

1 **Data Systems and Information Development Committee**
2 **Adopted at the 102nd Annual Convention**
3 **June 23, 2026**

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5 The Data Systems and Information Development Committee recommends that ACSA:

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7 1. Support the utility and expansion of the cottonshipping.com tool, a calendar-based application
8 that provides the availability of shipment ready dates, such as a report of available open
9 shipments (in bales) by day, by warehouse code, or a report including the number of days out
10 and / or next available date by warehouse for new shipment scheduling;
11
- 12 2. Recognizing the mandate to comprehensively document shipping communications via Batch
13 23 to provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) a transparent audit trail, urge EWR,
14 Inc. to work with ACSA to expand the functionality of Batch 23 to prevent duplicated
15 communication systems; further, urge shippers to document all shipping communications via
16 Batch 23 within two (2) business days of receipt, recognizing the provider agreement
17 requirement and active request from the USDA that is necessary for surveillance of warehouse
18 compliance; and, upon completion of system requirements and industry adoption of a
19 comprehensive audit trail via Batch 23, urge the USDA to expand surveillance to create better
20 visibility and compliance;
21
- 22 3. Urge collaboration with USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Cotton
23 Warehouse Association of America, and Cotton Growers Warehouse Association to audit
24 current participation in the electronic phytosanitary application process and establish active
25 outreach to non-participating parties to ensure comprehensive enrollment for shippers and
26 warehousemen in the program; additionally, to best surveil compliance status, urge the USDA
27 to develop the programming to allow industry software providers to connect to the data source
28 via Application Programming Interfaces or similar technology; until this access is developed,
29 urge EWR, Inc. to download and disseminate the necessary information on a monthly basis,
30 including warehouse expiration dates and warehouse address, and provide to its users;
31
- 32 4. Encourage collaboration with USDA-APHIS and other appropriate USDA officials to work
33 with the United Nations ePhyto Industry Advisory Group to assist in initiating full
34 implementation of electronic phytosanitary certificates both domestically and in consuming
35 countries;
36
- 37 5. Maintain the working group established to focus on system digitalization tools with particular
38 focus on the development and utility of electronic bills of lading;
39
- 40 6. Create a forum to monitor and consider emerging opportunities and risks associated with
41 artificial intelligence (AI) with the appropriate safeguards and considerations in place not to
42 undermine commercial investments by member firms; further, encourage ACSA staff to assess
43 and responsibly integrate AI technologies where appropriate in support of broader industry
44 objectives and operational efficiencies;
45
- 46 7. As industry initiatives are proposed, approved, and implemented, encourage state regulatory
47 authorities and the USDA to collaborate on education efforts and to strive to attain regulatory
48 consistency within the industry;

- 1 8. Work with Cotton Council International to use export promotion funds in appropriate
2 destination markets to conduct educational forums, where cotton industry representatives
3 engage with banking industry stakeholders, both at origination and destination, develop
4 standard operating procedures to build efficiency in execution, including the consideration of
5 standardized terms for letters of credit;
6
- 7 9. Encourage Cotton Incorporated (CI) to annually review and upgrade the software parameters
8 of the Engineered Fiber Selection system to better consider warehouse bale location and
9 sequences when evaluating and constructing loads to increase warehouse efficiency and more
10 appropriately determine the next bale available for a load; further, urge CI to conduct training
11 when changes are made to the system;
12
- 13 10. Engage with the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol (USCTP) staff and leadership to expand field-level
14 data sharing capabilities between ACSA members and the USCTP through the Field Partner
15 Program;
16
- 17 11. Work with EWR, Inc. to standardize warehouse tariff formats and display them on
18 cottonshipping.com; further, work with National Cotton Council of America (NCC) and the
19 USDA to reach consensus on standardized tariff formats to be utilized throughout the entirety
20 of the EWR, Inc.'s provider system;
21
- 22 12. Request ACSA members to report to ACSA staff emerging challenges with regulatory
23 processes in consuming marketplaces;
24
- 25 13. Urge the USDA and other federal agencies to utilize modern Application Programming
26 Interfaces and electronic filing, processing, and responses, which are currently done manually,
27 for:
28 a) Extra Long Staple Competitiveness filings to the USDA-Commodity Credit Corporation;
29 b) Export Sales Reports;
30 c) Spot quotations; and,
31 d) National Cotton Database Classing data;
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- 33 14. Urge USDA-APHIS to:
34 a) Maintain the current fee structure for phytosanitary certificates and amendments; and,
35 b) Ensure correct interpretation of regulations and requirements by foreign governments and
36 agencies;
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- 38 15. Noting the U.S. cotton industry must maintain a post-departure filing option with the
39 Automated Export System, continue to engage the U.S. Census Bureau and provide input into
40 the final approved regulations for post-departure file for U.S. cotton;
41
- 42 16. Collaborate with USDA officials to resolve issues including:
43 a) Thirty (30) day longevity window policies in all consuming countries for phytosanitary
44 certificates;
45 b) Acceptance of electronic signatures on phytosanitary certificates on plain paper, notably in
46 Vietnam; and,
47 c) Upland and ELS cotton rejections in Turkey due to seed content;
48
- 49 17. Work with the NCC's existing traceability committee and the USCTP to develop traceability
50 solutions that most efficiently meet industry and regulatory objectives; and,

1 18. Encourage collaboration with the USDA regarding the development and implementation of the
2 “One Farmer, One File” initiative to better understand its capabilities, governance structure,
3 and opportunities for industry participation; further, engage the USDA to identify voluntary,
4 producer-authorized mechanisms to leverage the initiative to reduce duplicative data
5 collection, improve interoperability among agricultural data systems, enhance data accuracy
6 and timeliness, and streamline regulatory and program reporting requirements.