

## **Briefing Note Title: Introduction to Import Control System 2**

**Date: 20 July 2022**

**Attention of: Joint Customs Consultative Committee**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide an overview of the new Import Control System – ICS2 - in particular, release 2 which is due to go live on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**. ICS2 is being gradually introduced in Northern Ireland as well as EU Member States. This briefing note will cover:

- Introduction to ICS2.
- How ICS2 works.
- Preparing for ICS2.

### **Introduction to ICS2**

ICS2 is the new Safety & Security declaration system being introduced in Northern Ireland and aims to establish an integrated approach to customs risk management for goods entering Northern Ireland.

ICS2 is being introduced in three releases. Each release impacts different Economic Operators as well as different modes of transport. Economic Operators will begin declaring their goods into ICS2 depending on the type of services they provide, and modes of transport being utilised. More information about the three releases and when different modes of transport will come onboard can be found [here](#).

ICS2-Release 1 is **now live** for Air Express Carriers and Postal Operators moving postal consignments by air. This release introduced the submission of Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information (PLACI) into ICS2 via the systems Shared Trader Interface.

ICS2-Release 2 is expected to go live on **1st March 2023** and will require full Entry Summary Declarations for all air cargo movements. This release builds on the PLACI requirements and introduces requirements for Economic Operators to submit:

- Pre-arrival Entry Summary Declarations.
- Notification of the arrival of active means of transport upon entry into the European Union.
- Notification of Presentation of Goods.

ICS2-Release 2 impacts all Air Express Carriers, Air Postal operators, and Air Carriers that move goods into the European Union including [via](#) Northern Ireland.

ICS2-Release 3 which is the final release of ICS2 is expected to go live on **1st March 2024** and will bring on board Economic Operators that move goods via Rail, Road & Maritime modes of transport.

Currently for all goods imported into Northern Ireland from Great Britain and Rest of World countries, an Entry Summary Declaration is submitted into the Import Control System-Northern Ireland. Once all three releases of ICS2 have been delivered and are fully operational, ICS NI will be phased out.

### **How ICS2 Works**

ICS2 consists of several central components including:

- A Shared Trader Interface which is part of the overarching architecture developed by the EU to accept declarations.
- A Common Repository which is a central component that distributes requests to the relevant Customs Authorities for risk assessments to be carried out.

Alongside the central components, a National Presentation system is being developed to accept Notifications of Presentation of Goods processes and respond to risk assessments. Once the risk assessments are complete the Customs Authority will return the responses to the EU via the Common Repository. Appropriate information is then shared with traders via the Shared Trader Interface. For Northern Ireland an Application Programming Interface (API) connection will be developed by HMRC to submit these notifications.

### **Preparing for ICS2**

Economic Operators responsible for submitting Pre-Load Advanced Cargo Information, Pre-Arrival Declarations and Notification of Arrival of the Active Means of Transport into a Customs Office of First Entry, will do so via the Shared Trader Interface. To submit the declaration, the Economic Operator will need compatible software to connect to the Shared Trader Interface and to register through Uniform User Management (UUM), which will be done by contacting HMRC and requesting a profile. Technical specifications are available from the [EU CIRCABC website](#) along with information and guidance around ICS2 aims, purpose and schedule for delivery.

Economic Operators responsible for submitting the Presentation Notifications, will do so via an API directly connected to the HMRC ICS2 system. For those organisations responsible for submitting the Notification of Presentation of Goods message, the technical specifications are now available via the [HMRC Developers Hub](#).

Information about ICS2 can be found within the [Safety and Security Requirements on Imports and Export guidance](#). If you envisage your organisation may be impacted by ICS2 – Release 2, or you have any queries please email [importexporttransit@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:importexporttransit@hmrc.gov.uk).

For those traders that are impacted by ICS2-Release 3, further communications with more detail will be issued in the near future as it becomes available.