



ICS2 Advisory for Shippers: What You Need to Know

The Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is a new customs initiative implemented by the European Union, aimed at enhancing the security and safety of goods entering the EU. For shippers, adherence to ICS2 is crucial to ensure compliance and smooth shipping operations. Here's a detailed guide and advice for shippers operating under the ICS2 framework.

Key Elements of ICS2:

1. Advance Cargo Information:

- Shippers must provide detailed advance cargo information before the goods arrive in the EU. This includes data about the sender, recipient, the nature of the goods, and transport details.

2. Submission Procedure:

- Cargo information must be submitted electronically via the customs authority of the destination Member State. Shippers should ensure that their ships and transport companies are capable of handling this electronic submission.

3. Data Requirements:

- The ICS2 requires specific data elements to be provided, including but not limited to:
 - Consignor and consignee details
 - Description of the goods
 - Transport details (including the mode of transport)
 - Any relevant Harmonized System (HS) codes
 - Country of origin



4. Security and Risk Assessment:

- The provided information will undergo security and risk assessments by customs authorities before cargo is loaded onto vessels. Ensure data accuracy to prevent delays or penalties.

5. Timeframes:

- The advance cargo information must be submitted within specific timeframes. For air shipments, information should be submitted at least 4 hours before departure. For maritime shipments, it is typically 24 hours before loading. Check specific timelines for your transport mode.

6. Failure to Comply:

- Non-compliance with ICS2 regulations can lead to delays, fines, or even refusal of entry for the goods. Shippers are urged to ensure all shipments comply with these new requirements.

Advice for Shippers:

1. Stay Informed:

- Keep up to date with any changes or updates in regulations regarding the ICS2. Regularly review guidance issued by the European Commission and customs authorities.

2. Invest in Technology:

- Utilize software and systems that are capable of managing and submitting advance cargo information efficiently. This helps in minimizing errors and ensuring compliance.

3. Training and Resources:

- Ensure that staff involved in shipping and customs compliance are adequately trained on ICS2 requirements and procedures. Providing resources and training can help reduce misunderstandings and improve compliance rates.



4. Communication with Future Forwarding:

- Maintain clear communication lines with us as your logistics provider. Proper information sharing is vital to ensure all parties are aligned and compliant with ICS2.

5. Prepare for Changes:

- The ICS2 represents a shift in customs management, and shippers should prepare for ongoing changes in laws and regulations. Adjust internal processes as necessary to align with these requirements.

6. Review Shipping Processes:

- Conduct regular audits of your shipping processes to identify areas that may require improvement, especially regarding data collection and submission.

7. Risk Assessment:

- Stay on top of the risk profiles for different destinations and shipments. Monitor patterns and adjust your approach based on the evolving landscape.

Compliance with the Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is essential for all shippers looking to operate within the European Union effectively. By understanding the requirements and taking proactive steps to align with the new regulations, shippers can minimize risks, enhance their operations, and ensure smoother shipping processes. For detailed information, shippers should refer to official resources provided by the European Commission and seek guidance from customs experts when needed.