November 8, 2002

TO   :   Director, Field Operations
            Office of Field Operations

FROM   :   Assistant Commissioner
            Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Ability for NVOCCs to Participate in the Sea Automated
            Manifest System (AMS)

The purpose of this memorandum is solely to advise the ports of the
following information. Ports may provide a copy of this memorandum to
the Trade as well as direct them to the Customs web site. Due to the final
rule published on October 31, 2002 in the Federal Register (67 FR
66318) Customs would like to invite the NVOCCs to become participants
in Sea AMS. Sea AMS was designed to act as both a merchandise
inventory control and release notification system thereby expediting the
flow of cargo into the commerce of the United States. Sea AMS has a
direct interface with Cargo Selectivity as well as a link with the Automated
Broker Interface (ABI). In addition, in-bond movements are also tracked
within the module. AMS reduces the reliance on paper documents and
manifests are processed with greater ease. As a result, cargo spends
less time on the dock, is more easily tracked and Customs is able to
provide more efficient service to the trade community.

Current participants in this program include ocean carriers, service
centers and port authorities. These parties supply full bill of lading data to
Customs as outlined in the Customs Automated Manifest Interface
Requirements (CAMIR). Due to the publication of the final rule interest by
this segment of the trade has been renewed.

Customs would like to extend an invitation to NVOCCs to participate in
Sea AMS provided that the following criteria are met:

(1)   All parties will transmit full bill of lading data;
(2)   The house bill number will be transmitted in place of the master bill
        number;
(3)   All necessary data elements (i.e. description, piece count) will be
        provided;

(4) Each NVOCC will acquire a Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC) should they not already possess one;

(5) All NVOCCs will be required to automate at their ocean ports of call;

(6) An arrival date and time message will be sent for each manifest created in AMS;

(7) Complete and accurate shipper, consignee or notify party fields will be provided. When using the term "To Order" the owner or owner's representative is the party that must be listed in place of the consignee;

(8) The NVOCC will be liable for any/all penalties related to cargo that is transmitted by them;

(9) NVOCCs will be required to be in possession of an International Carrier Bond;

(10) Cargo identified for examination will require the NVOCC to request a permit to transfer electronically;

(11) A complete and accurate manifest will be transmitted to Customs no later than 24 hours prior to lading of the vessel at a foreign port.

For procedural matters, please contact Ms. Kimberly Nott, Office of Field Operations at kimberly.nott@customs.treas.gov.

Should you be interested in participating in the Sea Automated Manifest System (AMS) Program you are required to submit a written letter of request to the following:

U.S. Customs Service
Client Representative Branch
7501 Boston Blvd.
Room 211
ATTN: Sea AMS LOI
Springfield, VA 22153
Phone: (703) 921-7500
FAX: (703) 921-7563

Your written request should be on company letterhead and include a point of contact, name, title, phone number, e-mail address and office location. In addition, please identify your interest in Sea AMS (i.e., becoming a Sea AMS carrier, service center, software vendor, NVOCC, etc.).

Upon receipt of your letter, a Client Representative will be assigned to the participant.

NOTE: Those parties currently utilizing ABI or AES may contact their assigned Client Representative directly. To the extent possible, the same Client Representative will be assigned to work with the new party on Sea AMS implementations.

/S/

Jayson P. Ahern

cc: Executive Director, Trade Compliance and Facilitation
       Executive Director, Border Security and Facilitation
       Executive Director, Operations
       All Assistant Directors, Mission Support
       All Assistant Directors, Operations