

CUSTOMS INFORMATION PAPER (09) 42

Export Control System (ECS) – Indirect export movements from 1 July 2009

Who should read:	All traders involved in international export trade including exporters, agents, freight forwarders and carriers
What is it about:	This paper outlines the process for indirect export movements (i.e. those that are exported from the UK but leave the EU via another Member State)
When effective:	1 July 2009
Extant until/ Expires	Until further notice

1. Introduction

[CIP \(09\) 31](#) provided a summary of the major changes traders can expect when the Export Control System (ECS) and the safety and security requirements are implemented from 1 July 2009. This CIP, on indirect export movements via Other Member States is one of a series which provide more detail on specific issues relating to ECS.

Further information on ECS is available on the [ECS web page](#) where you can find full details of how ECS will operate alongside the National Export System (NES) from 1 July 2009.

2. Background – Indirect export movements

ECS Phase 1 introduces an electronic messaging system to replace the use of the paper SAD Travelling Copy 3 for indirect export movements. An indirect export movement is where goods declared for export in one Member State are to leave the European Union (EU) via another Member State. In this context the first Member State acts in the role of Office of Export and the second Member State acts in the role of Office of Exit and must certify the final exit of the goods from the EU.

Whilst the UK introduced Office of Exit functionality in September 2007, Office of Export functionality is to be introduced on 1 July 2009. This paper outlines

the ECS Office of Export processes that will operate in the UK from 1 July 2009.

3. Initiating an indirect export movement

The UK ECS messaging system is known as ECN+. However, UK traders will continue to interface with CHIEF (the UK National Export System - NES). A Movement Reference Number (MRN) will be issued by CHIEF for every export declaration input after 1 July 2009, at the same time as the entry number is now. The MRN is the key reference for ECS messaging.

UK Office of Export processing will only be initiated by CHIEF when Box 29 (Office of Exit) on an export declaration contains a valid Customs Office code in another Member State. The Office of Exit codes can be found on the Europa website under [EUROPA COL list](#).

As soon as a CHIEF export declaration receives Permission to Progress (P2P), an Anticipated Export Record (AER) message will be sent to the ECS system of the Member State shown in Box 29 to say that “the goods are on their way”. This message will include the MRN and other details that allow the Office of Exit to identify the goods when they arrive at the EU frontier.

Once P2P is given, the goods may move but, if it is an indirect export exiting via another Member State, it should be accompanied by an Export Accompanying Document (EAD) showing both the MRN and a barcode.

Once P2P is given and depending upon the UK location from which the goods are moving, the CHIEF status (ICS¹) for the declaration will then show either code 50, 51, (P2P codes) or 60 or 61 (departed codes). If a trader wishes, for departed codes, a CHIEF S8 report (Export Movement Departure Advice) may be generated at this point.

4. Completion of an indirect export movement

Upon arrival of the goods at the Office of Exit in another Member State, the EAD should be presented to the Customs authorities who will, if satisfied, arrange for closure or completion of the ECS movement on their system. This is done by scanning the EAD barcode or input of the MRN number into the ECS system which will in turn update the UK ECN+ and consequently CHIEF.

When an ECS movement is closed, CHIEF will update the declaration status (ICS) to 62 which shows that the goods have exited the EU. At this point an initial or further S8 report may be generated which will include the final ICS62 code.

It will be noted that where previously an ICS of 61 did not provide evidence of export, an ICS 62 code does fulfill this function.

¹ Import Clearance Status

5. Uncompleted indirect export movements

Where an ECS movement has been initiated, it must in due course be closed. If an indirect export remains unclosed for a period of time the following process is initiated:

Once a period of 45 days has elapsed from Permission to Progress and no completion message from another Member State has been received, CHIEF will generate a new report S0 (zero) to the declarant. The CHIEF status (ICS) of the declaration will now change to 56.

The S0 report is to remind the declarant that the ECS movement has not been completed and advises of the necessity to take further action. The message generated by the S0 report is as follows:

“No Official evidence of exit of this indirect export from the EU has been received. This ECS movement is now under the control of the UK ECS Help-Desk at Harwich. Please e-mail evidence of the status of this export to Harwich at the address listed on the ECS web page. NB: This ECS record will be cancelled if no response is received”.

This may require the declarant or his representative to provide information to the UK ECS Helpdesk at Harwich if, for example, the goods left the UK for direct export to a 3rd country or exited via an Office of Exit different to that declared on the export declaration. The Email address for the ECS Helpdesk at Harwich is ECS.Helpdesk@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk.

If there has been no satisfactory resolution of the ECS movement within 150 days of Permission to Progress being received, it will be cancelled on ECN.

6. Converting a direct export to an indirect export

It is recognised that in some cases, goods that were originally intended for direct export (and thus Box 29 on the CHIEF declaration was not completed), may end up leaving via another Member State.

In such instances, the MRN provided by CHIEF at the time of declaration input can be provided to the Office of Exit in another Member State who will be able to interrogate the UK's ECS database. The CHIEF declaration will then be subject to the processing as outlined above.

7. Contacts

Further details on the Export Control System and related issues can be found on the [ECS web page](#). The June edition of the Tariff has been updated to reflect ECS changes – the updated exports section (Volume 3 Part 1) is now available. If your query is not answered by the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) available on the ECS web page or the Tariff please email your query to:

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Issued on the **19 June 2009** by the JCCC Secretary, HM Revenue and Customs, Customs & International Directorate. E Mail @ [JCCC Secretariat](#)

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