



ICS2

Release 2: New requirements for bringing goods by air to or through the EU

The Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is the EU's IT system created to collect data about all goods entering the EU prior to their arrival through an Entry Summary Declaration (ENS).

From 1 March 2023, Economic Operators involved in handling, shipping and transporting of cargo, express or postal consignments to or via the EU by air have to comply with new data reporting requirements for pre-loading and pre-arrival customs risk assessments.

Who is directly affected?

EU and non-EU:



air carriers



freight forwarders¹



express courier services



postal operators

What are the new requirements?

For pre-loading risk assessment

(assessing air cargo security risks)

- › Freight forwarders, express couriers or postal operators with facilities outside the EU (ETOE) can either provide **Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information (PLACI)** data about the goods transported to the EU to the air carrier or file the data themselves.
- › The PLACI data should be filed to the addressed EU Member State's customs authority via ICS2.

For pre-arrival risk assessment

(assessing general customs security and safety risks)

- › Freight forwarders, express couriers or ETOEs need to either provide a partial ENS with data from the **house level transport contract** to the air carrier or file the data themselves.
- › The ENS should be lodged to the EU Member State's customs authority via ICS2.
 - › For **short-haul flights** (less than 4 hours): by the time of departure of the aircraft at the latest.
 - › For **long-haul flights** (more than 4 hours): at least four hours before the goods arrive at the customs office of first entry to the EU.

¹ Freight forwarders and freight agents who issue house air waybills and do not want to share the relevant particulars of the ENS with the air carriers.

The Member States' customs authorities may also send to freight forwarders, express couriers or ETOEs various notifications via ICS2, asking them to do one of the following actions:

Action	Notification issued
➤ Provide additional information or amend their ENS.	➤ Request for Information (RfI)
➤ Screen their consignment according to high-risk cargo or mail (HRCM) standards, or corresponding International Civil Aviation Organisation standards for high-risk cargo, and then communicate the screening results via ICS2.	➤ Request for Screening (RfS)
➤ Take immediate steps to ensure that appropriate civil aviation security protocols and procedures are implemented because customs have identified a threat to air cargo security in one of your consignments.	➤ Do Not Load (DNL)



How to comply with the ICS2 requirements?

- First, as a freight forwarder, express courier or ETOE, you need to decide if you will:
 - file the pre-loading and pre-arrival data yourselves. If you do so, you need to register and obtain an Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number from one of the EU Member States' customs authorities.
- OR
 - make the necessary commercial documentation data (i.e., house level transport contract) available to your air carriers in advance for them to file the necessary information to ICS2 within the legal time limit.
- Next, get in touch with your air carriers and make the necessary contractual arrangements to carry out ICS2 data reporting requirements.
- The Economic Operator responsible for filing the pre-loading and pre-arrival data – whether it is you or your air carrier – can choose to use the services of an IT Service Provider for this purpose. The party filing the data to ICS2 is the Sender
- The Sender will need to:
 - Provide the responsible National Customs Administration with a **plan** for connecting to ICS2, including Conformance Testing, and start IT development according to the plan.
 - Take the necessary steps to get their IT systems ready to connect to ICS2 and file the ENS. They can contact one of the EU Member States' customs authorities to get guidance on the steps to follow.
 - Ensure they registered and have obtained an EORI number from one of the EU Member States' customs authorities.
 - Get the necessary digital certificates from a certificate authority in the List of Trusted Lists (LOTL).
 - Run the mandatory self-conformance tests.

Dates to remember



STAY ON TRACK FOR ICS2

Find out more on the website: ec.europa.eu/ICS2



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