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CIT Suspends Order Directing CBP to Issue IEEPA Tariff Refunds

On March 6, the Court of International Trade (CIT) suspended its order directing CBP to immediately issue refunds for the IEEPA duties paid. Judge Richard Eaton paused his order based on the “declaration” of CBP official Brandon Lord, which brought up practical difficulties in complying with the order. He also noted that CBP is considering a system to automatically issue refunds that could be ready in 45 days.

Electronic Refunds Issued through ACE

As we have previously advised, on February 6, 2026, CBP is no longer issuing paper checks for any refunds due. Before that date, you had to establish an ACE account and input your banking information in ACE. Currently, there are only 6% of importers that have completed the process for electronic refund. As this may be a confusing process, we have made the following step-by-step instructions to help guide you. I suggest you register as soon as possible before the IEEPA refunds start to be released. If you don’t have an ACE account set up, an electronic refund will be sent and not be able to reach your account, which will cause serious delays for you to go back and claim your refund.

Ace Account Application and Adding Bank Info to ACE

ACE Application link to apply for an ACE account: <https://ace-accounts.cbp.gov/s/importer-form>

Instructions for adding your banking info after establishing your ACE account:

1. Log In: Access the ACE Secure Data Portal using your credentials.
2. Select Importer Account: From the Accounts drop-down menu at the top of the home page, select Importer to list your accounts. You can also use the Global Search field to find a specific importer name.
3. Navigate to ACH Tab: Select the specific account name, then click the ACH Refund Authorization tab. If you do not see it, click the More tab to find it in the drop-down menu.
4. Initialize Setup: Click the Get Info/Refresh button to check for existing data. If no data is found, an Add ACH Info button will appear.
5. Enter Bank Details:
 1. Bank Control Key: Select your bank account type (e.g., Checking or Savings).
 2. Bank Routing Number: Enter and then re-enter your 9-digit routing number.
1. Submit: Click Submit. A “success” message will appear once the information is processed.
2. Verify: Click Get Info/Refresh again to view the updated details. For security, only the last four digits of the account number will be visible

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