

# New Shipping Requirements to the European Union



## Coming Soon

On **March 1, 2023**, the EU's Import Control System 2 (ICS2) Release 2 takes effect. At that time Harmonized System (HS) Tariff Codes will be required on postal shipments into the EU.



## What is ICS2?

**ICS2** is the EU's IT system created to collect data about all goods entering the EU prior to their arrival through an Entry Summary Declaration (ENS). The first release of this customs pre-arrival safety and security program took effect in March 2021.



## ICS2 Release 2

With **Release 2**, freight forwarders, express couriers, ETOEs, and postal operators transporting goods to the EU by air will be required to submit advance cargo information in the form of an ENS to the air carrier or file the data themselves.



## HS Codes Required March 1, 2023

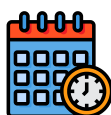
An HS code will be required on the customs form (CN 22 and CN 23). Shippers will need to know each country's specific requirement but an HS10 code would ensure compliance. Merchants must provide quality descriptions of their goods. Per the EU, vague item descriptions on customs forms, such as "gifts," "clothing," "electronics," or "none" will not be acceptable descriptions.



Quality of description is key:  
50 to 100 CHARACTERS (about 10 - 15 words) is the optimal length.<sup>1</sup>



Compliance will ensure timely and efficient delivery to the EU; avoid additional charges; prevent customs delays and/or return of non-compliant items; and improve the overall customer experience.



The March deadline is for shipments into the EU, but merchants and service providers should get in the habit of providing HS codes on all international postal shipments.

## Acceptable and Unacceptable Descriptions: Some Examples

### Unacceptable

Clothes

Gift

Artwork

Sanitary goods

Plants

### Acceptable

Men's cotton shirts, girls' denim jackets

One scented candle, remote-controlled car, silk scarf

Bust, picture, bronze

Detergent, toothbrush, towels

Cut Christmas trees, tulip bulbs, fresh rosemary

### References

<sup>1</sup> Source: [HSCodes.io](https://www.hs-codes.io/)

### Other sources:

- European Commission Taxation and Customs Union
- U.S. Postal Service
- EU's Guidance on Acceptable and Unacceptable Terms for the Description of Goods