Get ready for ICS2

Moving goods into Northern Ireland (NI) by road and rail – information for intermediaries and agents

Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is the EU's new system for submitting Safety and Security (S&S) declarations (also known as Entry Summary Declarations or ENS), replacing Import Control System Northern Ireland (ICSNI).

You can now use ICS2 for road and rail movements if you're ready to do so. You can continue to submit Entry Summary Declarations via Import Control System Northern Ireland (ICSNI) until 31 December 2025. However, you should work with your supply chain now to make sure you're ready for ICS2 as soon as possible.

If you are a Trader Support Service (TSS) user you do not need to register to use ICS2, as this will be done automatically. If you don't currently use the TSS, you can register via the TSS website.

If you are not a TSS user, this guide explains how to prepare to use ICS2. You can also read more information on GOV.UK.

Responsibilities for intermediaries and agents

You can submit an ENS through ICS2 on behalf of the carrier if they have asked you to do so. When you submit an ENS on behalf of a carrier, the carrier will retain the legal responsibility for ensuring the declaration is submitted.

However, you are responsible for ensuring the declaration is accurate, complete, and submitted on time. Use the data available to you from carriers or trading partners when filing. If any details change or errors are found, you can amend the declaration until arrival at the NI border, or up to four hours before arrival if using TSS.

You need to be aware of the additional data requirements for ICS2 and make sure you will be able to access the required information at the right time.

How to register and use ICS2

Non TSS users

- You'll need to register with HMRC to use ICS2 if your EORI number starts with XI. Please visit GOV.UK for guidance on how to register.

- If your EORI number does not start with XI, visit the CIRCABC website to find the contact details for the EU country (national customs authority) where your EORI number was issued to find out how to register.

Once registered, you'll need to request onboarding by emailing ics.helpdesk@hmrc.gov.uk and providing:

- your company name, contact email address, business address and EORI number

- role in the ICS2 process

- date that you expect to onboard

New data requirements in ICS2

You'll need to provide some information in ICS2 that was not required in ICSNI. This includes:

- an accurate description of the goods – more information on the new 'stop words' being introduced within ICS2

- the commodity code at item level (6-8 digits) – more information can be found on the NI Online Tariff Tool

- amount of goods (mass)

- buyer and seller information

- place of delivery

- additional information or supporting documents (such as licences or certificates)

- Arrival Notification (for unaccompanied RoRo only)

- Presentation of Goods Notification

It is important you speak to those in your supply chain as soon as possible to ensure you have the correct information, at the correct time. This will ensure the goods continue to move as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

For more information on preparing for ICS2 please visit GOV.UK