



Date February 14, 2023

Subject DGF Customer Advisory: New regulations for Imports to the EU - Import Control System (ICS) 2

Dear customer,

The mandatory Import Control System (ICS) regulation which has been in place for all modes of transports since 2011 and based on an EU-Security initiative, will be enhanced to ICS2 and adjusted to the Union Customs Code.

The second phase of ICS 2 will be launched on **March 1, 2023**.

Starting from this date, for all goods transported by air with destination or transit in the European Union, Norway, Switzerland or Northern Ireland, a minimum set of data must be transmitted before departure from a foreign airport to the EU authorities. This will guarantee higher transparency and allow the authorities to assess potential risks better while the cargo is still at origin.

To be prepared for ICS2, we kindly ask all customers to provide the new mandatory additional information in your shipping documents and orders. Please review our 'ICS 2 Briefing for Shippers' for details. Among others, we would like highlight below key data elements:

**Mandatory 6-digit harmonized Codes (HS Codes)**

Transporting goods to and via the EU will only be possible if the carrier has the 6-digit HS codes available for transmission to EU authorities before departure in the origin country.

**Goods' Description**

Please provide accurate commodities description, using detailed, precise & plain language, with sufficient details about the nature of goods. The detailed description per commodity should indicate what the goods are, for which purpose the goods are used and what they are made of – for example: "Women's T-shirts made of 100% Cotton". Please avoid generic goods descriptions such as "gifts", "samples", "spare parts", "equipment", "clothes", "textiles", etc.

**EORI (Economic Operators Registration Identification)**

The transport of goods that have a final delivery location within the European customs union will only be possible if the carrier has the EORI number of the consignee available for transmission to the EU authorities before departure in the origin country.

The EORI number is already mandatory for import customs entries. The new regulation adds the requirement to have it available for transmission to EU authorities prior to departure in the origin country, even if DHL Global Forwarding is not the designated customs broker. The number will be used for electronic submission to the carrier (and therefore to EU authorities) but neither shared with other parties nor printed on documentation.

Failure to provide the necessary data can result in unloading at origin, delays during EU entry and/or additional costs.

Detailed information regarding ICS2 can be found in our 'ICS 2 Briefing for Shippers' or on the webpage of the [European Commission](#).

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Please do not hesitate to contact your local sales or customer service representative if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
DHL Global Forwarding