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## **GUIDANCE ON THE ENTRY SUMMARY DECLARATIONS AND TRANSIT DECLARATIONS FOR ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT IN RELATION TO THE START OF THE DEPLOYMENT WINDOW FOR NCTS PHASE 6 AND ICS2 RELEASE 3 STEP 3**

### **Legal requirements**

According to Article 127(1) [Union Customs Code](#), all goods brought into the customs territory of the European Union (EU) must be covered by an entry summary declaration (ENS). ENS must contain the data elements defined in Annex B of UCC [DA/IA](#). These requirements for road and rail transport enter into force on 1 April 2025 according to [Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2023/2879](#) establishing the UCC Work Programme (UCC WP).

Lodgement of an ENS may be waived by a Member State (MS), if a customs or temporary storage declaration, containing particulars of the ENS, is lodged within the time limits (1 hour for road, 2 hours for rail) for lodgement of an ENS (Article 130 UCC).

The NCTS Phase 6 and the ICS2 Release 3 will be deployed in 2025, both having deployment windows as stipulated in the UCC WP.

### **NCTS-P6**

NCTS Phase 5 contains safety and security data elements defined in Annex 9 Appendix A of UCC Transitional Delegated Act ([Commission Delegated Regulation No 2016/341](#)) which are valid only until the deployment of the Import Control System version 2 (ICS2) Release 3 for road and rail transport. The data requirements of the UCC DA/IA Annex B are fully implemented in NCTS-P6.

The deployment window of NCTS-P6 starts on 1 March 2025 and ends on 1 September 2025. During this window all National Authorities (NA) of the EU and the contracting parties of the [Common Transit Convention](#) (CTC) are required to deploy NCTS-P6. Opt-out NA need to introduce minimal changes and need to ensure that the transit movement is covered by a separate ENS. Opt-in NA must develop the interconnection to the ieCA/TED application which makes the bridge between NCTS-P6 and ICS2 to provide the ENS particulars to ICS2.

An opt-out NA may decide at a later stage to become an opt-in NA. This decision can be made and the ICS2 interconnection can be deployed after 1 September 2025. Nevertheless,

all EO are obliged to lodge a separate ENS to ICS2 until the opt-in version of NCTS-P6 is deployed.

### ICS2 Release 3

The deployment window of the Release 3 of ICS 2 starts on **1 April 2025 and ends on 1 September 2025**. All NA must be ready before 1 April, and all EO must start lodging ENS for road and rail transport to ICS2.

To facilitate a smooth transition, **EOs who are not ready for ICS2 by 1 April 2025, can ask for a deployment window**. This window is limited in time and must be requested one month in advance. The EO must contact the National Service Desk of the EU MS (National Customs Administration) where their EORI number was registered or where their business takes place. The deployment window is not applicable by default, it can be granted on request by the EO. After the deployment window was granted by one of the EU Member States, it will be valid in all EU countries. More information about the procedure of granting a deployment window can be found in `ICS2 Release 3 Go-live procedure for Economic Operators` document published in [CIRCABC](#).

When the ICS2 deployment window was granted to an economic operator, they are allowed not to send ENS to ICS2. They can continue using NCTS Phase 5 to lodge safety and security data with transit declaration until 1 September 2025.

EOs are nevertheless strongly advised to connect to ICS2. They can either connect their system to ICS2, use the service of IT service providers or use the web interface to ICS2. **In any case they must obtain an EORI number immediately to be able to start their connection activities**. The necessary information can be found on the [ICS2 - European Commission](#) webpage.

For any further assistance or inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to the National Helpdesk.