New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) Phase 5

Dear customer,

On 21 January 2025, all National Administrations that are members of the Common Transit Convention (CTC) will implement the final version of NCTS Phase 5. These are known as Final State Rules.

To help you prepare for the implementation of Final State Rules we are issuing regular updates. In this update we are setting out what data fields are changing for NCTS5 final state. You can find all our updates on gov.uk.

What's changing?

Feedback from industry told us you wanted to compare the differences between NCTS4 and NCTS5 data elements and which new ones will apply from 21 January 2025.

We now have the relevant information to address this feedback and share a new correlation table **'Data Comparison Table 01.11.2024**. This compares the data elements of NCTS4, NCTS5 transition period and NCTS5 final state.

The table also sets out the data elements that are optional, conditional, or dependent.

For more information about 'dependant' fields you will need to analyse the rules and conditions applicable to each data element. These can be found in the Technical Interface Specification.

The table should be used in conjunction with an understanding of the CTC Transit procedure and the guidance set out in the Transit Manual Supplement as well as any software you use which implements the NCTS rules and conditions.

Features of the comparison table

The table includes the following features:

- **NCTS P5 optionality (columns I, J, K)** confirms whether the data element is required, optional, dependent, or not to be used for transition and/or final state. This also confirms whether this optionality has changed between the two states.

- **NCTS Phase 4 (columns L, M, N, O)** – confirms whether data groups are existing previously or new for NCTS5. Also confirms the optionality in P5 whether that is: required, optional, dependent, or not required (for data elements new for 5)

- **NCTS box number/data element correlation (columns P, Q)** shows the relevant P4 "box number" and shows the equivalent P5 data element (if relevant)

How to use the table

The data is organised in the same structure as set out in an NCTS5 declaration.

For example: if you were to look up the LRN data element in NCTS5 (row 4) this will give you the following information:

- **P5 Path (column G):** IE015.TRANSIT OPERATION.LRN
- **P5 Definition (column H):** The data element "LRN" stands for Local Reference Number. It is a unique identifier assigned by the trader or declarant to the transit declaration before it is submitted to customs. The LRN helps track and identify the declaration within the trader's system before an official Movement Reference Number (MRN) is issued by customs.
- **P5 optionality (columns I, J, K):** R (required)
- **NCTS4 data group (L):** Header
- **NCTS4 Data element (column M):** Reference Number (LRN)
- **NCTS4 P4 Notes (Column N)** blank
- **NCTS4 Optionality (column O):** R (required)
- **NCTS4 TAD box number (column P):** 7
- **NCTS5 data element reference (column Q):** 12 09 000 000

If you have any questions about data optionality or hierarchy, please discuss these with your software provider.

If you use the free-to-use web portal, the help text will support you but please note the service is intuitive and will only ask for information based on your previous answers.

We will continue to update the document and share this as we move to future NCTS versions.

What's next?

Please look out for our next communication on 2 December 2024 which will cover Multiple House Consignments.

Thank you,

HMRC