

IMPORT CONTROL SYSTEM 2 (ICS2) – RELEASE 3

BRIEFING FOR SHIPPERS

Bonn, February 2025

DHL Global Forwarding – Excellence. Simply Delivered.



Agenda

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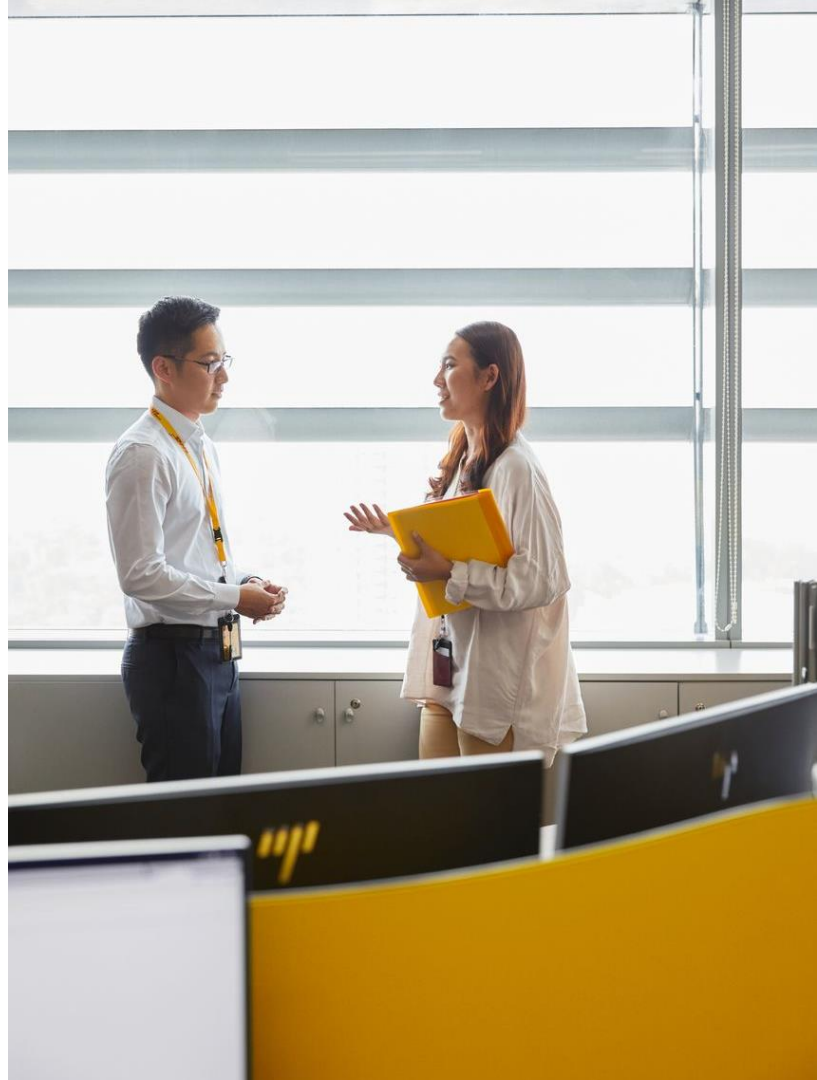
ICS2 Introduction (1/2)

ICS stands for '**Import Control System**'. This is the **electronic security screening system** for goods **destined to, or in transit through, the European Union¹ (EU), Switzerland, Norway and Northern Ireland**(e.g. a shipment from a non-EU country, transiting EU/NO/CH/XI, and then moving to another non-EU country).

The EU regulations on ICS are intended to **ensure security and safety of all people** living in the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Norway and Northern Ireland, and **elevate the mitigation of security related risks & possible terrorist threats**, such as explosives hidden in consignments.

ICS2 is the **enhanced EU security screening system** with **improved data-driven customs security processes** for goods destined to (or transiting via) the European Union, Switzerland, Norway and Northern Ireland.

¹ 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. It should be noted that 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.)



ICS2 Introduction (2/2)

The Import Control System 2 (ICS2) **will be operational in three releases**. Each release affects different Economic Operators (EOs) and models of transport².

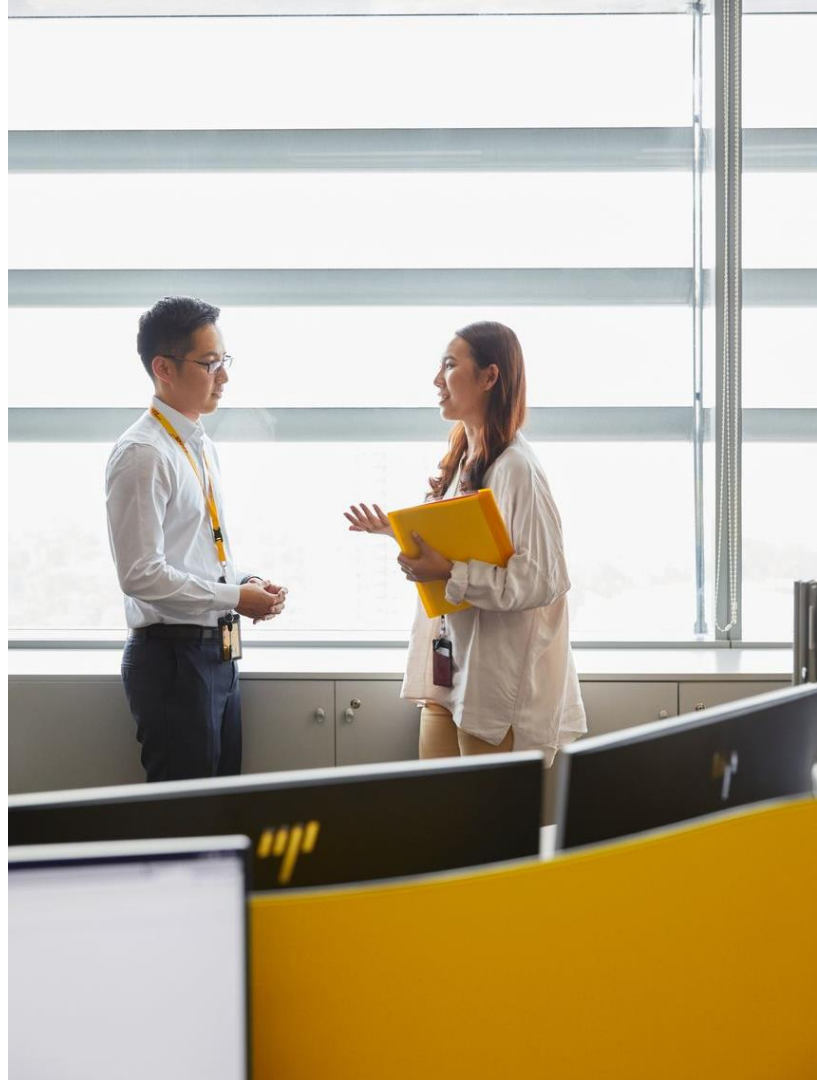
Release 1 – 15 March 2021 – Air Express Pre-Loading / Postal Air Pre-Loading

Release 2 – 01 March 2023 – Air General Cargo / Air Express Full / Postal by Air Full

Release 3 – 01 April 2025 – Maritime / Road / Rail

The most significant change applicable with ICS2 - Release 3, is that **pre-arrival security filing messages must be submitted to European Country Customs Authorities in a much more granular level** e.g. without a detailed goods description per commodity (on line item level), and the respective Harmonized System (HS) code, the shipment security filing cannot be submitted on time.

² Figure is extracted from European Commission Taxation and Customs Union website: [Import Control System 2 \(ICS2\) \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation-customs/ics2/)



What is the impact of ICS2 Release 3 for shippers?

Effective **April 1, 2025** all goods transported by Sea, will require **pre-acceptance and pre-arrival security and safety clearance** by European Union Member States.

European Member State Authorities require to receive information for all goods being **shipped into or transiting through the EU, Norway, Switzerland and Northern Ireland by Ocean freight.**

Among other data, the Authorities ask for:

1

Harmonized System (HS) Subheading code

Six-digit Harmonized System (HS) code for each item in the shipment

2

Goods Description

Accurate goods description for each item in the shipment

3

EORI Number

Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number of the Consignee

Who is affected by ICS2 Release 3?

ICS2 applies to **all cargo** with a **destination within – or transit via – the EU, Switzerland, Norway and Northern Ireland.**

ICS2 is not applicable to intra-European transport.

Shipments with Destination in the EU, Norway, Switzerland or Northern Ireland

- Changes affect shippers from Rest of the World whose goods are destined to the EU, Norway, Switzerland or Northern Ireland
- For example: a shipment from USA to Germany.

Shipments transiting through EU

- Changes affect shippers from Rest of the World whose shipments are physically transiting through the European Union, Switzerland, Norway or Northern Ireland
- For example : a shipment from China , which transits through Antwerp, on the way to USA.

Timelines for ENS filing for ICS2 Release 3?

Depending on the mode of transport, the ENS is to be filed within the following time limits:

a) For containerized cargo; at the latest **24 hours before the goods are loaded** onto the vessel on which they are to be brought into the customs territory of the Union

b) For bulk or break bulk cargo; at the latest **four hours before the arrival** of the vessel at the first port of entry into the customs territory of the Union

c) Goods coming from Greenland, the Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Morocco, ports on the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea: at the latest **two hours before arrival** of the vessel at the first port of entry into the customs territory of the Union

d) For movement between a territory outside the customs territory of the Union and the French overseas departments, the Azores, Madeira or the Canary Islands, and where the duration of the voyage is less than 24 hours; at the **latest two hours before arrival** at the first port of entry into the customs territory of the Union

What are the implications if shippers do not provide accurate data at the time of shipping?

- Shippers **should provide the necessary data** required to support a successful security filing during the shipment booking process.
- **Poor data quality** may result in **shipments being not loaded at origin, delayed during EU entry and/or additional costs** as the legally required security filing cannot be done on time.
- **Inadequate security filing** with missing/wrong data may either be **rejected or subject to intervention** by the EU Country Customs Authorities



Is DHL Global Forwarding prepared?

- DHL Global Forwarding is **fully prepared for ICS2 Release 3** implementation on April 1, 2025
- Our **processes and systems will be adjusted** where needed in order to **ensure full compliance** and automatically transmit relevant customs data
- We count on **active participation and compliance of our customers** to ensure the successful introduction of the changes required by the ICS2 regulation

We don't anticipate any service impact for customers, provided that all the necessary data is supplied by customers in time for customs clearance procedures.



Frequently Asked Questions (1/5)

As ICS is intended to ensure security and safety at transport, what sort of security and safety is targeted?

- The definition of risk is set out in article 5(7) of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The EC DG TAXUD explains that:
 - Safety and Security risks concern threats with serious implications for the security, people's health and wellbeing, as well as the environment.
 - This category includes any goods, components and materials being mis declared, or transported under suspicious circumstances, or that could be used for illicit purposes, for example related to terrorist or organised criminal activity that must be tackled as soon as possible.
 - Some obvious examples are weapons, explosives, dual-use goods, biological, chemical and radiological nuclear cargo, contaminated goods, goods containing excess levels of carcinogens or other health threatening elements, such as narcotics, drug precursors, counterfeited medicines/ foodstuff/ beverages or other unsafe products for personal use.

Who is responsible to submit entry summary declaration?

- Main responsible is carrier. Notwithstanding the obligation of the carrier, other economic operators (e.g. importer, consignee, forwarder, etc.) is also able to submit some of the information.
- This submission is mostly based on the data that the shipper provides when preparing a shipment, therefore it is the responsibility of the shipper to provide complete and accurate data.

Frequently Asked Questions (2/5)

Once it is submitted what do customs authorities do?

- Upon receipt of the security filing, the European Country Customs Authorities perform the security-related risk analysis, and decide if the shipment:
 - Is allowed or is refused to be carried
 - Requires additional information

What are the major key data elements?

- The security filing to European Country Customs Authorities is based on a series of data elements. Among others, following data elements are important key data elements for a smooth security filing:
 - Shipper & Receiver Name, Identification Number: full name, including the first and last as minimum – and full contact details (phone number and e-mail address).
 - Shipper & Receiver Address: full address, including street, number, city, country, postal code.
 - Type of Person
 - Line Item Goods Description: itemized description of each commodity in the shipment using detailed, precise & plain language.
 - New per 01 Apr 2025: Line Item Commodity Code: at least the first 6 digits of the Harmonized System (HS) code, on line item for each of the different commodities
 - Weight & Quantity on line item level
 - For other requirements/additional information for Pre-arrival Data Filing Requirements, please see the European Commission website (including about mandatory data elements of a complete ENS)
[ICS2 release 2 - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (3/5)

Which shippers will be impacted?

- This will affect:
 - Shipments destined to the European Union, Switzerland, Norway & Northern Ireland, for example: a shipment from China to Netherlands.
 - Shipments physically transiting through the European Union, Switzerland, Norway & Northern Ireland, for example: a shipment from USA, which transits through Seaport in Belgium, and then goes to Dubai.
- In order to avoid delays, it is important that shippers provide complete and accurate data.

What is important while providing line item goods description?

- Please provide accurate commodities description, using detailed, precise & plain language, with sufficient details about the nature of goods.
- The detailed description per commodity should indicate what the goods are, for which purpose the goods are used and what they are made of – for example: “Women’s T-shirts made of 100% Cotton”
- Avoid generic goods descriptions such as “gifts”, “samples”, “spare parts”, “equipment”, “clothes”, “textiles”, etc.
- Please find additional examples of unacceptable descriptions in the EU Commission document:

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/system/files/2021-03/guidance_acceptable_goods_description_en.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions (4/5)

What is Harmonized System (HS) Code and should it be provided in line item?

- The Harmonized System (HS) Code is defined by the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the HS Nomenclature edition is publicly available on the WCO website:
<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools/hs-nomenclature-2022-edition.aspx>
- Please include the respective Harmonized System (HS) Code (at least the first 6 digits) on line item for each of the different commodities.
- Preferably, indicate the complete Import Tariff Code of each commodity being shipped.

Is it mandatory to provide all HS codes in a shipment, even if these are many, or can only a limited number, e.g. the three HS codes with the most quantity or value?

- The requirement is to provide all HS codes in the ENS. This means that every single HS code contained in the shipment has to be submitted.

What is EORI?

- EORI stands for Economic Operators' Registration and Identification number. EORI is an identification number that is valid throughout the European Union and is a prerequisite for customs clearance in the European Union.
- The EORI number of the consignee should be provided along with the other data during shipment booking.
- If the consignee does not have an EORI number (e.g. private person), the EORI number is not required. If consignee is in a Non-EU country, then third country unique trader identification number has to be provided, if assigned.

External Links | European Commission



- For additional information, please consult **the European Commission websites** below:
- **Import Control System 2 (ICS2) - Overview**
 - https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs-4/customs-security/import-control-system-2-ics2-0_en
- **Import Control System 2 (ICS2) – Release 3 – Go-Live procedure**
 - <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/18fb5859-3970-4ac5-b30b-6604977a15a7/library/c293d1a6-bfd6-4661-962d-a1b299190783/details>
- **Guidance on Acceptable and Unacceptable Goods Descriptions**
 - https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/system/files/2021-03/guidance_acceptable_goods_description_en.pdf

THANK YOU