



Date February 04th, 2025

Subject **Customer Advisory: New regulations for Imports to the EU – Import Control System 2 (ICS2) , Release 3 for all goods transported by sea**

Dear Customer,

We are writing to inform you about updates in the mandatory **Import Control System (ICS) regulation**. The ICS is based on an EU-Security initiative and has been in place already for all modes of transports since 2011.

Since 2021, ICS2 has been in place.

ICS2 is the enhanced EU security screening system with improved data-driven customs security processes. It came into effect in three phases of which two of them have already been implemented in 2021 and 2023 mainly for Air Freight.

The third release, which is applicable for maritime transport, will be launched on April 1, 2025.

Starting from this date, for all goods transported by Ocean Freight 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 seaport 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 you to provide the new mandatory additional information in your shipping documents and orders.

Please review our [‘ICS2 Briefing for Shippers’](#) for details.

Among others, these are the **key data elements that European Member State Authorities require to receive:**

1. 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.

2. Goods’ Description

Please provide **accurate** commodities description, using detailed, precise, and 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.



3. 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 EU authorities but neither shared with other parties nor printed on documentation.

We suggest that you are providing your EORI number to us in advance so that it is available when doing business with us.

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 [‘ICS2 Briefing for Shippers’](#) or on the [webpage of the European Commission](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your local DHL Global Forwarding Sales or Customer Service representative.

We appreciate your continued partnership and understanding.

Kind regards
DHL Global Forwarding