



Customs update



Dear customer,

We are writing to you because you currently submit export declarations through the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) service.

The Customs Declaration Service (CDS) is due to replace CHIEF for exports. The last day for making export declarations through CHIEF is 30 March 2024. After this date, you will need to make all your export declarations through the CDS.

One of the first steps you must take to get ready for moving your export declarations is to subscribe to the CDS. You must do so now to make sure your export migration journey is as smooth as possible.

How to subscribe to the CDS

To subscribe to the CDS you will need the following information:

- the Government Gateway user ID and password that you use for your business or organisation, or yourself, if you're applying as an individual – if you do not have a user ID, you can create one when you start the subscription process – you cannot use an agent Government Gateway user ID
- [your Economic Operator Registration and Identification \(EORI\)](#) number that starts with GB – your EORI number and Customs Declaration Service accounts will be linked to your Government Gateway user ID
- your Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) – [find your UTR](#) if you do not know it
- the business address that we hold on our customs records
- your National Insurance number (if you're an individual or sole trader)
- the date you started your business

When you have these details ready, go to '[Subscribe to the Customs Declaration Service](#)' to subscribe.

What should I do when I have subscribed?

We are currently working to make sure the CDS supports all export routes and all the different types of export declarations submitted at the border. You should not start moving your export declarations to the CDS at this time unless we or your software provider have contacted you.

Once you have subscribed to the CDS, you can contact the software provider you will be using to submit your export declarations through the CDS. They will tell you:

- if their software is authorised to start submitting export declarations through the CDS
- whether you can start using their software to access the free Trader Dress Rehearsal (TDR) service to practice submitting export declarations through the CDS in a safe test environment

Further information can be found at [Trader Dress Rehearsal service on GOV.UK](#).

If you currently use the National Export System web service (NESWeb) to submit your export declarations through CHIEF, you will still need to subscribe to the CDS. You will also be able to use the upcoming HMRC Make an Export Declaration Online service. This is due to launch this winter and will replace NESWeb. We will contact you when this service is available for you.

Further help and support

For further guidance and resources go to the [CDS collection page](#) and the [CDS communication pack](#) on GOV.UK. This includes instructions on how you will need to submit your export declarations in the future. There is also a YouTube video [showing how to subscribe to the CDS](#). If you have any general questions about the CDS, contact [imports and exports: general enquiries](#).

By taking these steps now, you will be prepared to start submitting export declarations through the CDS once it supports all routes and types of declarations.

We will contact you again when you are able to take further action.

Yours faithfully,
HM Revenue and Customs



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