

2. Importers who have participated in the Account Management Program for at least one year and who are managed by a full-time Account Manager.

#### *Application Process*

Each application for participation in this test must include the following information:

1. Importer name,
2. Unique importer number (e.g., SSN, EIN, Customs Assigned Importer #, DUNS #),
3. Statement certifying participation in C-TPAT, and
4. Statement certifying the capability to connect to the Internet.

In order to be eligible as one of the initial participants, completed applications must be received by June 1, 2002. Applicants will be notified by Customs of the status of their application, whether it is held pending further expansion or accepted for initial participation. An applicant who does not meet the eligibility criteria or who provides an incomplete application will be notified and given the opportunity to resubmit their application.

Upon selection into the test, Customs may request additional information for the account profile. Participants incur a continuing obligation to provide Customs with any updates or changes to the information they submit. All data submitted and entered into the Account Portal is subject to the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905) and is considered confidential and subject to the appropriate levels of governmental control and protection. While the test is scheduled to begin October 28, 2002, participation in this test may be delayed due to funding and technological constraints. Future phases of ACE may also be tested; however, the eligibility criteria may differ from the criteria listed in this notice. Acceptance into this test does not guarantee eligibility for, or acceptance into future technical tests.

Each participant will designate one person as the account owner for the company's portal account information. The account owner will be responsible for safeguarding the company's portal account information, controlling all disclosures of that information to authorized persons, authorizing user access to the Account Portal and ensuring that access to the company's portal account information by authorized persons is strictly controlled.

#### *Authorization for the Test*

Pursuant to Customs Modernization provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Pub. L. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057, 2170

(December 8, 1993), Customs amended its regulations (19 CFR chapter I), in part, to enable the Commissioner of Customs to conduct limited test programs or procedures designed to evaluate planned components of the National Customs Automation Program. Section 101.9(b) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 101.9(b)) provides for the testing of NCAP programs or procedures. See T.D. 95-21. This test is established pursuant to that regulatory provision.

#### *Misconduct Under the Test*

If a test participant fails to follow the terms and conditions of this notice, fails to exercise reasonable care in the execution of participant obligations, fails to abide by applicable laws and regulations, misuses the Account Portal, engages in any unauthorized disclosure or access to the Account Portal, or engages in any activity which interferes with the successful evaluation of the new technology, the participant may be subject to civil and criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, and/or suspension from this test. Any decision proposing suspension of a participant may be appealed in writing to Ms. Hedwig Lock within 15 days of the decision date. Such proposed suspension will apprise the participant of the facts or conduct warranting suspension. Should the participant appeal the notice of proposed suspension, the participant should address the facts or conduct charges contained in the notice and state how compliance will be achieved. However, in the case of willfulness or where public health interests or safety are concerned, the suspension may be effective immediately.

#### *Test Evaluation Criteria*

To ensure adequate feedback, participants are required to participate in an evaluation of this test. Customs also invites all interested parties to comment on the design, conduct and implementation of the test at any time. The final results will be published in the **Federal Register** and the Customs Bulletin as required by § 101.9(b) of the Customs Regulations.

The following evaluation methods and criteria have been suggested:

1. Baseline measurements to be established through data analysis.
2. Questionnaires from both trade participants and Customs addressing such issues as:
  - Workload impact (workload shifts/volume, cycle times, etc.);
  - Cost savings (staff, interest, reduction in mailing costs, etc.);

- Policy and procedure accommodation;
- Trade compliance impact;
- Problem resolution;
- System efficiency;
- Operational efficiency;
- Other issues identified by the participant group.

Dated: April 26, 2002.

**Bonni G. Tischler,**

*Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

### **Internal Revenue Service**

#### **Draft Information Quality Guidelines**

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The IRS is publishing this notice of availability of its draft Information Quality Guidelines on the agency's website at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/> ["click" on "What's Hot"] to provide an opportunity for the public to comment by June 15, 2002.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before June 15, 2002, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** All submissions must be in writing or in electronic form. Please send e-mail comments to [Wayne.E.Wiegand@irs.gov](mailto:Wayne.E.Wiegand@irs.gov), or facsimile transmissions to FAX Number (202) 622-7153 re: IRS Information Quality Guidelines. Comments sent by mail should be sent to: Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 3524, Washington, DC 20224, ATTN: Wayne Wiegand (Senders should be aware that there have been some unpredictable and lengthy delays in postal deliveries to the Washington, DC area in recent weeks and may prefer to make electronic submissions.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wayne Wiegand, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Modernization/Chief Information Officer, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, Room 3524, Washington, DC 20224. Telephone (202) 927-4412 or by email to [Wayne.E.Wiegand@irs.gov](mailto:Wayne.E.Wiegand@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 3, 2002, OMB published guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by Federal Agencies. These guidelines call upon each agency to develop a draft report

not later than May 1, 2002. The IRS will use these guidelines to develop processes for disseminating quality information. The guidelines apply to information disseminated to the public in any medium including textual, graphic, narrative, numerical, or

audiovisual forms. This means information that the IRS posts to the Internet as well as sponsored distribution of information to the public. They do not apply to opinions or hyperlinks to information that others disseminate.

Dated: *April 26, 2002.*

**Wayne Wiegand,**

*Staff Advisor, Modernization & Information Technology Services.*

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