipated Port of Entry			Optional

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Summary

- Know the product being imported and associated requirements
- Understand the data elements
- Provided correct and accurate information
- Give Entry Filers the information they need
- Obtain all necessary information from the Importer

NOTE: FDA will not be able to process an entry without this information. You can help expedite FDA's review of your imported product(s) by initially providing accurate and complete information and by responding quickly to requests from FDA for additional documents or information.

Common Reasons for Food Entry Processing Delays

Low Acid and Acidified Foods

- Failure to provide: FCE and SID; Container Dimensions or Volume; Lot Number
- Firm and/or Product incorrectly provided

Additional Resources

- For more information about Human and Animal Foods, visit http://www.fda.gov/Food/default.htm
- For more information about Registration of Food Facilities, visit https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/foodfacilityregistration/default.htm
- For Prior Notice Q&As, visit https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/ImportsExports/Importing/ucm2006836.htm

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR ALL FDA REGULATED PRODUCTS

Avoiding Delays with FDA

- Delays occur when:
  - Inaccurate information such as incorrect product code are submitted
  - Intended Use Code qualifier “UNK” (Unknown)

- To expedite FDA review:
  - All information provided should be complete and accurate
  - Provide **conditional data elements** if applicable to the product being declared
  - Provide **optional data elements** such as:
    - FEI and/or DUNS
    - Quantity and Unit of Measure

Use the FDA Supplemental Guide

- Review each of the PG records until all required information is understood and has been provided by the importer
- Each section identifies:
  - mandatory, optional, and conditional data elements
  - codes and code descriptions
  - length/class (syntax) for data element types
- Follow any instructions provided by your software vendor to ensure all data elements are entered for transmission.

Summary

- Know the product being imported and associated requirements
- Understand the data elements
- Provided correct and accurate information
- Give Entry Filers the information they need
- Obtain all necessary information from the Importer

Frequently Asked Question

Q: If I transmit an FDA entry, does ACE allow me to correct the data if I realize I made a mistake?

A: When CBP receives an entry, it will automatically send the entry to FDA to process in real time if the entry is within five days of arrival. Unless CBP or FDA rejected the entry, no corrections can be made. If CBP or FDA did reject your entry, work with your ABI representative to send a correction.

Frequently Asked Question

Q: When does FDA receive the entry data from CBP? I have had an "FDA Review Message" for several days.

A: Once the entry is accepted by CBP, CBP sends out a generic message that says "DATA UNDER PGA REVIEW." This is not a confirmation that the data was sent to FDA. CBP will only send the entry to FDA, if the transmitted arrival date is within five days. If it is more than five days out, CBP will wait until it is within that timeframe to send it to FDA.

If it is within five days of arrival and you have not received any FDA response **within your usual turnaround time**, contact FDA's ACE Help Desk at ACE_Support@fda.hhs.gov and your CBP Client Representative.

Frequently Asked Question

Q: Does FDA prefer DUNS or FEI numbers for entity identification codes (PG19)?

A: FEI and DUNS are optional, but encouraged.

Note: As of 5/30/2017, the DUNS will be required for the FSVP importer for each line entry of food, unless they are subject to exemption and/or modified requirements. For additional information, visit https://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/ConstituentUpdates/ucm549668.htm.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the Drug Registration number an FEI number?

A: The Drug Registration Number (REG) is the 9-digit DUNS number the firm has on file with FDA Center for Drugs, Evaluation, and Research (CDER) Drug Registration (eDRLS). Only those DUNS numbers on file with eDRLS are Drug Registration Numbers (REG).

These can be found at on the **Drug Firm Registration Lookup** webpage**:**
http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drls/default.cfm

Frequently Asked Question

Q: Why can't I see the status of my entry in ITACS? Why does it say "FDA entry status information is not available pending receipt of conveyance arrival notification" when the shipment has arrived?

A: CBP is not consistently sending arrival notifications to FDA upon arrival of a shipment. Without receipt of that notification, ITACS will display the above message. This does not affect the ability to submit documents, submit availability information, or FDA's ability to review the entry.

Reference: CSMS #16-001003

Frequently Asked Question

Q: What are the lessons learned for how ACE changed filing for FDA?

A: Communicate early and often about FDA requirements. (Importer, Broker, and Software Vendor).

Delays and rejects occur when inaccurate information is provided, such as invalid product code or an unknown intended use code.

Use FDA as a resource. Attend webinars or request a training session. We are here to help.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is “UNK” (Unknown) still allowed as an Intended Use Code?

A: UNK is still allowed as an Intended Use Code when the IUC is mandatory. If “UNK” is declared, CBP will not reject the entry if Affirmations of Compliance are not provided.

FDA highly encourages the transmission of complete data, including the correct Intended Use Code and Affirmations of Compliance. Refer to the FDA Supplemental Guide for a full list of requirements based on the import scenario.

UNK should only be used if information is not able to be obtained. Utilizing this code may lead to manual reviews and delayed processing by FDA.

Resources

- CSMS #16-000557, FDA ACE Entries: Common Errors
  https://csms.cbp.gov/viewmssg.asp?Recid=21913&page=&srch_argv=16-000557&srchtype=&btype=&sortby=&sby=

- CSMS #16-000741, FDA ACE Reject Document Posted to FDA.gov
  https://csms.cbp.gov/viewmssg.asp?Recid=22092&page=&srch_argv=16-000741&srchtype=&btype=&sortby=&sby=

Resources Available Online

- FDA ACE Affirmations of Compliance and Affirmations of Compliance Quick Reference at http://www.fda.gov/forindustry/importprogram/entryprocess/entrysubmissionprocess/ucm461234.htm

- FDA ACE/ITDS Webpage (including FDA Supplemental Guide) at https://www.fda.gov/industry/import-systems/automated-commercial-environmentinternational-trade-data-system-aceitds

- FDA DUNS Portal at https://fda.dnb.com/FDAUI/login.aspx and FDA Guide at https://www.fda.gov/media/95828/download

- Product Code Builder Tool and Tutorial at https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/ora/pcb/index.cfm

- For more information about FDA's Import Program, visit http://www.fda.gov/forindustry/importprogram/default.htm

- For information about ACE Quantity Data Instructions, visit https://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForIndustry/ImportProgram/EntryProcess/ImportSystems/UCM487256.pdf

Resources

Contact the **FDA Imports Inquiry Team** for questions regarding FDA import operations and policy, product coding, FD flags associated with HTS codes, entry declaration requirements for determining admissibility, if a product is regulated by FDA and other general import questions.

FDAImportsInquiry@fda.hhs.gov

301-796-0356

Resources

Contact **FDA ACE Support Center** for technical questions related to the FDA Supplemental Guide, required data elements, ACE entries, rejects, and errors.

ACE_Support@fda.hhs.gov
877-345-1101 (domestic toll-free)
571-620-7320 (local or international)

CSMS #17-000162: The ACE Support Center operates from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST seven days per week.

Always keep your CBP Client Representative on all ACE-related email traffic

FDA Points of Contact for Imports

FDA Unit	Contact Information	Areas of Focus
ACE Support Center	ACE_Support@fda.hhs.gov Toll Free: 877-345-1101 Local/International: 571-620-7320	Technical issues related to the FDA supplemental guide, required data elements, and general ACE submission questions, including entry submissions rejected by FDA.
FDA Imports Inquiry	FDAImportsInquiry@fda.hhs.gov 301-796-0356	General questions regarding FDA import operations and policy, including product classification (program, processing, product and HTS codes) and declaration
Local FDA Office	http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/ImportProgram/ucm319216.htm	First-line support for product coding and entry-specific questions, including working through the FDA entry admissibility process, once the entry is successfully transmitted to FDA and accepted
Division of Food Defense Targeting	Prior.Notice@fda.hhs.gov 866-521-2297 http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/ImportsExports/Importing/ucm2006836.htm	General questions regarding Prior Notice for food shipments

Questions


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