



ICS2 (road and rail)

March 2025



What is ICS2?

Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is an advance cargo information system designed to improve security in the international transportation of goods and involved supply chain.

https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/ics2_en

Important! EUROPEAN UNION CUSTOMS TERRITORY

Article 4 of UCC lists all countries and territories considered as part of the Union customs territory:

https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/territorial-scope_en

Requirement to lodge an ENS

- All goods arriving in the EU (also CH, NO, XI) must be covered by an entry summary declaration (ENS) lodged prior to arrival.
- This also applies to the goods that are transiting the EU.
- Where goods enter the EU, leave and then re-enter, a new ENS must be lodged for those goods.
 - **Example:** Türkiye-Bulgaria-Serbia-Hungary, ENS will have to be lodged to Bulgaria and Hungary

Place to lodge an ENS

- Where ENS is submitted in a single filing or where in case of multiple submissions a master level filing is lodged, it has to be addressed to the **customs office of first entry**.
- House level filing in case of multiple submission, needs to be **addressed to the Member State where the goods are likely to enter the EU**.
- **Postal model:**
 - Master level filing is always submitted to the **customs office of first entry**.
 - House level filings submitted by designated postal operator in the EU are addressed to the **Member State where this operator is established**.

Time limits to lodge an ENS

- **Road:** the ENS must be lodged at the latest **1 hour** before the arrival of the goods at the place for which the customs office of first entry is competent.
- **Rail:** where the train voyage from the last train formation station located in a third country to the customs office of first entry takes less than two hours, ENS must be lodged at the latest **1 hour** prior to arrival, in all other cases at last **2 hours** prior to arrival
- For combined transportation, the applicable time limit is the one valid for the **active means of transport entering** the customs territory of the Union.
 - **Example:** in case of a truck transported on a ferry between UK and Ireland, the time limits applicable will be those of the short sea shipping – 2 hours prior to arrival of the ferry at the first port of entry in Ireland.

Responsible party

- The entry summary declaration shall be lodged by the **carrier**.
- However, it can also be lodged by the **importer or consignee** of the goods or by **any person who is able to present** or has presented the goods to customs.
- In the case of combined transportation, 'carrier' means the person who operates the means of transport which, once brought into the customs territory of the EU, moves by itself as an active means of transport.
 - **Example:** In case of a truck transported on a ferry, the road haulier operating the truck that will move by itself upon the arrival into the EU will be the carrier for the purpose of the lodgement of the ENS. In case of trailer transported by a ferry, the vessel operator will be responsible to lodge an ENS
- Declaration can be lodged by a representative.
- The person that will lodge entry summary declaration particulars is legally responsible for the timely lodgement within the legal deadlines and the accuracy of those particulars.

ICS2 risk analysis (risk assessment) and referrals

- Customs authorities can issue risk mitigating referrals during the risk assessment process:
 - Request for additional information
 - Request to amend the data
- Referral is issued to a Declarant or the Representative that has filed the ENS filing.
- The party to which the referral is issued is legally obliged to respond to it.

What if ENS is incomplete/incorrect?

The EU customs authorities may reject incomplete ENS declarations or issue risk mitigating referrals requesting the declarant to provide the necessary data, for example in the case data is not accurate.

This might create delays in processing of the ENS upon the arrival of the consignments and in the entry process.

Customs may also decide to impose administrative sanctions for non-compliance with data requirements.

Presentation of the goods

Goods must be presented to customs upon their arrival to the customs office of entry.

Presentation is done via national system, not ICS2.

ICS2 resources

Where can ICS2 relevant information be found?

The ICS2 website (https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/ics2_en) contains all the necessary information for all modes of transport. In addition, direct links can be found at this page to navigate you to the ICS2 Operational Guidance, functional and technical specifications, Factsheets, eLearning materials and all documents that are inevitable for the convenient business and technical preparation for ICS2 implementation.

CIRCABC website is a collaborative workspace of the European Commission where different groups are created for different projects. Site is publicly available for anyone (customs administrations and economic operators), no need to request user access to be member of this group. The Library of the ICS2 CIRCABC group contains the most up-to-date information and documents on ICS2 that are relevant for the Economic Operators.

ICS2 TAXUD team continuously maintains the folders and publishes all the latest versions of the ICS2 documents, certificates that are necessary to be compliant with ICS2 requirements.

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/179e8695-020a-4ba4-a2f3-92151bd1038a?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

Other ICS2 resources 1/2

Basic information about ICS2 is available in a form of the following factsheets:

- ICS2 Factsheet
- Road factsheet
- Rail Factsheet
- Technical factsheet
- Multiple filing factsheet

https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/ics2_en#resources

Other ICS2 resources 2/2

You can learn about ICS2 also through e-learning courses:

- ICS2 End-to-end testing
- ICS2 Process and data: Road
- IICS2 Process and data: Rail
- CS2 Process and data: Postal

https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/ics2_en#resources

Sequence of ICS2 documents to be read 1/2

1. ICS2 Common operational guidance

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/179e8695-020a-4ba4-a2f3-92151bd1038a?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

2. ICS2 Pre-arrival referral guidance

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/6ce78788-1c4f-4495-b80a-a4780eea46c9/details>

3. ICS2 Common functional system specifications

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/ff77da67-c66e-4a6a-aca8-98cd4c16e3f0?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

4. ICS2 Common technical system specifications

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/77adbe67-03a9-4eac-a06f-49c59760f6c2?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

Sequence of ICS2 documents to be read 2/2

5. ICS2 Testing

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/6a98ca8e-8057-48c4-8f6b-bc9e0772364a?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

6. ICS2 Transition strategy

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/c46c5edb-6e3d-4af4-a6cf-d181ac137885?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

7. ICS2-R3-GLP-EO

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/c293d1a6-bfd6-4661-962d-a1b299190783/details>

8. ICS2 Business continuity

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/28211935-63f9-4934-ac3b-a64d961796f3?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

ICS2 – abbreviations of some relevant documents

Specifications

- **ICS2-HTI-Main** (ICS2 scope, structure and the content of the ICS2 Harmonised Trader Interface Specifications)
- **ICS2-HTI-Definitions** (definitions used in ICS2 Common Specifications and other relevant documents)
- **ICS2-HTI-BPML4** (ICS2 Business process description + business process model; master level and underlying sub-processes)
- **ICS2-HTI-IE** (ICS2 Information exchange specifications)
- **ICS2-HTI-R&C** (ICS2 Rules and Conditions applicable to ICS2 HTI Information exchange messages)
- **ICS2-HTI-CL** (ICS2 Code lists)

Guidance

- **ICS2 Operational guidance** (Operational guidance on formalities and the use of Import control System (ICS2) for entry of goods into the customs territory of the Union)
- **ICS2 Pre-arrival referral guidance** (Operational details for the pre-arrival protocols of ICS2)

Testing

- **ICS2 Release 3 E2EOD** (End-to-end testing procedure for MS and EOs)
- **ICS2 CTOD for EOs for Release 3** (Conformance testing organization document)
- **DG TAXUD-ICS2-Transition from R2 to R3 strategy**
- **ICS2 Change Management Procedure**
- **ICS2-IncidentManagement**
- **ICS2-R3-GLP-EO** (ICS2 Release 3 GO-LIVE procedure for Economic operators)

Preparation for ICS2

How to prepare for ICS2?

To connect to ICS2, economic operators must:

1. **Obtain an Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number from one of the EU Member States' customs authorities.**
2. **Develop the necessary IT and business processes (-> slide 26)**
3. **Need to successfully complete the mandatory self-conformance test.**
4. **Follow the GO-LIVE procedure when all above mentioned is done.**

For those who have not started the ICS2 preparation yet, please keep in mind that issuing an EORI number, registering in UUM&DS, and gaining access to the ICS2 Shared Trader Portal (STP) may take time (e.g. up to several weeks).

What is EORI?

EORI stands for “**Economic Operators Registration and Identification**”.

An EORI number is mandatory for customs clearance in the customs territory of the European Union. That relates to all types of customs operations such as export, import and transit.

EORI uniquely identifies economic operators and other persons. At a certain point in time, a person can be assigned only one valid EORI number. A person must communicate the number to customs authorities in the Member States for customs operations.

https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-procedures-import-and-export/customs-procedures/economic-operators-registration-and-identification-number-eori_en

How to connect to ICS2?

To meet the ICS2 ENS data filing obligations, economic Operators can **decide to:**

- a) either develop their own IT system** for this purpose or
- b) use the services of an IT Service Provider (ITSP)** or
- c) submit ENS through the Shared Trader Portal (STP).**

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/336e892c-2bb8-4642-97c9-fc0798d0bb50?p=1&n=25&sort=name_ASC

Own IT systems

Economic Operators may choose to develop their own IT system and connect directly to ICS2 via Shared Trader Interface (STI).

In this case, mandatory [self-conformance testing](#) must be completed before [GO-LIVE](#).

https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/6a98ca8e-8057-48c4-8f6b-bc9e0772364a?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC

What is STP?

STP is an EU e-service where you can submit the following:

- entry summary declarations for goods arriving from outside the EU,
- arrival notifications for goods arriving from outside the EU.

To access and connect to STP, the sender of the ENS needs to be registered in the national/central Unified User Management and Digital Signatures (UUM&DS) system. The registration is done by MS customs authorities, who grant ICS2 STP related roles.

Following roles are defined for STP:

- Economic Operator Declarant (EO-DECL),
- Economic Operator Representative (EO-REP),
- Economic Operator Configurator (EO-CONF),
- Person Notifying Arrival (EO-PNA),
- Notify Party (EO-NOP).

What is UUM&DS?

The EU-wide Uniform User Management and Digital Signatures system (UUM&DS) offers Economic Operators a unified access to several supporting IT systems such as UCC Customs Decisions, EOS-AEO, COPIS, UCC BTI usage and decision, including central services for electronic submission of declarations.

The below URL redirects to an online course that provides Economic Operators with specific information about how to use the UUM&DS. Upon completion of the course, an Economic Operator is able to confidently work with the UUM&DS and carry out delegation, certificate registration and authentication processes within the UUM&DS process flow.

Attend course by accessing the following URL:

<https://customs-taxation.learning.europa.eu/course/view.php?id=494§ion=1>

Support to the economic operators

- Support to the EOs is the responsibility of the Member State customs authorities (MS where EO registered and got EORI Number).
- MS provide National Service Desk (NSD) which needs to be contacted for all ICS2 related matters:
 - Establishment of the access point
 - Conformance testing
 - Onboarding
 - Deployment window (please follow procedures published by MS)
 - Operational support

Keep in mind!

Please, read the document before raising any questions.

ICS2 documents give a very detailed information and are regularly updated.



Thank you...



Legal time limits to lodge ENS - RAIL

Transport by rail

- h) When the train voyage takes less than two hours from the last train formation station outside the customs territory of the Union to the first point of entry into the customs territory, the ENS is to be lodged at the latest one hour before the train arrives at the border entry point of the Union;
- i) In other cases, than those mentioned under h), the ENS is to be lodged at the latest two hours before the train arrives at the entry point of the Union.