

Moving your exports to the Customs Declaration Service

Dear Customer,

As an exporter that exports goods using inventory linked air locations, you can begin submitting your export declarations through the Customs Declaration Service (CDS) from 19 February 2024. The only exception to this is if there is a chance your goods could be rerouted to an inventory linked maritime location.

Export declarations for goods submitted through inventory linked maritime locations are due to be submitted through the CDS from early March 2024. At this point, all export declarants should be able to start submitting all their export declarations through the CDS. We will contact you again with further details and to confirm this date.

All export declarations should move from our Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system to the CDS by Saturday 30 March 2024. However, we understand not all customers may be able to migrate by then. For this reason, you will have up to three months to migrate from when the CDS becomes available for your exports.

Attend our CDS exports webinar

To help you with your move to the CDS for exports, we would like to invite you to attend a webinar on Thursday 22 February 2024 at 09.45.

The webinar will cover the topics listed below.

- Pre-requisites for moving to the CDS
- Getting access to the CDS
- Understanding CDS declaration requirements
- Support to help you make the move, including testing
- CHIEF Closure

You will also be able to ask questions during the webinar using an on-screen text box.

To reserve your place, [please sign-up here](#). Signing up will also ensure you receive useful links and a recording of the webinar following the event. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

New guidance now available

We recently published new guidance to help support your move to the CDS. This includes:

- [A declarant checklist for CDS exports](#) – providing a step-by-step guide to the key actions you will need to take.
- [Example declarations for exports from Great Britain to the rest of the world](#) - to help you complete your CDS export declarations.
- [CDS customs clearance instructions for exports videos](#) – taking you through the key steps required to complete an export declaration.
- [CDS known error workarounds](#) – please check this document for details of ongoing workarounds to help you submit customs clearance requests or customs declarations through the CDS.

You can find further guidance and resources on the [CDS guidance pages](#) and the supporting [CDS communications pack](#).

We also recommend that you use the free Trader Dress Rehearsal service (TDR) which enables you to practice submitting CDS export declarations in a safe test environment. You can find out more about TDR and how to use it [in our guidance](#).

If you currently use the National Export System web service (NESweb) to submit your export declarations through CHIEF, you will be able to use the Make an Export Declaration Online service. This allows you to submit export declarations through the CDS and replaces NESweb. We will contact you separately about joining this service.

Actions to take

If you have not already done so, follow the steps within our [declarant checklist for CDS exports](#) to make sure you have taken all the actions needed to prepare for using the CDS.

Next steps

We are working closely with community system providers, software developers and other border industry partners to ensure declarations can be submitted through the CDS for the full range of export routes. This includes inventory linked maritime locations. We will contact relevant businesses once this functionality is in place.

If you have any questions, including help with subscribing to the CDS, [please contact us using one of these channels](#), or speak to your Account Manager or Customer Compliance Manager if you have one. You can also [report a problem when using the CDS](#) on GOV.UK. If your problem is considered urgent, you'll receive a response within two hours. All other problems will be responded to within 24 hours.

We will continue to provide information and guidance to support your business for making export declarations through the CDS. To receive updates and notifications about the CDS, please make sure we have your [preferred email address](#).

Yours faithfully,

HM Revenue & Customs