Safety & Security Declarations Overview

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BIFA

HMRC

HM Revenue & Customs

Introduction

- Exports from Great Britain, or imports from Rest of World countries, already require S&S declarations: [Safety and security requirements on imports and exports - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk).

- From **31 January 2025**, any goods imported from the EU to Great Britain must be covered by a Safety & Security declaration (also known as an Entry Summary Declaration or ENS) unless otherwise covered by an existing waiver. Further information on existing waivers can be found here: [Making an entry summary declaration - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](www.gov.uk)

- **Those who are ready to start submitting S&S declarations for EU imports before this date are encouraged to do so. Any data submitted will be reviewed by HMRC and Border Force and used to risk goods moved across the border.**

What is a Safety and Security (S&S) declaration?

- Safety and Security (S&S) declarations have been required by border authorities since 2011. They are used to analyse the potential risk caused by goods crossing the border.
- S&S declarations were developed in response to 9/11 and are used internationally to enable authorities to intercept high risk goods before they can cause harm. Standards are set out in the [WCO 'SAFE' Framework](#).
- In GB, S&S data is used by Border Force, along with other intelligence, to identify high-risk consignments to be subject to checks at the border.
- S&S declarations contain information about the business, the sender, the receiver, the goods, the carrier (company transporting the goods), the type of transport, the journey details etc which is used to risk assess the goods movements.

There are two types of S&S declarations:

Imports	Exports
Entry Summary (ENS) declaration, which is submitted for goods entering the customs territory (imports). This is also known as a 'pre-arrival' declaration because it is submitted before goods arrive in the UK.	**Combined export declaration** or an **Exit Summary (EXS) declaration**. Each type is used in specific cases. These are submitted for goods leaving the customs territory (exports). Also known as 'pre-departure declarations' as they are submitted before goods depart the UK.

Who needs to submit an Entry Summary (ENS) declaration?

How goods are being shipped	Who is responsible for submitting
Goods travelling by rail	The carrier will be the rail freight operator who is authorised to traction the train through the Channel Tunnel into Great Britain
Goods travelling by air or sea	The party that has contracted and issued the bill of lading or an air waybill, for the carriage of the goods into Great Britain. • For sea, this means the shipping company is responsible • For air, this means the airline.
Goods travelling by roll-on roll-off (RoRo)	If your goods are travelling by roll-on roll-off: • the haulage company is responsible for lodging the declaration for accompanied goods • the ferry operator or Eurotunnel are responsible for lodging the declaration for unaccompanied goods

When do Entry Summary (ENS) declarations need to be submitted?

How you're shipping goods	When to submit (minimum timing requirement)
Maritime containerised cargo (LoLo)	at least 24 hours before loading at the port of departure
Maritime bulk or break bulk cargo (LoLo)	at least 4 hours before arrival
Roll on roll off (RoRo) — accompanied freight	at least 2 hours before arrival
RoRo — unaccompanied freight	at least 2 hours before arrival
Short sea journeys	at least 2 hours before arrival
Short-haul flights — less than 4 hours' duration	at least at the time of actual take-off
Long-haul flights	at least 4 hours before arrival
Short rail journey (less than 2 hours duration)	at least 1 hour before arrival
Long rail journey (more than 2 hours duration)	at least 2 hours before arrival
Road traffic (Channel Tunnel – Le Shuttle Freight)	at least 1 hr before arrival at the Eurotunnel terminal (at Coquelles, France)

What data needs to be provided?

- The overall number of fields will remain the same, but the number of mandatory fields is being reduced. Under the new dataset:
  - There will be 20 mandatory fields.
  - There are also up to 8 conditional fields.
  - The remaining 9 data fields will be optional.
- This approach will ensure that those businesses already set up to import from non-EU countries, or those submitting voluntarily on EU movements, <u>do not need to make any changes to their existing systems or procedures if they do not wish to.</u>
- All businesses, including those who will be required to complete Safety and Security declarations for the first time when the EU waiver ends can choose to complete only the mandatory and any relevant conditional fields.
- We will publish updated guidance on gov.uk once the reduced dataset comes into effect, with clearer information about whether the data field is mandatory, conditional or optional; what format the information should be provided in; and with improved information to assist completion.
- **In the meantime, we will share information on the reduced dataset shortly, to help people to prepare for the new requirements.**

How to submit S&S declarations directly

To submit entry summary declarations directly, you must be registered for the **Safety and Security (S&S GB) service**. To register for S&SGB you must have:

- **Government Gateway account**
  - It is strongly advised that all Government Gateway customers have more than one administrator with access to all of the services the customer has enrolled for. This will prevent issues that could delay declarations from being submitted, for example if the primary administrator is absent or leaves the company. You can find out more about managing team members and services here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-team-members-using-your-hmrc-business-tax-account.
- **GB EORI number**
  - Organisations that submit entry summary declarations need GB EORI numbers. If your business is not established in GB, you can apply to register for a GB EORI.

How to submit S&S declarations directly

Once registered, declarations will need to be lodged by one of the following methods, as the S&S GB service does not have a user interface:

- developing compatible software in-house – see further information on the developer hub: API Documentation - HMRC Developer Hub - GOV.UK
- purchasing compatible software: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-software-developers-providing-customs-declaration-support
- employing the services of a Community System Provider: Trade and commercial contacts for Community System Providers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

How to submit S&S declarations through a third party

Entry summary declarations can be submitted by a third party on the carrier's behalf, with the carrier's knowledge and consent. The carrier remains responsible for ensuring the declaration is submitted within the legal time limits.

- Commercial terms and conditions can be used when arranging for a third party to file on the carrier's behalf
- You can find out more about [getting someone to deal with customs for you](#) on gov.uk.

Responsibilities when entry summary declarations are submitted by a third party
- If responsibility for submitting is passed to a third party, the legal liability to make sure that an entry summary declaration has been submitted remains with the carrier.
- However, the responsibility for ensuring that the information provided is accurate lies with whoever is submitting the entry summary declaration. Customs authorities and economic operators must be able to identify who is responsible for compliance with the requirement to provide complete and accurate information.

What happens when a declaration has been submitted?

- Once you have submitted your entry summary declaration and it has been accepted, you will be issued with a movement reference number (MRN).

- You may choose to include your S&S MRNs declaration reference numbers in the Goods Vehicle Movement Service, but you do not have to.

- The declarations will be risk assessed and if no further interventions are required, the goods can continue with their journey.

What readiness support is available?

- We have published new guidance on '**Preparing for the new safety and security declaration requirements**' which will contain all our resources and guidance on what you need to do ahead of 31 January 2025.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** We will continue to engage with Trade Partners, SWDs, CSPs, EOs and Intermediaries, using forums and round table sessions to obtain feedback.
  - Feedback from these discussions will be used to inform our approach to education and communications.

- **Communications** will be targeted to different stakeholder groups to ensure they are receiving the right messaging at the right time.

- **We are currently developing our customer support model** to streamline processes and ensure that helpdesk staff are upskilled and ready to support businesses with the transition.

Safety & Security data compliance

- Border Force is an intelligence informed organisation. Providing accurate data within the correct time limits enables Border Force to complete risk assessments before goods arrive at the border. This supports both border security and the facilitation of legitimate traffic.

- The Home Office and HMRC have a joint compliance strategy for Safety & Security Data compliance.

- Border Force have developed the Safety & Security Data Compliance Capability to monitor data compliance. The Process:
  - ➢ Identification – activity which identifies a carrier's non-compliance.
  - ➢ Alert – making carriers aware that they are being non-compliant in some form.
  - ➢ Education – Making carriers aware of their obligations and supporting them to be compliant.
  - ➢ Repercussion – Steps to penalise continued and/or deliberate non-compliance.

A supportive approach will be taken, but there is an expectation that carriers/intermediaries act on the recommendations made in good time to ensure future compliance.

Summary

- Safety and Security declarations for EU imports will be required from 31 January 2025

- If you are ready to submit your EU declarations ahead of this date you are encouraged to do so, and HMRC and Border Force will be able to support you with this

- Those already submitting Safety and Security declarations for imports do not need to change existing systems and processes.

- Information and guidance on how to prepare will be published on our new GOV.UK page: **Preparing for the new safety and security declaration requirements**

New Safety and Security GB dataset

Mandatory – 20 fields

Local Reference Number (LRN)	Consignor	Consignee	Country(ies) or routing codes	Person lodging the summary declaration	Mode of transport at the border
Identity of means of transport crossing the border	First place of arrival	Date and time of arrival at first place or arrival	Place of loading	Place of unloading	Goods description
Types of package	Number of packages	Goods item number	Gross mass	Seal number	Transport document number
Transport charges method of payment	Declaration date and time				

Conditional – (Mandatory only if certain conditions are met) 8 fields

Unique consignment reference number – This field must be provided by Fast Parcel Operators. It is optional for other modes of transport.	Carrier – This field must be completed if the carrier is different from the person lodging the Entry Summary Declaration (ENS)	Notify party – This field must be provided where this information is available	Conveyance reference number – This field is not applicable for RoRo, where the intended ferry company name should be included (if known)
Number of pieces – This field must be provided if pieces are unpackaged	Container number – This field must be provided where containers are being moved. In particular this must be provided for Maritime Containers and Unaccompanied RoRo (where it should be Trailer Number)	Shipping marks and numbers of packages – This field must be completed for all packaged goods, and should include information and descriptions that will enable the identification of individual packages	UN Dangerous Goods code – This field must be provided if relevant

Optional – 9 fields

Commodity code	Total number of packages	Number of items	Other specific circumstances indicator	Special mentions
Signature and authentication	Declaration place	Nationality of active means of transport crossing the border	Office of subsequent entry	

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