Updated Requirement for declaring DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export at Header Level when declaring a Sanitary or Phytosanitary Document Code

This is an update to guidance issued on 15th January 2026

A CDS update was delivered on 15th January 2026 which mandated declaration of DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch at header level when declaring any of the Sanitary or Phytosanitary (SPS) document codes N002, N851, 9115, C085, C640, N853, C678 or C673, unless declared with document status code XW. This is applicable to H1, H2, H3, H4, H5 & I1 declarations using Additional Declaration type codes A, D, C, F & Y.

It was subsequently identified that some trade software does not permit declarants to declare DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export at header level. The validation has now been temporarily removed whilst the trade software is updated.

The validation was introduced to address issues experienced by some imports when the absence of DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export at header level on declarations for SPS goods led to clearance messages failing, resulting in manual clearance being required. Whilst the validation has been removed, declarants should still declare DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export at header level for SPS goods if the software permits it. This should avoid potential issues with the clearance messages. CDS will however accept the declaration with DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export declared at only item level.

Another system change delivered at the same time now permits DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export to be declared simultaneously at both header and item levels.

When using Additional Information code NIDOM, and an SPS document code as detailed above, DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export should be declared at both header and item levels if the software permits, however the declaration will no longer be rejected if it is only declared at item level.

Action in Relation to Rejected Declarations

If you have submitted or arrived a declaration for SPS goods without declaring DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export at header level and the declaration has been rejected with error code **CDS12171 Relation Error: The value(s) supplied in Data Element 1 and/or Data Element 2 require(s) a valid value to be provided in Data Element 3**, you can now resubmit your declaration. If your software permits declaration of DE 5/14 Country of Dispatch/Export at header level, then please complete at header level, but CDS will no longer reject if it is only declared at item level.