

Customs Single Window (SW)/CERTEX

The Customs Single Window (SW)/ CERTEX has been in operation in Ireland since 2015. The latest phase of the SW was implemented in October 2022. We are now moving to the next phase. Further phases will see the introduction of SW for Ozone Depleting Substance Certs, F-Gas Licences and Cultural Goods Licences. Details of timelines and changes are provided below.

Phase 1 - Structure of the AIS Import Declaration – October 2022

Phase 1 introduced a business rule making it mandatory for the relevant certificates (CHEDs and others) to be declared at goods shipment item level and not at goods shipment header level on the AIS customs declaration.

This Business Rule was released on the live system on 19th October 2022.

On multi line-item import declarations the certificate number must be declared for every line item on the customs declaration where the CN code requires a certificate. Insertion of the same certificate number in several line items in the import declaration may be required. Certificates of the same type should not be declared on the same line item but should be declared on separate line items on the AIS declaration .

The import declaration will however accept combinations of different types of certificates on each line item. For example, a single line item may require the declaration of a CHED.D certificate with a COI certificate or a CHED.D, CHED.PP and a COI.

Next phase – Certificate Number Validation

Revenue will go live with the certificate number validation piece for all CHED and COI certificates on **11th January 2023**. If a declarant attempts to submit a customs declaration with an invalid certificate number from this date for any CHED or COI the declaration will be rejected, on submission.

A further phase will incorporate Quantity Management checks, which refers to the matching of the CN code and Net mass or supplementary units. The legal deadline for implementation of the full functionality of the Single Window is 1st March 2023 and so our go live date for this phase will be prior to that date.

The following is a summary of the new process. Please note that this document may be subject to minor changes as we set, and pass go live release dates.

Certificates Impacted

Declaring any of the following certificates on an AIS import declaration will trigger validation of the certificate number from 11 January 2023.

CHED-D	Common Health Entry Document for food and feed of non-animal origin
CHED-PP	Common Health Entry Document for plants and products of plant origin
CHED-A	Common Health Entry Document for live animals
CHED-P	Common Health Entry Document for products of animal origin
COI	Certificate of inspection for organic conformity

Certificate availability check

When the Combined Nomenclature (CN) code requires any of the above-mentioned certificates/licences on the customs import declaration AIS will carry out an initial validation of the certificate number. AIS will reject the import declaration before an MRN is issued, if the certificate number cannot be found in the relevant EU database.

If the certificate number is valid, processing of the declaration will continue and the MRN will issue as normal. Declarants need to submit the certificate in full to the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), complete all necessary actions, before declaring the certificate number on the import declaration.

If the certificate number is valid but has been rejected by the relevant agency, AIS will reject the import declaration before the MRN is issued.

The following checks: Certificate Status, Quantity Management Check and CN Code Check will be implemented in the next phase, in February 2023.

Certificate Status

When the goods are 'presented' to customs on arrival into Ireland, AIS will electronically check the TRACES database. Once the relevant authority has validated the certificate, AIS will receive a positive response back from TRACES. This will allow the process to move to the next stage, the Quantity Management check and CN Code checks.

Quantity Management Check

The Quantity Management check will verify that the net mass declared on the customs declaration matches or does not exceed the amount on the certificate. There is no tolerance in this check, any amount exceeding the amount available on the relevant certificate will create a mismatch.

In certain limited circumstances, the certificate will not have a net mass figure declared but will have, for example, supplementary units. In these limited instances, AIS will perform the check using the Supplementary Units figure.

Where AIS receives a positive response back from TRACES, this will allow the process to move to the next stage.

Where AIS receives a negative response back from TRACES (meaning there is a mismatch between the quantity declared and that available on the certificate) then AIS will return a message to the declarant with the reason for failure outlined. The line-item detail where the failure occurred will also be provided. The declaration will move to a status of "amend by trade". At this point the declarant will have to amend the declaration in AIS, if there is an error in the data submitted and resubmit when the error has been corrected.

CN Code Check

The CN code check will verify that the CN code declared on the customs declaration matches the CN code declared on the relevant certificate. AIS will always have the CN code declared at 10-digit level. The certificates will regularly have the CN code declared at 4,6 or 8 digit level. This check will match whatever number of digits are available on the certificate. For

example, code 2002 10 10 00 on an import declaration will match successfully with code 2002 on the certificate.

Where all CN code check responses back from TRACES are positive, this will allow the declaration to move to the next stage.

Where AIS receives a negative response back from TRACES (meaning there is a mismatch between the CN code declared on the declaration and what is declared on the certificate) then AIS will return a message to the declarant with the reason for failure outlined along with the line-item detail where the failure occurred. The declaration will move to a status of “amend by trade”. At this point the declarant will have to amend the declaration in AIS if there is an error in the data submitted and resubmit when the error has been corrected.

If the Quantity Management and CN codes checks are passed, the declaration will move to released, provided any other controls have been released and there are sufficient monies in the account to pay any duties or taxes owed.

Analysis/Findings

The analysis we have carried out so far on import declarations, that will be impacted by the upcoming changes, has revealed the following:

- Relevant certificates are not always being declared or are being declared in the wrong format.
- Certificates are being declared with incorrect document codes.

Current analysis on import declarations submitted indicate a significant level of data mismatches between quantities declared on import declaration and quantities declared on the relevant CHED or COI. Quantity mismatches may cause significant delays in the release of goods from customs control.