

ICS2 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is ICS2?

ICS2 (Import Control System 2) is a new system that has been designed to improve security by identifying high-risk consignments among shipments entering or transiting the European Union (EU) from a Non-EU country. It will collect information via electronic message about shipments (both cargo and mail) before being loaded onto the aircraft.

2. Who will be impacted by ICS2?

ICS2 impacts several parties within the supply chain from Freight Forwarders; Shippers; Importers; Postal Operators; Express Carriers & Air Carriers.

3. Which countries are taking part in ICS2?

The EU-27 member States plus Northern Ireland; Norway & Switzerland. For a complete list of the EU-27 member states, [please click here](#).

4. When will ICS2 be in effect?

ICS2 Release 2, relevant for air cargo, was expected to go live on 01 MAR 2023. However, following the EU commission's latest recommendation to allow for readiness of all member states, AA Cargo has applied for and been granted a deployment window until 30th June 2023. From 1st July new data elements will be mandatory.

5. What additional information does ICS2 require to be sent to the EU Customs system?

ICS2 requires two (2) additional data elements of information:

- a) The first 6-digits of the Harmonize Commodity Code (HS). In case of consolidation to the House Airwaybill level.
- b) The consignee's Economic Operator's Registration and Identification number (EORI) - * Not applicable for shipments in transit thru the EU

6. What is an EORI number and where can I obtain one?

An EORI number, or Economic Operator's Registration and Identification number, is a unique identifier assigned to businesses and individuals involved in importing, exporting, or moving goods within the European Union. Please refer to the European Commission website to learn how to obtain one and for additional information: https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-procedures-import-and-export-0/customs-procedures/economic-operators-registration-and-identification-number-eori_en

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7. What format of message should be used for the data transmission to AA Cargo?

Both Cargo IMP and Cargo XML formats. However, Cargo XML is a better vehicle for all data required, especially for those shipments containing multiple HS codes (more than 9).

8. How can these additional data elements be sent to AA Cargo?

- a) For Simple or Direct shipments in the FWB/xFWB message
- b) For Consolidation shipments in the FHL/xFZB message

9. In what part or line of the FWB/FHL & xFWB/xFZB message must the two new data elements be reflected?

We are working on updating our technical page that will reflect this information and will be posted soon.

10. In case of consolidation with multiple HS codes, what needs to be put in the MAWB?

In case of Consolidation shipment, the HS code on the MAWB should be the HS code of the more prevalent items. It is recommended to provide at Master level the HS code that allows to best identify merchandise transported.

11. Does the AA Cargo.com portal have the ability to capture the 2 new data elements for ICS2?

Yes, Our Information Technology and Business partner are working diligently to enable this option in the AA Cargo.com portal. More information coming soon.

12. What happens in case only one HAWB under a Consolidation shipment received a referral? Will the rest of the shipment fly?

No, even if only one HAWB has a referral pending AA will hold the entire shipment until receive the "OK to load".