HM Revenue & Customs

Customs Information Paper (14) 77

Import Control System – ICS

Who should read:	JCCC Members, Carriers, Software supplies and all businesses involved with International Trade and imports into the EU.
What is it about:	This CIP provides details about: ICS KEL 27 software release and the new ICS Technical Specification (version 2.5) and ICS downtime
When effective:	Immediately
Extant until/ Expires	Until further notice

1. Introduction

ICS Release 7 is scheduled for implementation to the live system on the 1 December 2014.

This CIP has been issued to inform all ICS users of the changes within this software release and to explain how the changes will affect trade users.

2. ICS Technical Interface Specification

The ICS Technical Interface Specification (TIS) (version 2.5) provides details of the changes required to ICS software for this release. The schemas and WSDL files have been updated to include these changes.

The Trader Test Pack is also available on the website and remains unchanged.

The Release 7 software is available for testing on the Third Party Test and Validation System (TVPS).

3. ICS Live Downtime - Release 7

It will be necessary for HMRC to take the ICS System down in order to apply Release 7 changes. This will affect both those who access ICS via the

Government Gateway and those who use a Community System Provider (CSP).

This downtime is currently scheduled for the 30 November 2014. The downtime period is expected to be between 10.00 and 18.00. Those responsible for submitting ICS declarations should ensure they have an acceptable Business Continuity Plan in place.

Further information on the Release 7 downtime will be provided via the HM Revenue and Customs website.

4. Release 7 changes

Rule 835 will now be replaced by Rule 840 in the Consignor; Consignee; Notify Party; and Entry Carrier Trader TIN's. R840 will be changed as follows:

If the Trader has a valid EORI Trader Identification Number (EORI-TIN) or a Third Country Unique Identification Number (TCUIN) which has been made available to the Union by the third country concerned then the EORI-TIN or TCUIN shall be declared.

The declaration will be rejected if anything other than the EORI-TIN or TCUIN is used.

When an EORI-TIN or TCUIN is provided, the name and address shall not be provided. Condition 501 will be amended.

This change affects the IE315 and IE313 messages.

Traders will need to ensure a valid EORI-TIN complying with Rule R840 is supplied in the affected data groups. Traders also need to ensure declarations are validated against the schemas published for this release.

These documents are available on the HM Revenue and Customs website under ICS Technical documents.

The KEL27 changes for XML Namespace will be applied to all External Domain Messages and National Domain so that the UK ICS system is completely aligned with DDNIA v11.00. This work will negate the need for further Namespace changes within future KEL releases.

As part of this change we have replaced the following trade messages with their EU schema counterparts.

Messages affected are:

IE315, IE313, IE323, IE316, IE328, IE304, IE305, IE324, IE325, IE351.

This change ensures, from this release onwards, schema namespace are version agnostic so that any future changes are minimal, less disruptive and functional which delivers real value to business.

The following messages do not have their counterpart in EU schemas set and are being retained AS-IS. No change has been made to these schemas from previous release.

UK347, UK348, UK349
UKAcknowledgeMessage
UKDownloadMessages

5. ICS downtime

When the ICS system is not available, carriers who lodge their ICS declarations using the Trader Front End (TFE) will not be able to send or receive messages during the time.

All relevant safety and security data should be retained by Carriers, but there is no UK Customs requirement to send any ICS data retrospectively for goods which have departed foreign and already arrived in the UK during the period of downtime. Where goods have departed and are due to arrive in the UK after the system has been restored, an ICS message will still be required.

For those Carriers and/or their agents who require an MRN to meet their commercial requirements in another Member State, then these ICS declarations should be made retrospectively when the system is restored.

For further information on HMRC services impacted by this downtime, please go to HM Revenue and Customs website.

6. Contacts

All ICS related queries should be sent to the ICS Helpdesk at:

Ics.helpdesk@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk