



HM Revenue & Customs

Dear Trade Association,

Please share the following messages with your members.

Moving to the Customs Declaration Service from CHIEF: new guidance and simplifications available

HMRC will be closing the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system in two stages:

1. **On 30 September 2022:** the ability to make import declarations will end
2. **On 31 March 2023:** the ability to make export declarations will end

In its place, the Customs Declaration Service (CDS) will serve as the UK's single customs platform, with all businesses needing to declare goods through CDS after 31 March.

To help your members move to CDS, we have published new and improved guidance on GOV.UK and have made changes to streamline the completion of customs declarations.

Simplifying declarations on CDS

To help make the move as smooth as possible, HMRC has listened to feedback from declarants and made the following changes streamlining the completion of customs declarations:

- Waiver document code '999L' has been temporarily added into the [UK Tariff](#) for imports and exports movements between Great Britain (GB) and the Rest of the World (RoW).

This means where controlled and restricted goods are not subject to licensing measures, 999L can be applied to the declaration. For example, commodity 07096010 00 (Sweet peppers) is dual regulated by Defra's Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate and Plant Health agencies and is reflected as two P&R measure types "HMI Conformity Certificate (fruit and veg) issued in UK" and "Phytosanitary Certificate (import)". If neither document is applicable for the consignment being imported, document code 999L can be declared once to satisfy both measures.

- The need to provide additional information where the buyer or seller differ from the importer or exporter has been temporarily removed for GB import declarations.

Additional and updated guidance products

The following guidance has been published on GOV.UK:

- [Customs Declaration Service Toolkit](#) - this provides a comprehensive overview of CDS, explaining the benefits traders will experience using the system, as well as key information about what businesses need to do to prepare.
- [Differences between CHIEF and CDS](#) - this overview guide highlights the differences declarants need to be aware of when making submissions on CDS, compared to the legacy CHIEF platform.
- [Commodity Code guidance](#) - this guidance outlines how to resolve common Commodity Code error messages in CDS.
- [Error Code list](#) - this document sets out common CDS error codes, with an overview of how best to resolve errors encountered.
- [Example Declarations](#) – these provide guidance on how to correctly complete data elements for a range of GB import declarations.

Adopting CDS for exports

We are keen to work with any of your members interested in starting their exports migration journey to CDS now, where this does not require the involvement of a Community System Provider.

Please invite those interested to contact the CDS Migration Team via cdsmigrationenquiries@hmrc.gov.uk to discuss how we can support them.

Here to help

We're here to help your members get used to the changes between CHIEF and CDS and will continue to work with you to ensure we support them and listen to your valuable feedback.

In the meantime, if your members have any questions, please advise them to contact us through their usual [channels of communication](#) or via their Account Manager or Customer Compliance Manager, if they have one.

Kind regards,

HMRC