

## Import Control System (ICS) 2 – Release 2

ICS (Import Control System) is the system of electronic management of security control for the shipments destined or transiting through the European Union\*, Switzerland & Norway.

ICS Release 2 represents the upgrading of the EU customs security control system, based on the electronic transmission of data for customs purposes

As of March 1st 2023, all goods transported by air will be subject, in addition to **pre-loading** filing requirements, to complete **pre-arrival** filing.

### This will affect:

- Shipments destined to the European Union\*, Switzerland & Norway → for example: a shipment from USA to Belgium.
- Shipments physically transiting through the European Union\*, Switzerland & Norway → for example: a shipment from USA, which transits through an Air Hub in Europe, and then goes to Dubai.

Therefore, **all shipments from any origin to any destination worldwide may be impacted.**

For that reason, it is important that all shippers globally provide complete & accurate electronic line item data to ensure a smooth and fast security filing & customs clearance at destination.

In order to avoid delays, it is important that shippers provide complete and accurate Commercial / Proforma Invoice line item data electronically.

Our Customers can find our updated procedure "SHIPMENTS OF PRODUCTS FROM EXTRA EU COUNTRIES" on Neotron website at the following link [https://www.neotron.it/media/ithgxitn/shipments-of-products-from-extra-eu-countries\\_022023.pdf](https://www.neotron.it/media/ithgxitn/shipments-of-products-from-extra-eu-countries_022023.pdf)

Among others, **the two most critical** data elements to ensure a smooth security filing & customs clearance at import are:

### 1 - Line Item Goods Descriptions

Please provide accurate commodities description, using detailed, precise & 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"*
- Avoid generic goods descriptions such as "gifts", "samples", "spare parts", "equipment", "clothes", "textiles", etc.
- Please find additional examples of unacceptable descriptions in the EU Commission document:

[https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-03/guidance\\_acceptable\\_goods\\_description\\_en.pdf](https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-03/guidance_acceptable_goods_description_en.pdf)

### 2 - Line Item Harmonized System (HS) Code

Please include the respective Harmonized System (HS) Code (at least the first 6 digits) on line item for each of the different commodities.

- Preferably, indicate the complete Import Tariff Code of each commodity being shipped.
- The Harmonized System (HS) Code is defined by the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the 2022 HS Nomenclature edition is publicly available on the WCO website:

<https://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools/hs-nomenclature-2022-edition.aspx>

For more details on ICS2, please consult the European Commission website:

[https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/import-control-system-2-ics2-0/import-control-system-2-release-2\\_en](https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/import-control-system-2-ics2-0/import-control-system-2-release-2_en)

*\*European Union (EU) countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands Slovakia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Hungary.*

**NOTE:** Northern Ireland is considered a point of entry into the European Union, therefore shipments destined for (or in transit) to Northern Ireland are also affected, as well as shipments destined for (or in transit) to other EU territories (e.g. French Guiana, etc.).