Application Control

This chapter defines the typical configuration of the
Automated Commercial System (ACS) records.

RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

Application Control

Each input or output transaction must contain a transaction control header record (Record Identifier A), a block control header record (Record Identifier B), a block control trailer record (Record Identifier Y) and a transaction control trailer record (Record Identifier Z). These records must be sent as input on transmissions. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) returns output using the same records and file/block organization. The order of events for each transaction file is illustrated in *Figure 1*: Typical ABI Record Configuration.

Transaction Control Header (A) Record: This record is used to identify the user, the sender/receiver of the data, and also denotes the beginning of a transaction file (A through Z set).

Block Control Header (B) Record: This record is used to identify the detail data to follow and also allows for separating data into groups by location. All blocks within a transaction file must contain the same type of application data. Different applications require the building of separate transaction files (A through Z sets).

Block Control Trailer (Y) Record: This record is paired with the block control header and signals the end of the block detail data.

Transaction Control Trailer (Z) Record: This record is paired with the transaction control header record and signals the end of the transaction file.

In order to allow for multiple transaction types, ACS users may receive or send more than one transaction file during a transmission session.

Both the filer and the district/port codes in the transaction control header (A) and trailer (Z) records must be the same. They identify the data processing site of the participant (which may be a service bureau). The block control header (B) and trailer (Y) records must contain the district/port and entry filer codes associated with the data contained within the block.

The relationship between the district/port and filer codes in the transaction control records (A and Z) and the district/port and filer codes in the block control records (B and Y) must be established with CBP prior to transmission of the data. ACS system security verifies this information for each transmission.

A service bureau or multi-port broker/importer who wishes to transmit data for a new office location must contact a CBP Service Client Representative prior to transmission for that location. Likewise, the CBP Client Representative must be notified if an already active participant changes from a service bureau to an independent operation, or the reverse, or changes from one service bureau to another.

Application Identifier: The application identifier is a 2-position code in the block control header record that identifies the type of application data in the transaction file and the task to be performed. Valid application identifier codes are listed in Record Identifier B later in this chapter. The complete 2-character application identifier designates a unique task. The second position of the application identifier helps identify the data as input (I, N, J, or P) or output (R, S, L, or T) data. For example, the application identifier *KI* is importer bond query input to ACS; and application identifier *KR* is importer bond query output from ACS. HN is Border Cargo Release input and HS is Border Cargo Release output.

Historically, the first character of the application identifier became the first character of the control identifier of the detail data records associated with the transaction file. For example, the control identifier for the importer bond query detail record is *K*. Some exceptions are the entry summary input (EI), the Border Cargo Release (HN), FDA Product Code Query (NP), the Revised Entry Filer Date (DN) and the In-bond transactions (QP and WP).

That characteristic is no Longer true for all ACS data transactions. As ACS has grown and the number of application types has proliferated, the relationship between the application identifier and the control identifier has changed somewhat. No longer can you determine the transaction data simply by the control identifiers in the detail records. The proper technique to determine transaction data is to recognize the unique application id in the Block Control Header (B) Record, then know which control identifiers are used within that application.

Rules governing how the application and control identifiers are used are consistently applied throughout ACS. This method of identifying data provides users receiving output from ACS the flexibility of identifying the various outputs by the application identifier contained in the block control header record or the control identifier in the detail records.
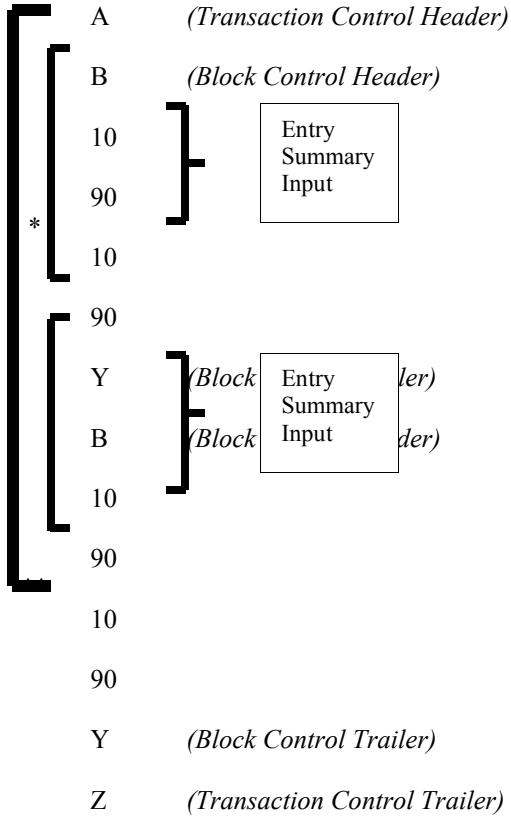
Example 1:			*Example 2:*	
Record Control Identifier			**Record Control Identifier**	

A	*(Transaction Control Header)*		A	
B	*(Block Control Header)*		B	
10		Entry Summary Input	J	Query Entry Summary Input
90			J	
10			J	
90			Y	Query Entry Summary Input
Y	*(Block ... ler)*	Entry Summary Input	B	
B	*(Block ... der)*		J	
10			J	
90			J	
10			Y	
90			Z	
Y	*(Block Control Trailer)*			
Z	*(Transaction Control Trailer)*			
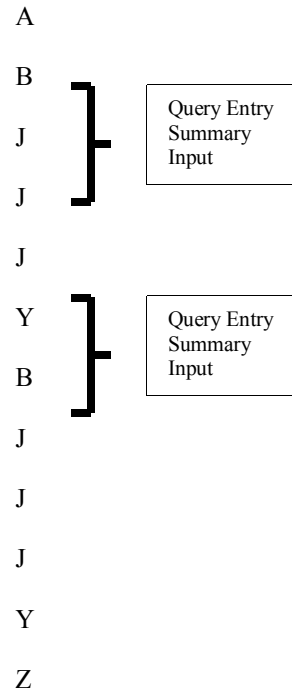
Record Identifier A

This is a mandatory transaction control header record that signals the beginning of a transaction. ACS uses it for internal control of the data file and additional validation of authorized users.

Data Element	Length/ Class	Position	Status	Description	Note
Record Identifier A					
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal A.	
Receiver District/Port	4N	2-5	M	A code representing the district/port of the data processing site where the data is returned. If positions 40-43 of this record are space filled, this code also represents the sender district/port.	1
Receiver Filer Code	3AN	6-8	M	A unique code assigned by the CPB to all active entry document preparers and authorized Service Bureaus and Software Vendors. This code must be the same as the Receiver Filer Code in the block control trailer record (Record Identifier Z). If positions 44-46 of this record are space filled, this code also represents the Sender Filer Code.	
Receiver Password	6AN	9-14	M	A code for output only representing the password agreed upon by the user and the CBP. If positions 49-54 of this record are space filled, this code also represents the Sender Password.	
Current Date	6N	15-20	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the current date.	
Batch Number	2N	21-22	M	A number from 01-99 requesting the sequential batch count for the current day's ABI transmissions. If the user transmits data once a day, the batch number will always be *01*. However, if the user transmits data more than once, the batch number will start with *01* and be incremented by one for each batch transmitted. The batch number is not retained in ACS as part of the record.	
National Importer Liquidation (NIL) Indicator	3A	23-25	C	A code representing the NIL indicator. This code is *NIL* if the user is authorized to receive a courtesy notice of liquidation/extension/ suspension, in accordance with the NIL program. For additional information on courtesy notice of liquidation/extension/ suspension, refer to the Courtesy Notice chapter in this document. This applies to output only.	
Record Identifier A					
Data Element	**Length/ Class**	**Position**	**Status**	**Description**	**Note**

Filler	12AN	26-37	M	Space fill.	
Receiver Office Code	2N	38-39	O	A code agreed upon by the user and the CBP representing a specific user's office for output only.	
Sender District/Port	4N	40-43	C	A code representing the district/port of the data processing site where data is being transmitted. If this code is present, positions 44-54 must also contain data. Valid district/port codes can be queried through the Extract Reference File chapter of this document.	1
Sender Filer Code	3AN	44-46	C	A unique code assigned by the CBP to all active entry document preparers and authorized Service Bureaus and Software Vendors transmitting data. If this code is present, positions 40-43 and 47-54 must contain data.	1
Sender Office Code	2N	47-48	C	A code agreed upon by the user and the CBP for a specific user's office. If this code is present, positions 40-46 and 49-54 must contain data.	
Sender Password	6AN	49-54	C	A code for output only representing the password agreed upon by the user and the CBP. If this code is present, positions 40-48 must contain data.	
Filler	15AN	55-69	M	Space fill.	
User Data	11X	70-80	C	Positions 70 through 80 are for the user's internal use. These positions are returned unmodified to the user when the A record is transmitted as output from ACS.	

Note 1

Both the filer and the district/port codes in the transaction control header (A) and the trailer (Z) records must be the same. They identify the data processing site of the participant (which may be a service bureau). The block control header (B) and trailer (Y) records must contain the district and entry filer codes associated with the data contained within the block.

Note 1 – Continued

The relationship between the district/port and filer codes in the transaction control records (A and Z) and the district/port and filer codes in the block control records (B and Y) must be established with CBP prior to transmission of the data. ACS security verifies this information for each transmission. Therefore, a service bureau or multi-port broker/importer wishing to transmit data for a new office location must contact a CBP Client Representative prior to transmission for that location. Likewise, the CBP Client Representative must be notified if an already active participant changes from a service bureau to an independent operation, or the reverse, or changes from one service bureau to another.

The district code in the entry related transactions must match the district code of the District/Port field of the "B" record, except in the case of authorized cross- district processing; i.e., district 10, 46 and 47 for all transactions within the block.

The filer code in the entry related transactions for the data in the entire block must match the filer code in the "B" record.

Record Identifier B

This is a mandatory block control header record. It is used to define common characteristics of the detail data records that follow.

Data Element	Length/ Class	Position	Status	Description	Note
Record Identifier B					
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal B.	
Block Number	2N	2-3	M	A number from 01 to 99. If the user is transmitting a single block of detail data, the block number is 01. The block number is not retained in ACS as part of the record. If more than one block is being transmitted, the block number will start with 01 and be incremented by one for each batch transmitted.	
Processing District/ Port Code	4N	4-7	M	A code representing the processing district/ port. Valid district/port codes can be queried through the Extract Reference File chapter of this document. This code also designates where (CBPs district/port location) the statement is printed and processed.	1
Entry Filer Code	3AN	8-10	M	A unique code assigned by the CBP to all active entry document preparers. The Entry Filer Code occupies the first three positions of an entry number regardless of where the entry is filed. This code must be the same as the Entry Filer Code in the block control trailer record (Record Identifier Y). This code represents the ACS user who is responsible for the data contained within the block. A computer service bureau should insert the Entry Filer Code of the user responsible for the entry/entry summary.	
Application Identifier	2X	11-12	M	The application identifier defines the type of application detail data contained within the block.	2
Statement Status	1A	13	C	A code representing the statement status. This data element is located only on Daily Statement output records. Valid Statement Status codes are: P = Preliminary statement F = Final statement	

Record Identifier B					
Data Element	**Length/ Class**	**Position**	**Status**	**Description**	**Note**
Statement Number	10A/N	14-23	C	This data element is located only on Daily Statement output records so it can be available for printing user report headings. The last 3 positions may be alpha characters due to the increase in the numbers of statements being generated in some of the larger ports.	
Preliminary Statement Print Date	6N	24-29	C	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the Preliminary Statement Print Date. This data element is located only on Preliminary and Final Daily Statement output records so it can be available for printing user report headings.	
Payment Type Indicator	1N	30	C	This data element is located only on Daily Statement output records so it can be available for printing user report headings.	3
Importer of Record Number	12X	31-42	C	This data element is present only on Daily Statement output records so it can be available for printing user report headings.	4
Client Branch Designation	2AN	43-44	C	A code representing the client branch designation. This code is present only if a filer uses the client branch designation and Daily Statement processing. This code can be used for printing user report headings.	
Processing Office Code	2N	45-46	O	A unique code assigned by the broker. This code must be coordinated with CBP and associated with the filers automated profile.	
Preparer District/ Port	4AN	47-50	C	To be used with remote entry filing only.	
Preparer Filer Code	3AN	51-53	C	This code must equal entry filer code if filing a remote entry, otherwise leave blank.	
Preparer Office Code	2N	54-55	C	To be used with remote entry filing only.	
Preparer Indicator	1N	56	C	Blank if not remote entry. One (1), if remote entry or 2 for reconciliation entries.	
Filler	3AN	57-59	M	Space fill.	
User Data	21AN	60-80	C	Positions 60 through 80 are for the participant's internal use. These positions will be returned unmodified to the user when the B record is transmitted as output from ACS.	

Note 1

The processing district/port is the location where the entry summary package will be input into ACS. For example, if the entry (release) were made in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, the entry summary would be input at Philadelphia. The Philadelphia district/port code would be shown as the processing district/port. If the processing district/port is Philadelphia, other ports within that district (e.g., Scranton, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh) can be included in the transmission.

A separate block of records is required for input from different processing district. Subports assigned to the same district may be transmitted within the same block of data. Example: District/port in the block control record is 3801. The Block contains entry data for ports 3801, 3802, 3803, etc.

For purposes of Daily Statement processing, the processing district/port code entered in entry summary input (Application Identifier EI) and the block control header record (Record Identifier B) alerts ACS that all entry summaries within the block, regardless of the District/Port of Entry codes shown in Record Identifier 10, should be included in the Daily Statement for the district/port code shown in the "B" record.

For example, if a block of EI input contains both Detroit (district/port code 3801) and Port Huron (district/port code 3802), and 3801 is entered in the Processing District/Port Code in the block header, both the Detroit and Port Huron entry summaries will be included in the Daily Statement for Detroit.

If a separate statement for Port Huron is desired, the Port Huron entry summaries must be in a block by themselves with 3802 specified in the block control header record as the processing district/port.

Note: This is a clarification of the use of control records and represents no change to existing entry summary filing practices.

Note 2

Valid Application Identifier Codes are:

Input to CBP

Code	Description
BT	FDA Prior Notice
CI	Electronic Invoice
CN	Antidumping/Countervailing Duty Query
CP	Other Agency Entry Data Update
DN	Entry Date Update Transaction
EI	Entry Summary
FI	Extract Reference Files

FN   Fish & Wildlife Service

Note 2 – Continued

Code	Description
GN	Query Laboratory Gauger
HI	Cargo Release Transactions
HN	Border Cargo Release
HP	Statement Delete Transaction
II	Query Entry Status
IJ	Consignee Name/Address Add
IN	Query Current Entry Status
IP	Extract ADD/CVD Case File
JI	Query Entry Summary
JJ	Drawback Summary
KI	Query Importer/Bond
KJ	NAFTA Duty Deferral
KN	Consignee Name/Address Query
LN	Bill of Lading Update
MI	Administrative Message Query
MJ	Product Code Builder Update Query
MO	Periodic Monthly Statement Reroute
NP	Food and Drug Administration Product Code
OP	Food and Drug Administration Affirmation of Compliance Type
PJ	Protest Initial Filing
PN	Periodic Daily Statement ACH Debit Authorization/Entry Summary Presentation
PP	Food and Drug Administration Establishment Identifier
QJ	Protest Amendment
QN	Automated Clearinghouse
QO	ABI Statement/ACH Payment Reroute
QP	In-bond Transaction
RA	Reconciliation Entry Filing
RJ	Protest Addenda
SJ	Protest Service Request
TI	Add CBP Form (CBPF) 5106 Data to the Importer File
UI	Query Quota
WI	Harmonized Tariff Schedule Query
WP	In-bond Update/Transfer of Liability
XN	Temporary Importation Bond Entry Summaries
#I	Query Error Statistics
$I	Manufacturer Name and Address - Add
$N	Manufacturer Name and Address - Query

Note 2 – Continued

Output from CBP

Code	Description
BD	Broker Manifest Download
CR	Electronic Invoice
CS	Antidumping/Countervailing Duty Query
CT	Other Government Agency Message
DS	Entry Date Update Transaction
DT	Other Agency Entry Data Correction
ER	Entry Summary
FR	Extract Reference Files
FS	Fish & Wildlife Service
GS	Query Laboratory Gauger
HR	Cargo Release Transactions
HS	Border Cargo Release
HT	Statement Delete Transaction
IL	Consignee Name/Address Add
IR	Query Entry Status
IS	Query Current Entry Status
IT	Extract ADD/CVD Case File
JL	Drawback Summary
JR	Query Entry Summary
KL	NAFTA Duty Deferral
KR	Query Importer/Bond
KS	Consignee Name/Address Query
LS	Bill of Lading Update
ML	Product Code Builder Update Query
MQ	Periodic Monthly Statement Reroute
MR	Administrative Message
MS	Periodic Monthly Statement
NR	Courtesy Notice of Liquidation
NS	In-bond Status Notification
NT	Food and Drug Administration Product Code
OR	User Statistics
OT	Food and Drug Administration Affirmation of Compliance Types
PL	Protest Initial Filing
PS	Bill of Lading Processing Results
PT	Food and Drug Administration Establishment Identifier
PZ	Periodic Daily Statement ACH Debit Authorization/Entry Summary Presentation
QL	Protest Amendment
QQ	ABI Statement/ACH Payment Reroute

Note 2 – Continued

Code	Description
QR	Daily Statement
QS	Automated Clearinghouse
QT	In-bond Transaction
RB	Reconciliation Entry Filing
RL	Protest Addenda
RR	Cargo Release Processing Results
SL	Protest Service Request
SS	Protest Automatic Notification and Response to Filer Query
TR	Add 5106 to Importer File Processing Results
TS	Temporary Importation Bond Due to Expire
UR	Query Quota
US	Electronic Reject/Request Notification
VR	Harmonized System Update
WR	Query Harmonized System
WT	In-bond Update/Transfer of Liability
XR	Line Release
XS	Temporary Importation Bond Entry Summaries
#R	Query Error Statistics
%R	Currency Update
$R	Manufacturer Name and Address - Add
$S	Manufacturer Name and Address - Query

Note 3

Valid Payment Type Indicator Codes are:

Code	Description
2	If payments are to be batched by preliminary statement print date and entry filer code.
3	If payments are to be batched by preliminary statement print date and importer of record number (account number).
5	If payments are to be batched by preliminary statement print date and importer of record number for an importer with several subdivisions (suffixes).
6	If payments are to be batched by preliminary periodic daily statement print date and entry filer code.
7	If payments are to be batched by preliminary periodic daily statement print date and importer of record number (account number).
8	If payments are to be batched by preliminary periodic daily statement print date and importer of record for an importer with several subdivisions (suffixes).

Payment Type Indicator Codes 6, 7 and 8 must be ACE accounts.

Note 4

Valid formats for Importer of Record Number:

NN-NNNNNNNXX	Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Number
YYDDPP-NNNNN	CBP Assigned Number
NNN-NN-NNNN	Social Security Number

In these codes, *N* = number, *X* = alphanumeric, *YY* = the last two digits of the calendar year when the number is assigned, and *DDPP* = the district/port code where the number is assigned.

If the Importer of Record Number is in IRS format and the last two positions are blank, ACS converts the blanks to zeros so that the file search argument is consistent with the CBP Importer file. ACS output data may show the last two positions of the Importer of Record Number as zeros when two blanks were input.

Use of the old CBP assigned number (NNNN-NNNNN) expired July 1, 1992. All importer numbers with the old format will be placed in a void status.

Record Identifier Y

This is a mandatory block control trailer record that is paired with the block control header record and signals the end of a data block. ACS contains an edit that totals the number of data records and validates that total against this record. This count does not include the header and trailer control records. If the totals do not agree, the entire data block is rejected.

Record Identifier Y					
Data Element	**Length/ Class**	**Position**	**Status**	**Description**	**Note**
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal Y.	
Filler	2AN	2-3	M	Space fill.	
Processing District/ Port Code	4N	4-7	M	A code representing the processing district/ port. Valid district/port codes can be queried through the Extract Reference File chapter of this document. This code must be the same as that code in Record Identifier B.	1
Entry Filer Code	3AN	8-10	M	A unique code assigned by the CBP to all active entry document preparers. The Entry Filer Code occupies the first three positions of an entry number regardless of where the entry is filed. This code must be the same as the Entry Filer Code in the block control header record (Record Identifier B).	
Application Identifier	2X	11-12	M	A code identifying the application. This code must be the same as that code in Record Identifier B.	
Number of Transaction Detail Records In The Block	5N	13-17	M	The number of data detail records in the block. This does not include the header and trailer control record count.	
Total Estimated Duty	12N	18-29	C	This applies only to entry summary transactions. The value of the total estimated duty for entry summaries contained in this particular block (from Record Identifier 90, positions 3-13). Two decimal places are implied. If the duty is a whole number, the two low-order (cents) positions contain zeros.	
Total Estimated Tax	12N	30-41	C	This applies only to entry summary transactions. The value of the total estimated tax (from Record Identifier 90, positions 14-24). Two decimal places are implied. If the tax is a whole number, the two low-order (cents) positions contain zeros.	
Filler	39AN	42-80	M	Space fill.	

Note 1

Both the filer and the district/port codes in the transaction control header (A) and trailer (Z)

records must be the same, and they identify the data processing site of the participant (which may be a service bureau). The block control header (B) and trailer (Y) records must contain the district and entry filer codes associated with the data contained within the block.

The relationship between the district/port and filer codes in the transaction control records (A and Z) and the district/port and filer codes in the block control records (B and Y) must be established with CBP prior to transmission of the data. ACS security verifies this information for each transmission. Therefore, a service bureau or multi-port broker/importer wishing to transmit data for a new office location must contact a CBP Client Representative prior to transmission for that location. Likewise, the CBP Client Representative must be notified if an already active participant changes from a service bureau to an independent operation, or the reverse, or changes from one service bureau to another.

Record Identifier Z

This is a mandatory transaction control trailer record that is used to denote the end of a transaction file.

Record Identifier Z					
Data Element	**Length/ Class**	**Position**	**Status**	**Description**	**Note**
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal Z.	
District/Port of ABI Receiver	4N	2-5	M	A code representing the district/port of the data processing site receiving the ABI data. Valid district/port codes can be queried through the Extract Reference File chapter of this document. This code must be the same as that in Record Identifier A.	1
Receiver Filer Code	3AN	6-8	M	A unique code assigned by the CBP to all active entry document preparers. This code must be the same as the Entry Filer Code in the block control header record (Record Identifier A).	1
Receiver Password	6AN	9-14	M	A code for output only representing the password agreed upon by the user and the CBP. This code must be the same as that in Record Identifier A.	
Current Date	6N	15-20	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the current date. This date must be the same as that in Record Identifier A.	
Batch Number	2N	21-22	M	A number from 01 to 99 representing the sequential batch count for the current day's ABI transmission. If the user transmits data once a day, the batch number will always be *01*. However, if the user transmits data more than once, the batch number will start with *01* and be incremented by one for each batch transmitted. The batch number is not retained in ACS as part of the entry summary record. This number must be the same as that in Record Identifier A.	

Record Identifier Z					
Data Element	**Length/ Class**	**Position**	**Status**	**Description**	**Note**
National Importer Liquidations (NIL) Indicator	3A	23-25	C	A code representing the NIL indicator. This code will be *NIL* if the user is authorized to receive a courtesy notice of liquidation/ extension/suspension, in accordance with the NIL program. For additional information on courtesy notice of liquidation/extension/ suspension, refer to the Courtesy Notice chapter in this document. This applies to output only.	
Filler	12AN	26-37	M	Space fill.	
Receiver Office Code	2N	38-39	O	A code agreed upon by the user and CBP representing a specific user's office for output only.	1
Filler	41AN	40-80	M	Space fill.	

Note 1

Both the filer and the district/port codes in the transaction control header (A) and trailer (Z) records must be the same, and they identify the data processing site of the participant (which may be a service bureau). The block control header (B) and trailer (Y) records must contain the district/port and entry filer codes associated with the data contained within the block.

The relationship between the district/port and filer codes in the transaction control records (A and Z) and the district/port and filer codes in the block control records (B and Y) must be established with CBP prior to transmission of the data. ACS security verifies this information for each transmission. Therefore, a service bureau or multi-port broker/importer who wishes to transmit data for a new office location must contact a CBP Client Representative prior to transmission for that location. Likewise, the CBP Client Representative must be notified if an already active participant changes from a service bureau to an independent operation, or the reverse, or changes from one service bureau to another.