

# Introduction

The purpose of this document is to specify the procedures to be followed by importing trade community members interested in participating in the Automated Manifest System (AMS). As new modifications are added to the Automated Manifest module of the Automated Commercial System (ACS), the procedures will be incorporated into this document.

This document provides the basic specifications and record formatting rules necessary for participation in ACS/AMS.

Direct participation in AMS requires that the carriers, port authorities or service bureaus have a computer system capable of transmitting data to and receiving data from the U.S. Customs Service Data Center.

Customs developed a multi-modular cargo inventory and release system that interacts with other Customs automated systems and provides electronic interfaces with carrier, port authority, and service bureau manifest systems.

Customs is not a service bureau for either automated or nonautomated port authorities or other agencies. An exchange of nonproprietary information can be arranged when mutually beneficial.

AMS is a means of speeding the flow of cargo through an electronic release notification system. This reduces paperwork for both carriers and Customs by eliminating the paper manifest and decreasing the number of discrepancy reports and in-bond document (CF-7512), Transportation Entry and Manifest of Goods Subject to Customs Inspection and Permit.

AMS participants and Customs both realize multiple benefits from greater control, better communication, and a shorter holding time for imported cargo.

Carriers, port authorities, and service bureaus use manifest data for functions such as accounting, billing, community delivery notification, and traffic control.

AMS is voluntary and designed to use standard technology readily available to large and small businesses. A participant's computer system must be capable of receiving and transmitting data in a format compatible with the U.S. Customs Service Data Center computers. For companies that do not have the in-house capability, independent service bureaus can be used.

The Requirements chapter of this document gives detailed information on participation requirements.

***User Notes:***