

**Summary of Main Release Options:  
Truck Shipments Entering U.S. from Canada Under the Advance Electronic Cargo  
Information Regulations (“Interim Measures” Period)**

This is a brief summary of the three basic CBP (Customs and Border Protection) release scenarios for use during the “provisional measures” period for truck shipments entering the United States at ports on the U.S.-Canada border. This summary is intended to address the majority of scenarios applicable to most parties in the early stages of required advance electronic cargo information. This summary addresses only the CBP release of goods to be entered for consumption; it does not address in-bond shipments, nor does it address the limited exceptions from the advance electronic cargo information requirements.

**1. BRASS – Border Release Advanced Selectivity System - (also known as “Line Release”)**

**a. Requirements for use of BRASS as a cargo release method:**

- Only available if shipper has an approved BRASS (Line Release) barcode for the goods being shipped.
- The individual driver must have a FAST (Free And Secure Trade) Identification card.

**b. Effect of using BRASS as cargo release method:**

- Shipment is **exempt** from requirement to submit advance electronic cargo information
- Shipment is **not** eligible for FAST lane (even though the driver must have a FAST ID card in order to use BRASS)
- BRASS is merchandise-specific. The BRASS barcode used for the shipment must cover the imported merchandise.

**2. PAPS - Regular Release**

**a. Applicability of PAPS (Pre-Arrival Processing System)**

- Incompatible with BRASS.
- PAPS is used either for “regular release” or “FAST lane.” This section addresses use of PAPS for “regular release.”

**b. Requirements**

- Carrier must apply for and receive Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC), and must also obtain barcode labels (either professionally or privately printed). Application information is available on CBP website at [http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/import/communications\\_to\\_industry/advance\\_info/paps.ctt/paps.doc](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/import/communications_to_industry/advance_info/paps.ctt/paps.doc)

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**c. Basic Shipment Procedure**

- Barcode label must be affixed to invoice and manifest and faxed to broker, or the information from the barcode label must be provided electronically to the broker along with electronically transmitted import information. Use of a PAPS fax cover sheet in sending this information is highly recommended.
- Broker electronically transmits cargo release information, including information from barcode, to CBP.
- When arriving at border, carrier proceeds directly to CBP inspection booth with invoice and manifest with barcode labels affixed.
- CBP wands barcode label, accesses electronic cargo release information filed by broker

**d. Effect of using PAPS - Regular Release as cargo release method:**

- Advance electronic cargo information **must** be provided by broker to CBP at least **60 minutes** prior to truck's arrival at the chosen port of clearance.
- The aforementioned advance electronic cargo information transmission is achieved when broker files electronic cargo release information containing PAPS barcode information.
- Shipment is **not** eligible for the FAST lane.
- This is expected to be the most common scenario for cargo release.

**3. PAPS - FAST Lane**

**a. Applicability of PAPS**

- Although CBP is working on a more automated system for FAST, it is not yet available in most areas. For all intents and purposes, the PAPS system is the only present release method for the FAST lane at most ports for most parties. Expect to hear additional information about the more automated system in the future.
- As noted in (2) above, PAPS is incompatible with BRASS. To reiterate, BRASS shipments may **not** use the FAST lane.

**b. Requirements**

- Importer of Record **must** be C-TPAT certified
- Carrier company must be C-TPAT certified/FAST-approved highway carrier
- Individual driver must be in possession of FAST ID card. Any passengers in the vehicle must also have a FAST ID card. The carrier's vehicle must also have the appropriate user fee decal.
- Must use "approved release method" which, as noted above, for all intents and purposes at this time is PAPS. Carrier must therefore be PAPS-capable as referenced in (2)(b).

**c. Basic Shipment Procedure**

- Same as (2)(c) above

**d. Effect of using PAPS - Fast lane as cargo release method**

- Advance electronic cargo information **must** be provided for FAST shipments.
- CBP must receive the advance electronic cargo information no less than **30 minutes** before the truck arrives at the port of entry (as opposed to 60 minutes in advance for PAPS - Regular Release shipments).
- The aforementioned advance electronic cargo information transmission is achieved when broker files electronic cargo release information containing PAPS barcode information.
- Shipment **is** eligible for the FAST lane. This is the only option in which the FAST lane may be used.