

Data Systems and Information Development Committee
Adopted at the 101th Annual Convention
June 18, 2025

The Data Systems and Information Development Committee recommends that ACSA:

1. Support the utility and expansion of the cottonshipping.com tool, a calendar-based application that provides the availability of shipment ready dates, such as a report of available open shipments (in bales) by day, by warehouse code, or a report including the number of days out and / or next available date by warehouse for new shipment scheduling;
2. Recommend software providers facilitate the further improvement to cotton flow by enhancing visibility and communication of the data, such as adding notification alerts when a new batch is received, create a daily email notification to the shipper when receipts have not been canceled for loads past their ship dates within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) specified time requirement and add an interactive chat / communication tool for on-the-spot discussion and resolve of ready dates;
3. Urge collaboration with USDA–Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Cotton Warehouse Association of America, and Cotton Growers Warehouse Association to audit current participation in the electronic phytosanitary application process and establish active outreach to non-participating parties to ensure comprehensive enrollment for shippers and warehousemen in the program;
4. Encourage collaboration with USDA-APHIS and other appropriate USDA officials to work with the United Nations ePhyto Industry Advisory Group to assist in initiating full implementation of electronic phytosanitary certificates both domestically and in consuming countries;
5. Maintain the working group established to focus on system digitalization tools with particular focus on the development and utility of electronic bills of lading;
6. Encourage collaboration with The Seam, EWR, Inc., or other industry resources to educate ACSA members concerning the emerging opportunities and risks associated with artificial intelligence;
7. As industry initiatives are proposed, approved, and implemented, encourage state regulatory authorities and the USDA to collaborate on education efforts and to strive to attain regulatory consistency within the industry;
8. Work with Cotton Council International to use export promotion funds in appropriate destination markets to conduct educational forums, where cotton industry representatives engage with banking industry stakeholders, both at origination and destination, develop standard operation procedures to build efficiency in execution, including the consideration of standardized terms for letters of credit;
9. Encourage Cotton Incorporated (CI) to annually review and upgrade the software parameters of the Engineered Fiber Selection system to better consider warehouse bale location and sequences when evaluating and constructing loads to increase warehouse efficiency and more

- 1 appropriately determine the next bale available for a load; further, urge CI to conduct training
2 when changes are made to the system;
3
- 4 10. Urge engagement with the National Cotton Council (NCC), The Seam, EWR, Inc., and other
5 program developers to fully understand data visibility and functionality of the U.S. Cotton
6 Trust Protocol (USCTP); further, work with the USCTP staff to allow data, including field-
7 level data, to be pulled from their system into proprietary sustainability program systems;
8
- 9 11. Work with EWR, Inc. to standardize warehouse tariff formats and display them on
10 cottonshipping.com; further, work with NCC and the USDA to reach consensus on
11 standardized tariff formats to be utilized throughout the entirety of the EWR, Inc.'s provider
12 system;
13
- 14 12. Request ACSA members to report to ACSA staff emerging challenges with regulatory
15 processes in consuming marketplaces;
16
- 17 13. Urge the USDA and other federal agencies to utilize modern Application Programming
18 Interfaces and electronic filing, processing, and responses, which are currently done manually,
19 for:
20 a) Extra Long Staple Competitiveness filings to the USDA-Commodity Credit Corporation;
21 b) Export Sales Reports;
22 c) Spot quotations; and,
23 d) National Cotton Database Classing data;
24
- 25 14. Urge USDA-APHIS to:
26 a) Maintain the current fee structure for phytosanitary certificates and amendments;
27 b) Ensure correct interpretation of regulations and requirements by foreign governments and
28 agencies; and,
29 c) Publish clear and reasonable guidance concerning warehouse compliance requirements for
30 conducting phytosanitary inspections and originating applications for phytosanitary
31 certificates and to promulgate an accurately maintained database of compliant warehouses
32 as prescribed by the USDA-APHIS Export Program Manual section 4-2-1; further, urge
33 EWR, Inc. to embed the compliance list into the cottonshipping.com tool;
34
- 35 15. Noting the U.S. cotton industry must maintain a post-departure filing option with the
36 Automated Export System, continue to engage U.S. Census Bureau and provide input into the
37 final approved regulations for post-departure to U.S. cotton;
38
- 39 16. Collaborate with USDA officials to resolve issues including:
40 a) Thirty (30) day longevity window policies in all consuming countries for phytosanitary
41 certificates;
42 b) Acceptance of electronic signatures on phytosanitary certificates on plain paper, notably in
43 Vietnam; and,
44 c) Upland and ELS cotton rejections in Turkey due to seed content;
45
- 46 17. Request ACSA members to recognize and comply with the expanded requirement of the EWR,
47 Inc. provider system by responding to Batch 23 communications via Batch 23 within two (2)
48 business days; and

- 1 18. Establish a working group to develop recommendations to government agencies on the
- 2 components and characteristics of cotton traceability platforms necessary to implement policy.