

Import Control System 2

Overview

CLECAT – 09/04/2025



HM Revenue
& Customs

Safety & Security declaration systems

- The following systems are in place for the submission of Safety and Security (S&S) declarations in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Northern Ireland		Great Britain
ICS NI	ICS2	Safety & Security GB
Northern Ireland continues to operate the Import Control System (ICS – now ICS NI) that is both UCC compliant and interacts with EU services. ICS NI is gradually being replaced by a new S&S system called ICS2. ICS NI remains in place until ICS2 is fully delivered	ICS2 is new S&S system being developed by the EU. It is replacing ICS NI and introduces new S&S processes: • Pre-load data • ENS • Arrival notification • Presentation of Goods notification ICS2 is being delivered in three releases between March 2021 and June 2024	The S&S GB system is used to process and risk S&S import declarations in GB. The S&S GB system has different interfaces and is an entirely separate standalone system. The S&S GB service has been live and in use since the UKs exit from the EU.



ICS2 – Overview of Releases

Release	Mode of Transport	Data Requirement	Date
Release 1	- Air Express Carriers - Air Postal Operators	- Pre-loading advanced cargo information (PLACI) using minimum ENS dataset - Presentation process for air postal consignment.	Now live
Release 2	- Air Express Carriers - Air Postal Operators - Air Carriers	- Lodging of the complete ENS for all goods in air traffic - Lodging of the arrival notification for all goods in air traffic - Presentation process for air express consignments and general air cargo.	Now live
Release 3	- Maritime / Inland Waterways - Road - Rail	- Full ENS Dataset for all goods in these sectors, including postal and express consignments - Lodging of the arrival notification for all goods in maritime traffic - Lodging of Presentation of Goods Notification for all goods.	From 3 June 2024 Full breakdown on next slide



Release 1 (Now Live)
Preload Air Express & Postal

**Live
2021**



Release 2
Air Cargo & Full Postal/ Air Express

**Live
March 2023**

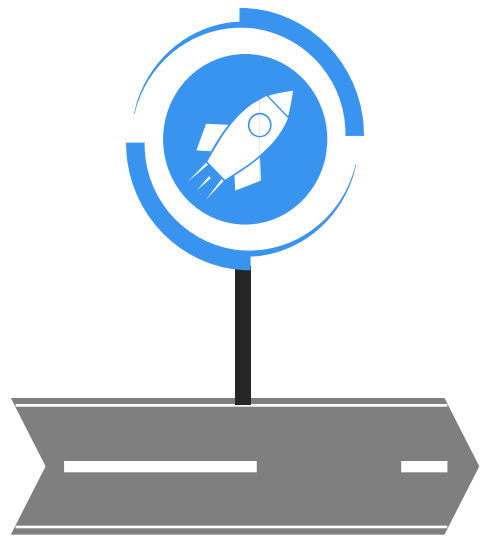


Release 3
Rail, Road & Maritime modes of transport

**Live
June 2024**

- ICS2 is now operational for all goods moved by air into Northern Ireland, and for movements going into the EU from GB
- All other types of movements will begin to use ICS2 when Release 3 goes live

ICS2 - EU Dates of roll out / onboarding for Release 3



Start of ICS2 R3

3 June 2024

All NAs must be ready



Step 2

3 June 2024 - 4 December 2024

*Maritime and inland
waterway carriers phasing in*



Step 3

4 December 2024 – 1 April 2025

*House level filers in maritime
and inland waterway traffic*



Step 4

1 April 2025 – 1 September 2025

Road and rail carrier

The steps define the roll out of the deployments for the traders (per type of EOs), applicable at EU level, being at the earliest by the start date defined for each step and being at the latest by the end date defined for each step.

EOs operating several modes of transport may choose one-go live date for all their ENS filings provided the date chosen is no later than the earliest end date of the deployment windows for their modes of transport. **This will need to be pre-agreed with their Member State they are on-boarding with.**

Overview of ICS2 S&S requirements in Northern Ireland

Freight

Air - live in ICS2

Maritime – live in ICS2

Road - 1 April 2025 - 1 September 2025

- HMRC is operating a single deployment window for RoRo movements so all accompanied and unaccompanied RoRo movements have until 1 September 2025 to onboard to ICS2.
- Deployment windows must be requested from Member State where EORI is registered, they are not automatically applicable. Onboarding after 1 April must be requested from HMRC by emailing ics.helpdesk@hmrc.gov.uk. You will need to provide your: *company name, company address, EORI number, role in ICS2 process (e.g. air carrier, postal operator, house level filer), deployment window dates, date within this window that you expect to onboard.*

Parcels - Windsor Framework requirements

- Existing S&S arrangements for parcels moving into Northern Ireland will cease to apply with the implementation of the Windsor Framework (WF) from 1st May 2025.
- **From 1st May 2025, S&S declarations will be needed into ICS2** for the following parcels moving into Northern Ireland:
 - B2B parcels moving directly from GB-NI (to note: B2C, C2B and C2C parcels moving directly from GB-NI do not require S&S decs)
 - parcels (B2B, B2C, C2C and C2B) moving RoW-GB-NI, EU-GB-NI and GB-NI-EU
- S&S decs for parcels (where required) should be made into ICS2 regardless of mode of transport



What to submit to ICS2

ICS2 introduces new processes as part of the S&S submission

Pre-load 'PLACI' data

- For aviation only
- Minimum ENS filing submitted prior to goods being loaded onto a plane

Entry Summary declarations

- Expanded dataset from roughly 37 fields to 45 fields.
- Key new data elements: **commodity code**, true buyer and true seller
- Goods description must be detailed or ENS may be rejected – [EU Acceptable Goods Description Guidance](#)

Arrival Notification (see TIMS slide)

- A new IT message based on G2 dataset
- Sent by carrier at the actual time of arrival (i.e. when the ferry docks)

Presentation of Goods Notification (see TIMS slide)

- A new IT message based on the G3 dataset
- Sent by the person in control of the goods when the goods get to temporary storage. For RoRo movements this is sent by the haulier before the goods leave the port supervision.



Trader Interface Micro Service (TIMS)

- The Trader Interface Micro Service ("TIMS") is a technical facilitation that HMRC is building that will complete Arrival and Presentation Notifications on behalf of carriers moving goods through GVMS ports.
- For TIMS to work, carriers must include the S&S MRN in a GMR. TIMS will then automatically Arrive and Present goods.
- Other than entering the S&S MRN in the GMR, no additional action is required from carriers for TIMS to work.
- You can still use TIMS if you are using the TSS. You will need to ensure you have asked TSS to enter the S&S MRN in the GMR, or if you do not use the TSS for your GMRs you can do this yourself manually.
- If you do not use TIMS (i.e. enter the S&S MRN in the GMR) you will must find an alternative way to submit Arrival / Presentation messages into the ICS2 system – these are a legal obligation.

ICS2 Microservice for Arrival and Presentation Notifications

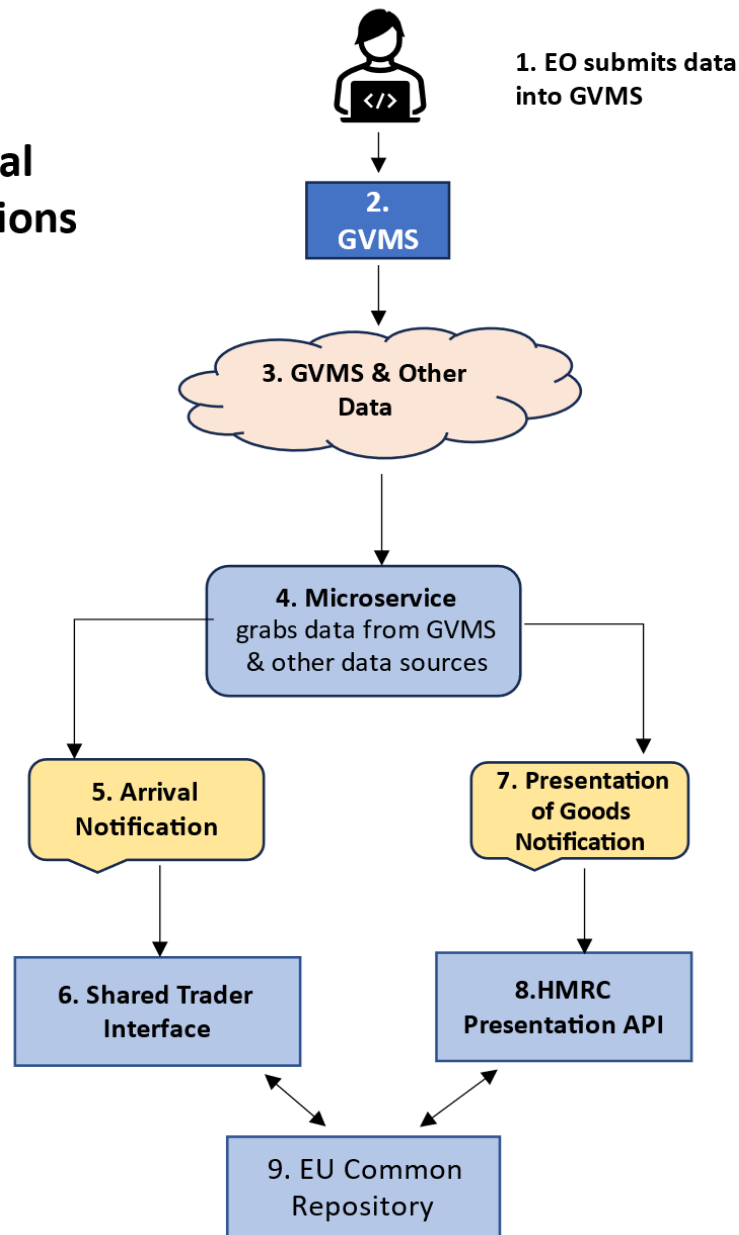


Diagram on the left is a very high -level overview of how we envisage the facilitation will work.

The flow begins with the data submission from the EO (1) into GVMS (2) . This data along with data from other HMRC sources is used (3) to submit Arrival and Presentation notifications via the Microservice (4) .

The Microservice will send the Arrival notification (5) Into the Shared Trader Interface (6).

The Microservice (4) will also send the presentation Notification (7) into HMRC Presentation of Good API (8).

Both the Arrival and Presentation Notifications will then be sent to the EU Common Repository (9).



Data Quality

Commodity codes

- ICS2 require a 6-digit commodity code in all ENS declarations. Without this the ENS will be rejected.
- Carriers should begin preparations to submit commodity codes now.
- Use the NI Online Tariff Tool (OTT) to identify the appropriate commodity codes:

[Northern Ireland Online Tariff: Look up commodity codes, duty and VAT rates - GOV.UK](#)

Stop words

- ICS2 will have a number of 'stop words' which will cause the ENS to fail validation if the goods description is inadequate. 'Stop words' can be used within the body of a detailed description but not alone.
- Example of a goods description that will be invalidated is: *"New Car Tyres"*
- Example of a goods description that would pass validation: *"Brand Name New Car Tyre P255/35/R19"*

[Guidance on acceptable and unacceptable terms for the description of goods](#)



EORI Registration

- ICS2 will only accept EORI numbers beginning with an XI or EU country prefix. You cannot use a GB EORI with ICS2.
- A business that is established in Northern Ireland should have an XI EORI (or EU EORI) for customs purposes to be able to make declarations for goods entering Northern Ireland. A business who is not established in Northern Ireland may still be able to have an XI EORI if they need it for one of the limited purposes, where being established is not a requirement, this includes making an ENS declaration.
- Further guidance is also available at:

[Get an EORI number: Who needs an EORI - GOV.UK](#)

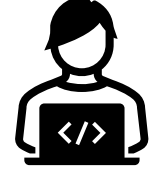
Trader Support Service

- If you currently use the Trader Support Service (TSS), you can continue to do so to submit safety and security declarations
- The TSS are developing software that will enable you to transition to ICS2 by 1 September
- You must provide TSS with the relevant data for ICS2 to enable them to submit a declaration on your behalf
- If you are using TSS you do not need to register for ICS2 separately unless you wish to receive notifications from the system

When/How to register for ICS2



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When to Register for ICS2

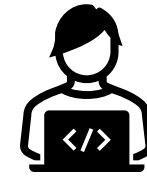
- Goods moved by road should onboard between 1 April – 1 September 2025
- Your onboarding date must be no later than the end of the deployment window for your relevant mode of transport
- Deployment windows must be requested from the Member State where the EORI is registered, they are not automatically applicable. Onboarding after 1 April must be requested from HMRC by emailing ics.helpdesk@hmrc.gov.uk. You will need to provide your:
 - Company name
 - Company address
 - EORI number
 - What your role in ICS2 process (e.g. air carrier, postal operator, house level filer)
 - Your applicable deployment window dates
 - Date within this window that you expect to onboard



What you will need to register to ICS2

(An EO can connect to the ICS2 Trader Interface via its own IT system or by using the contracted services of an IT Service Provider (ITSP). In case the latter is true, the ITSP itself must be identified and registered by Customs)

- You will need your:
 - EORI number
 - Business contact details
 - Plan for testing
 - Plan for moving into ICS2 operations
- As part of the setup process, you'll need to complete the EU's mandatory self-conformance testing before you can start operating. You can access ICS2 test documents on the [access ICS2 test documents on the Digital Europe Programme's CIRCABC website](#)



How to Register

To register, you will need to follow these steps:

- To access the EU Shared Trader Interface (also known as the EU Customs Trader Portal), email: admin.uum@hmrc.gov.uk and tell us your name, email, address of your business, and EORI number starting XI.
- You'll also need to submit a 'presentation of goods' notification when the goods arrive in Northern Ireland, which will be done through an API, use the [Import Control System presentation of goods service guide](#)



After you have registered

- Once you have registered, you will need to follow these steps:
- To start a test campaign, you must first email ics.helpdesk@hmrc.gov.uk and give us your EORI number, plan for testing and plan for moving into ICS2 operations.
- To apply for the relevant user roles to submit on the system and for testing, email admin.uum@hmrc.gov.uk. You'll need to tell us you want ICS2 Conformance and Prod roles. You'll also need to give us the names, email and addresses of business in Northern Ireland.

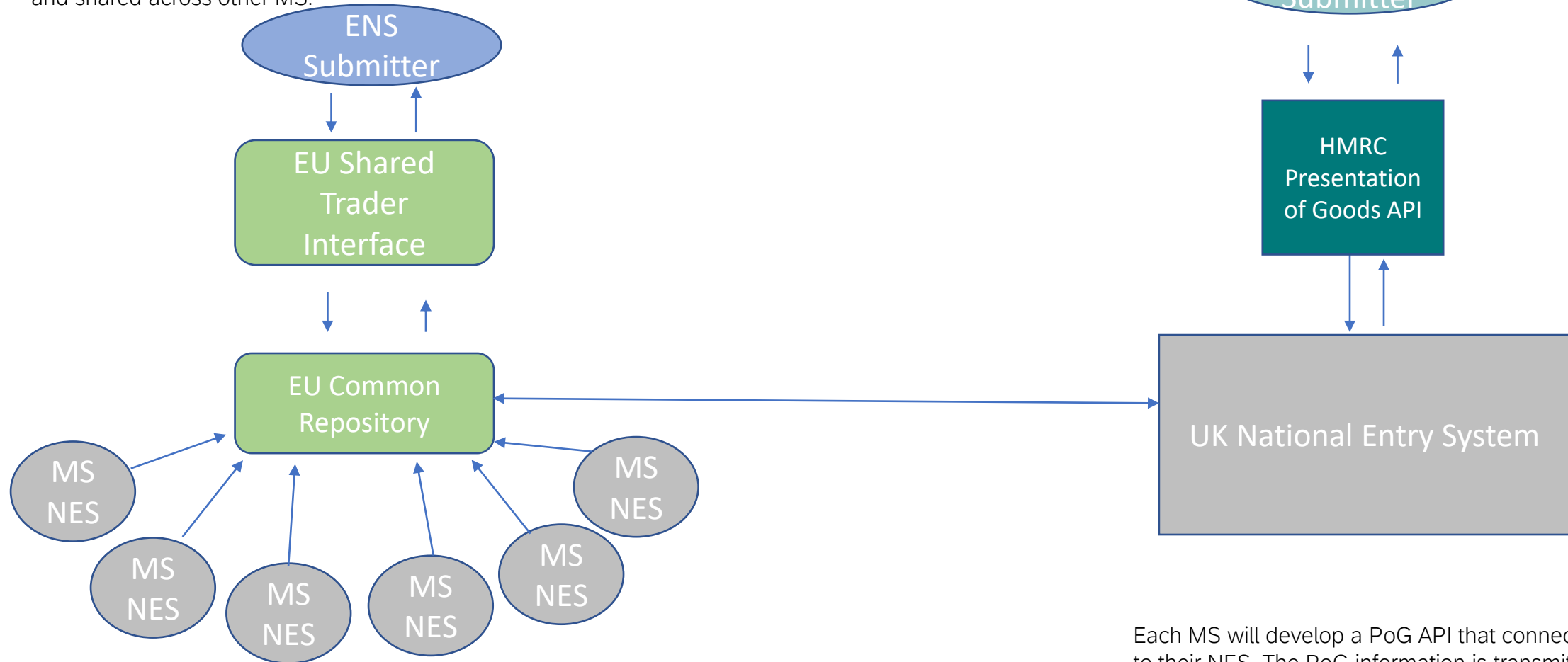
ICS2 System Technical Overview



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ICS2 – Component Overview

Each Member State (27) has built / developed a **National Entry System (NES)**, which connects to the EU's **Shared Trader Interface (STI)**. EO's submit their ENS (Entry Summary Declaration) directly into the STI. The ENS information lands in the Common Repository and shared across other MS.



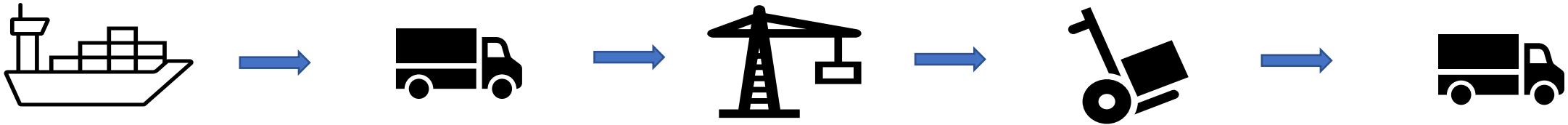
Each MS will develop a PoG API that connects direct to their NES. The PoG information is transmitted from the **NES** into the **EU's CR**. This final requirement closes the ENS declaration.

EU ICS2 Road Journey



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Unaccompanied RORO Journey – ICS2



Pre-Arrival Declaration

Prior to Lorry arriving at the port and goods/containers being moved onto the vessel a Pre-Arrival Notification must be submitted to ICS2 by carrier (2 hours before arrival of the ferry operator)

Lorry Drives to Port

Lorry/vehicle arrives at the Port. The unaccompanied goods/containers are moved onto the vessel.

Arrival Means of Transport

Once the vessel arrives at a port, an Arrival Notification for the container/goods must be submitted into ICS2 by the Carrier

Presentation of Goods

A Presentation of Goods Notification is required to be submitted into the HMRC PoG API to meet the EU requirement of Presentation.

This will need to be completed by the person in control of the goods and either occurs prior to leaving the Port or at any internal Temporary Storage Facility/ External Temporary Storage Facility /Office of Exchange

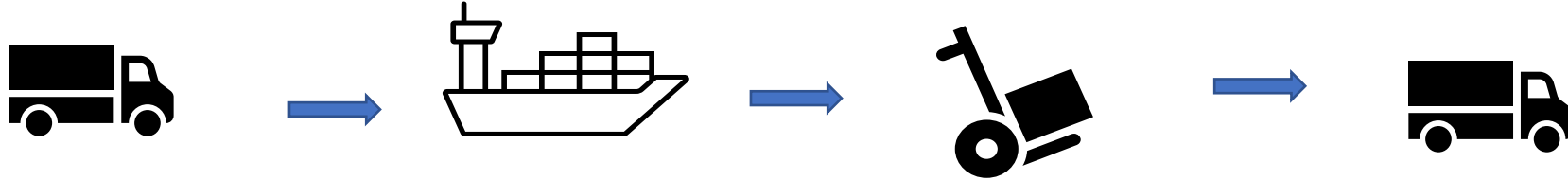
Continue Journey

If intervention is required, the carrier will be notified by Border Force. Border Force will notify the carrier of any controls being undertaken if any goods are to be held or released.

Driver picks up the lorry at the Port and the journey continues

TIMS will complete the Arrival and Presentation

Accompanied RORO Journey – ICS2



Lorry Arrives at the Port

Lorry arrives at the port and is moved onto the vessel. The driver accompanies the lorry and goods throughout the journey.

Pre-Arrival Declaration

Prior to the Lorry moving onto the vessel a Pre-Arrival Notification must be submitted into ICS2 (2 hours before arrival). The haulier is responsible for submitting the pre-arrival notification as the **Lorry** is the primary transporter of the goods.

Presentation of Goods

A Presentation of Goods Notification is required to be submitted into the HMRC PoG API to meet the EU requirement of Presentation.

This will need to be completed by the person in control of the goods and either occurs prior to leaving the Port or at any internal Temporary Storage Facility/ External Temporary Storage Facility /Office of Exchange

Continue Journey

If intervention is required, the carrier will be notified by Border Force. Border Force will notify the carrier of any controls being undertaken if any goods are to be held or released.

If goods do not require any further checks, the driver continues their journey.

TIMS will complete Arrival and Presentation

ICS2 – Links to further information

EU website - overview of ICS2 and Frequently asked Questions

[EU Overview and FAQ](#)

Information, including Technical Specifications and Operational Guidance

[CIRCABC \(europa.eu\)](#)

Technical Specification for HMRC Presentation of Goods Service

[HMRC Developer HUB – Presentation of Goods Service Guide](#)

Gov.uk guide for Safety & Security Requirements

[Make an entry summary declaration using the Import Control System 2](#)