

IMPORT CONTROL SYSTEM 2 (ICS2)

Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is a new version of the EU's original Import Control System and brings new requirements to transporters shipping cargo into the EU via sea, road or rail. ICS2 is a new pre-arrival security and safety programme, made to process cargo information, support risk assessment and support security and safety at EU borders. This will impact the information provided within the Entry Summary Declaration (ENS) and the Declaration to Temporary Storage (ATO).

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When will ICS2 be implemented?

We will implement ICS2 on 2 December 2024. The first sailing affected will be Harwich to Hoek van Holland at 09:00 GMT on that day.

From that date onwards, any booking that does not contain the required information in the ENS will not be able to check-in and ship until complete details has been delivered.

For EDI bookings the updated specification is available in our developer portal and ready for testing.

What will change?

Instead of sending the Entry Summary Declaration (ENS) directly to the customs office in the country of entry, all member states will transmit the details to a centralised EU system, the Shared Trader Interface (STI). The primary objective of ICS2 is to enhance the safety, security, and supervision of goods entering the EU.

Additional information will need to be provided within the ENS:

- Consignor details
- Buyer and Seller details
- HS Code(s)

We expect that accurate and complete data will be provided in the ENS. EU customs may reject ENS declarations in case of lack of- and/or inaccurate information which will result in delays upon arrival.

Consignor details

- If the ENS is created via the Stena Line Freight Portal, the details of the company who made the booking with us will be put in the consignor field as default. If needed, it will be possible to change this data in the ENS manually.
- If the ENS is created via EDI connection, the customer will need to provide the data they intend to use as the Consignor data.

Details required:

- Name
- City
- Country
- Address details:
 - **Either** Street name, street number and postal code
 - **Or** P.O. Box

Buyer and Seller details

- **The buyer** is the one to whom the goods are sold or agreed to be sold. If the products are imported without a purchase agreement, the owner's details must be provided instead. The Buyer field will replace the Receiver field in the ENS.
- **The seller** is the one who sells or agrees to sell the goods to the buyer. If the products are imported without a purchase agreement, the owner's details must be provided instead. The Seller field will replace the Sender field in the ENS.

Details required:

- Name
- City
- Country
- Address details:
 - **Either** Street name, street number and postal code
 - **Or** P.O. Box
- *Optional: EORI*

HS code

The Harmonised System (HS) is an international standard for classifying products in import and export. In the ENS a 6-digit HS code must be provided for your goods.

The Goods Description field will be automatically populated based on this HS code, but it can be manually edited if necessary.

Goods Descriptions will need to be complete and accurate. Vague, unspecific descriptions are not allowed. Please consult the 'Unacceptable goods descriptions guidance' available at [Import Control System 2 - Release 1 \(europa.eu\)](#)

HS codes can be found via the [European Commission's website](#) or [Dutch Customs' website](#).

Efficiently completing your ENS

To improve efficiency, previously filled-in address and goods details within the ENS will be saved and shown as shortcuts under 'Recent' for future shipments.

Additionally, a possibility to upload a large number of goods items per consignment via CSV file, now available. Note that decimals cannot be included in the gross weights; these values must be rounded up. Please reach out to Holland Customs Support customs.supportnl@stenaline.com in case they want additional information.

What about Empty units?

A completely empty unit will have to be declared the same way as today, by confirming the ENS as empty. There will be no changes.

What about my nonstandard movements?

Nowadays, for certain movements a different procedure is followed than for a "standard" import or transit movement. For these nonstandard shipments ENS details are filled in in a specific manner.

Until further notice, there will be no exceptions for the requirements in ICS2. The buyer and seller details and HS code(s) will be required. Stena Line cannot advise which HS codes should be used for these shipments nor is there a general HS code which can be used.

This applies to:

- Return Empty Packaging
- NATO-302 forms
- ATA Carnets
- Repatriations
- Stacked units
- Humanitarian aid
- Postal shipment

Questions?

For additional details about ICS2 and its contents, please visit [the European Commission](#) and [Portbase](#).

Feel free to reach out to our customs support department for any additional inquiries related to this topic. We are committed to providing the best possible answers to your questions

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