

The Entry Summary Declaration (ENS)

Content of an ENS

It shall contain particulars as number of items, consignor, consignee, weight etc. These data for such declaration are laid down in Table 2 of Annex 30A CCIP and the ENS shall be completed in accordance with the explanatory notes in that Annex. The ENS shall be authenticated by the person making it.

Why is there an obligation to lodge an Entry Summary Declaration (ENS)?

Yes, since in order to allow the assessment of the risk before the arrival of the goods and to ensure that no delays for the logistical chain occur, pre-arrival information for all goods brought into the Community has to be made available before the goods are brought into the Community in the form of an Entry Summary Declaration (ENS).

How shall the economic operator lodge the ENS?

The ENS must be submitted electronically¹ and within a certain time limit (see below).

Where shall the ENS be lodged?

In principle an ENS must be lodged at the first customs office of entry, but another customs office (office of lodgement) can accept it if an electronic link with the first customs office of entry is available². Nevertheless, the customs office of entry remains responsible for risk analysis.

Who is responsible for lodging the ENS?

It is the operator of the active means of transport on or in which the goods are brought into the customs territory of the Community who is responsible for the lodging of an ENS. The operator (or “the carrier”) is the person who brings, or who assumes responsibility for the carriage of, the goods into the customs territory of the Community.

Can another person lodge the ENS instead of the carrier?

Yes, but this does not relieve the carrier of the responsibility. In the end it is the carrier that must ensure that an ENS is made, and within the time limits. Therefore, the ENS may be lodged by a person other than the carrier only with the carrier’s knowledge and consent.

Are there any exceptions to the lodging of the ENS?

The customs office of entry may waive the lodging of an entry summary declaration in respect of goods for which an electronic customs declaration is lodged within the time limits for an ENS, provided the customs declaration contains the particulars of an ENS.

Other examples for when an ENS is not required are:

- electrical energy,
- goods entering by pipeline,
- letters and postal consignments,
- goods contained in travellers' personal luggage,
- goods for which an oral customs declaration is permitted etc.

What are the time limits for the lodging of an ENS?

The time limits for the lodging of the ENS vary according to the mean of transport and duration of transportation carrying the goods in to the customs territory of the Community.

Containerised maritime cargo (except short sea containerised shipping)	At least 24 hours before commencement of loading in each
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¹ Each Member State is developing its own IT system for presenting the ENS and each national system may have a different name. The trans-European IT system that allows diversions of the mean of transport as well as the use of office of lodgement (by decision of each Member State) is known as Import Control System (ICS).

² See the list possible .../ under .../ will be available in the later stage.

	foreign load port
Bulk/ break bulk maritime cargo (except short sea bulk/ break bulk shipping)	At least 4 hours before arrival at the first port in the Community
Short sea shipping: Movements between Greenland, Faroe Islands, Ceuta, Melilla, Norway, Iceland, ports on the Baltic Sea, ports on the North Sea, ports on the Black Sea or ports on the Mediterranean and The Community except French overseas department, Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands	At least 2 hours before arrival at the first port in the Community
Short sea shipping: Movements with a duration of less than 24 hours between A territory outside the customs territory of the Community and The French overseas departments, Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands	At least 2 hours before arrival at the first port in the Community
Short haul flights (less than 4 hours duration)	At least by the time of the actual take off of the aircraft
Long haul flights (more than 4 hours duration)	At least 4 hours before arrival at the first airport in the Community
Rail and inland waterways	At least 2 hours before arrival at the customs office of entry in the Community
Road traffic	At least 1 hour before arrival at the customs office of entry in the Community