

CENSUS FINALLY DID IT:
MANDATORY ELECTRONIC SED FILING

Census just issued its final rule. Effective July 2, 2008, all Shipper's Export Declaration (SED) information must be filed through the Automated Export System (AES) or through the AESDirect for all shipments. This is a complete revamping not only of the form of the regulations, but also the function of the agency. Census is no longer just collecting trade statistics. It will now actively enforce our nation's export control laws. To hammer this home, it eliminated "Statistics" from the name of the regulations. The regulations are now known as the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR). The trade community has 90 days to implement the FTR. After September 30, 2008, everyone must file electronically. There's new penalties ranging from \$1,100 to \$10,000 per violation for filing late, failure to file, false filing of export information, and/or using the AES to further any illegal activity. Also, all AES filers are faced with new filing deadlines by mode of transportation for reporting export information.