

H0020784 - CDS Exports – Timeline Update Partnership Pack

18 December 2024

Dear [Partner],

Thank you very much for your continued support on work to move export declarations from Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) to the Customs Declaration Service (CDS). We are writing to declarants today to provide an update on CDS timelines. As a key stakeholder, we appreciate you sharing our messages and communications products with export declarants through your own channels.

Information for cascade to your stakeholders

We would be grateful if you could share this information with your members and stakeholders.

Update on Customs Declaration Service (CDS) timelines

After 30 March 2024, businesses should make all export declarations through the Customs Declaration Service (CDS), as they do for import declarations.

HMRC are working closely with community system providers, software developers and other border industry partners to ensure IT is thoroughly tested to enable all businesses to use CDS for exports. This includes testing to enable export declarations for goods exported through inventory linked locations to be submitted through CDS.

HMRC is committed to supporting businesses move their export declarations to CDS from the earliest point possible.

Most businesses will be able to move by 30 March 2024, but we understand not all customers may be able to fully migrate before the deadline. Businesses will be given a period of three months from when HMRC tell them they can migrate to do so.

There will also be a robust exceptions process in place following the initial three months for businesses who are unable to migrate by this extended deadline through no fault of their own.

Further details on migration timelines

We expect that:

From January, export declarations for goods exported using the Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS) through GVMS locations only can be made through CDS providing the following do not apply:

- There is a chance goods could be rerouted to an inventory linked location; or
- You use temporary storage facilities; or
- You use a designated export place.

From early February, export declarations for goods submitted through inventory linked airports should be submitted through CDS providing there is no chance your goods could be rerouted to an inventory linked maritime location.

From early March, export declarations for goods submitted through inventory linked maritime locations are due to be submitted through CDS. By this point, all export declarants should be able to start submitting all export declarations through CDS.

HMRC will contact businesses directly to confirm further details of timelines around when migration will commence.

Next steps to prepare

If businesses have not already done so, they should carry out the following steps to prepare:

- [Subscribe to CDS](#) to be able to submit export declarations. Declarants who have already subscribed for imports do not need to do so again.
- Access the free [Trader Dress Rehearsal](#) (TDR) Service to practice submitting declarations in a safe test environment. You should contact your software provider to ask if you can start using their software for TDR

HMRC will continue to provide support for businesses making export declarations through CDS.

Information about Transit Accompanying Document Movement Reference Numbers (TAD MRNs) and Master Unique Consignment References (MUCR) usage

HMRC has recently updated guidance on the use of TAD MRNs and MUCRs to support the move to CDS for exports.

On TAD MRNs, all declarants and hauliers that complete Goods Movement References (GMRs) must follow the 'Create a goods movement reference number' guidance on GOV.UK to make sure that they are not making errors and that they are using Declaration Unique Consignment References (DUCRs) correctly when submitting export declarations involving GVMS locations.

On MUCRs, we have explained how to properly complete the customs export formalities - namely creating the export declarations, associating, and closing the MUCR, for the goods that they export, or whoever does this on their behalf.

Full information is in the attached emails which can be shared as needed.