

DHL EXPRESS

EU ENTRY AND TRANSIT CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS

Last Update: July 2024

OVERVIEW



- **ICS** stands for 'Import Control System'. This is the electronic **security screening** system for goods **destined to, or in transit through**, the European Union (EU*), Switzerland & Norway.
- For more details on ICS2 for example, please visit the European Commission website below: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/general-information-customs/customs-security/ics2_en
- **Additionally**, the EU authorities are tightening and reviewing the procedures linked to the entry process, namely **presentation, temporary storage (PN/TS) and new requirement for transit road movements (NCTS-5)**.

Release	Go-Live	Scope
ICS2 - Release 1&2	Already live	Security screening of all air shipments prior to loading at the country of departure, and pre-arrival into (or transiting via) the European Union, CH and NO.
ICS2 - Release 3	by Sept 2025	Security screening of all road shipments pre-arrival into (or transiting via) the European Union, CH and NO.
PN/TS	2023-2025	Varying go-live dates depending on country. PN/TS scope excludes the CH, NO and the UK.
NCTS-5	2023-2025	Varying go-live dates depending on country. NCTS-5 scope includes CH, NO and UK.

- IMPACT:**
- The most significant change applicable is the **introduction of new electronic messages** in a **granular level**.
 - EU Authorities require a **detailed goods description** per commodity (on line item level), the **respective Harmonized System (HS) code** and consignee EORI where applicable. Additionally for road movements the EU Authorities must be able to derive the 6 digit HS code from the goods description.
 - Therefore, DHL Aviation relies on **high quality electronic data from the Customer** to be able to meet the legal requirements and timelines.

HOW CAN SHIPPERS/FORWARDERS AVOID DELAYS AND PENALTIES?

In order to avoid delays and penalties, it is important that shippers/forwarders **provide complete, detailed and accurate data electronically** via our service provider DESCARTES **prior to tender**.

Among others, the **two most critical data elements** to ensure a smooth process at the appropriate customs formalities are:

1 Compliant Goods Descriptions per line item

Provide accurate and specific commodities description, using **detailed, precise & plain language**, with sufficient details about the nature of goods. **To comply with EU regulations for road, the goods description must be detailed enough to allow the determination of the 6 digit Harmonized System (HS) code**

- The detailed description per commodity must indicate **what the goods are, for which purpose** the goods are used and **what they are made of** – for example: **“Wooden dining table”, “Car brake pads”**
- Don't use generic goods descriptions such as **“gifts”, “samples”, “spare parts”, “equipment”, “clothes”, “textiles”, etc.**

2 Harmonized System (HS) code

Provide the **respective Harmonized System (HS) Code (6 digits) on line item** for each of the different commodities.

- Preferably, indicate the **complete Tariff Code** of each commodity being shipped.
- The Harmonized System (HS) Code is **defined by the World Customs Organization (WCO)**, and the 2022 HS Nomenclature edition is publicly available on the [WCO website](#) for the first 6 digits.

* European Union (EU) countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. NOTE: Northern Ireland is considered an entry point to the European Union, therefore shipments to (or transiting via) Northern Ireland are also impacted, as well as shipments destined to (or transiting via) other EU territories (e.g. French Guyana, etc.)

DISCLAIMER

While we have made every attempt to ensure that the information contained herein has been obtained, produced and processed from sources believed to be reliable, no warranty, express or implied, is made regarding the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, reliability or usefulness of such information. All information contained herein is provided on an "as is" basis. In no event will DHL Express, its related partnerships or corporations under the Deutsche Post DHL Group, or the partners, agents or employees thereof be liable to you or anyone else for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information contained herein or for any consequential, special or similar damages, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

