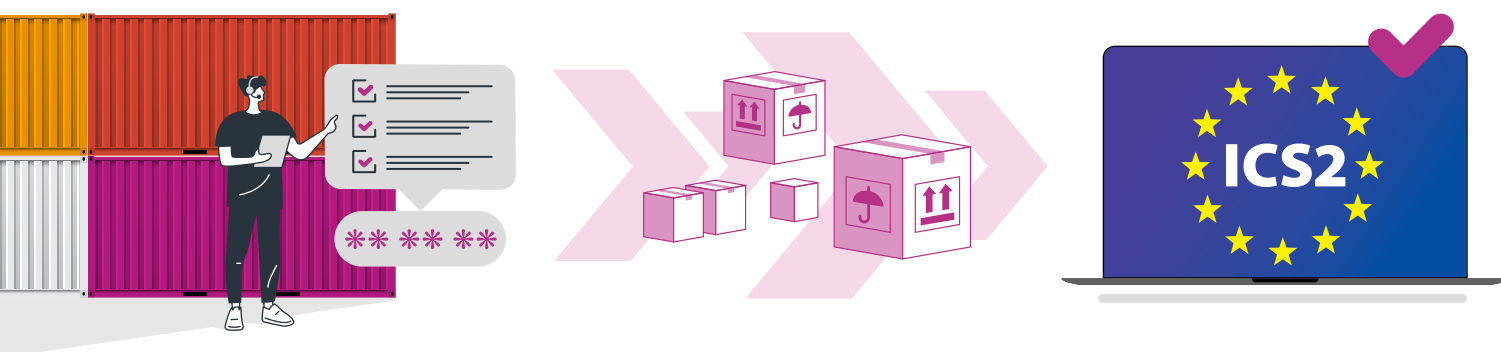# ICS2

Release 3:
Prepare your business for sending goods to or via the EU by rail

If you are involved in **handling and transporting goods** (including postal consignments) to or through the EU, Northern Ireland, Norway, or Switzerland **by rail**, you will need to comply with the **European Union's customs pre-arrival safety and security system – Import Control System 2 (ICS2) – data reporting requirements from 1 April 2025**. These requirements also concern e-commerce businesses.

The third release of ICS2 will already be live from 3 June 2024, when all EU Member States should be ready to accept ICS2 filings from all economic operators (first maritime and inland waterways, followed by rail and road).

What are the key requirements?

The rail carrier will be legally responsible for ensuring that a complete and accurate Entry Summary Declaration (ENS) dataset is submitted in the ICS2 system for all goods before their arrival into the EU.

The ENS will have detailed safety and security information about the transported goods that includes a complete commercial description, an HS6 digit commodity code, and additional details of involved parties (e.g. information about the buyer or seller).

How do you prepare the ENS?

From 1 April 2025, the carrier will have to declare safety and security data to ICS2 in a complete ENS.

The carrier has to obtain the necessary data *(e.g. consignment note, commercial invoice, additional details of involved parties)* from all underlying house transport documents/consignment notes from the issuing freight forwarders *(e.g. based in China)* and other house filers involved *(e.g. exporters, EU based consignees, including postal operators, issuing equivalent transport documents)*.

ENS

1 April 2025

What is multiple ENS filing?

By the end of 2025, in addition to single ENS filing, ICS2 will also enable **multiple filing** of ENS data, where more than one partial ENS filing is submitted by different parties in the supply chain.

In case of multiple filing, the carrier and house filers need to proactively communicate with each other to agree who provides the partial ENS filings and to exchange the necessary information *(e.g. number of consignment note, EORI of the carrier, EORI of the house filer)* that will be used for linking the partial ENS filings in ICS2.

Where you are the carrier issuing a master level transport document/consignment note you will need to submit a partial ENS based on your master transport document/consignment note and declare the EORI of the freight forwarder in your filing. The freight forwarder will then become responsible for the house level data filing to ICS2 and will have to obtain data from other house issuing parties or declare in its partial ENS filing the identity of parties (EORI number) still required to file.

Where you are the house filer (freight forwarder, consolidator, importer in the EU) issuing a house level transport document/consignment note, you will have to communicate with the carrier that you issue house level documentation and file a partial ENS to ICS2 yourself that contains only the house level transport document information.

Where you are the importer in the EU, depending on the contractual arrangements with other involved parties, you will have to either provide the buyer and seller information to the party filing the ENS data or file directly to ICS2 an ENS containing this information.

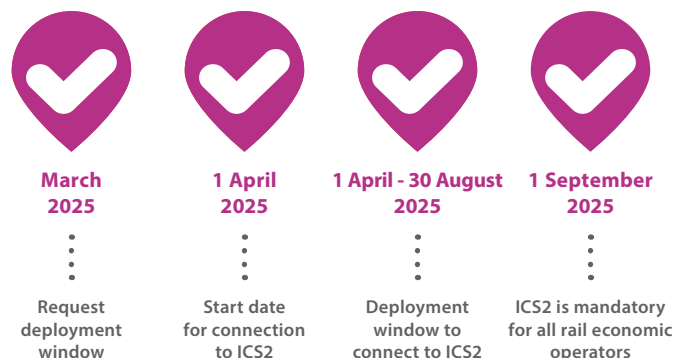## Are there other ways to file ENS data?

The national customs administrations may also offer the possibility in the future to file a **combined transit declaration containing ENS particulars in the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) Phase 6 instead of ICS2**. This will be possible if you plan to file transit declarations through NCTS Phase 6 from March 2025.

Only a **full ENS** data set can be filed with the transit declaration in NCTS, and multiple filling cannot be used. The combined transit declaration will be used for the entry formalities until the presentation of the goods at the first customs office of entry to the EU. More information is available at this *link*.

Important dates to remember:

1 April 2025: Rail carriers and house level filers have to connect to ICS2 and start filing ENS data into the system.

If you are not ready to start filing on 1 April 2025, you need to contact the *National Service Desk of the EU Member State* (National Customs Authority) where your EORI number was registered and **request by end of March 2025 at the latest a deployment window**.

March 2025	1 April 2025	1 April - 30 August 2025	1 September 2025
Request deployment window	Start date for connection to ICS2	Deployment window to connect to ICS2	ICS2 is mandatory for all rail economic operators

How do you get ready for ICS2?

› **FAMILIARISE** yourself with the new requirements:
  › *European Commission website* and *FAQ*
  › European Commission *CIRCABC document sharing platform*

› **ARRANGE** – as a carrier – to obtain all the information that is necessary to lodge a complete ENS filing in ICS2 or **PLAN** contractually with all involved parties that as a carrier you submit the master level data, and they submit the necessary house level information to ICS2 under their responsibility and within the legal time limit. In case of multiple filing, exchanging the information among the stakeholders is essential.

› **OBTAIN** an EORI number from one of the EU Member States' customs authorities to be able to submit ENS filings. More information *here*.

› **UPDATE** your IT systems to connect directly with ICS2, or instead, **CONTRACT** an IT service provider to offer IT services for ENS filing. Contact the *National Service Desk* of the Member State where your EORI number is registered to get guidance on the steps to follow.

To take the first steps in your technical preparation consult this *factsheet*.

› **ENSURE** you have the necessary business processes in place to comply with ICS2 requirements, including having operational protocols in case of system failures, for multiple filing or for receiving notifications from the customs authorities.

› **TRAIN** your staff and allocate resources to operate the updated IT systems and business processes.

› **RUN** the mandatory self-conformance tests, to make sure that your IT systems can be used for sending and receiving technical messages to and from ICS2. Check the *Self-Conformance testing organisation document* for next steps.

› **START** ENS filing with ICS2 from 1 April 2025 or **REQUEST** the Member State of EORI registration for a deployment window if you are not ready on the go-live date. More information about the go-live procedure is available *here*.

What will happen if you're not ready in time?

› Goods will be stopped at the EU customs borders.
› The goods in question will not be cleared by the customs authorities.
› Inadequate declarations will either be rejected or subject to intervention, with possible sanctions imposed for non-compliance.

STAY ON TRACK FOR ICS2
Find out more on the website: **ec.europa.eu/ICS2**

Publications Office of the European Union