



ICS2 Release 2

New requirements for EU air shipments



What is ICS2?

Import Control System 2 (ICS2) is the EU's new IT system that allows carriers to submit information about imported goods directly to the customs authority. It enables customs to prescreen shipments for risk assessment before they arrive in the European Union. ICS2 is rolling out in three phases. The first was released in 2021. Phase 2 will begin in March 2023.

What is release 2?

Each phase of ICS2 extends preloading or prearrival risk assessment requirements to different transit types. Phase two (effective March 2023) will apply to air shipments, directly affecting air carriers, freight forwarders, express courier services, and postal operators.

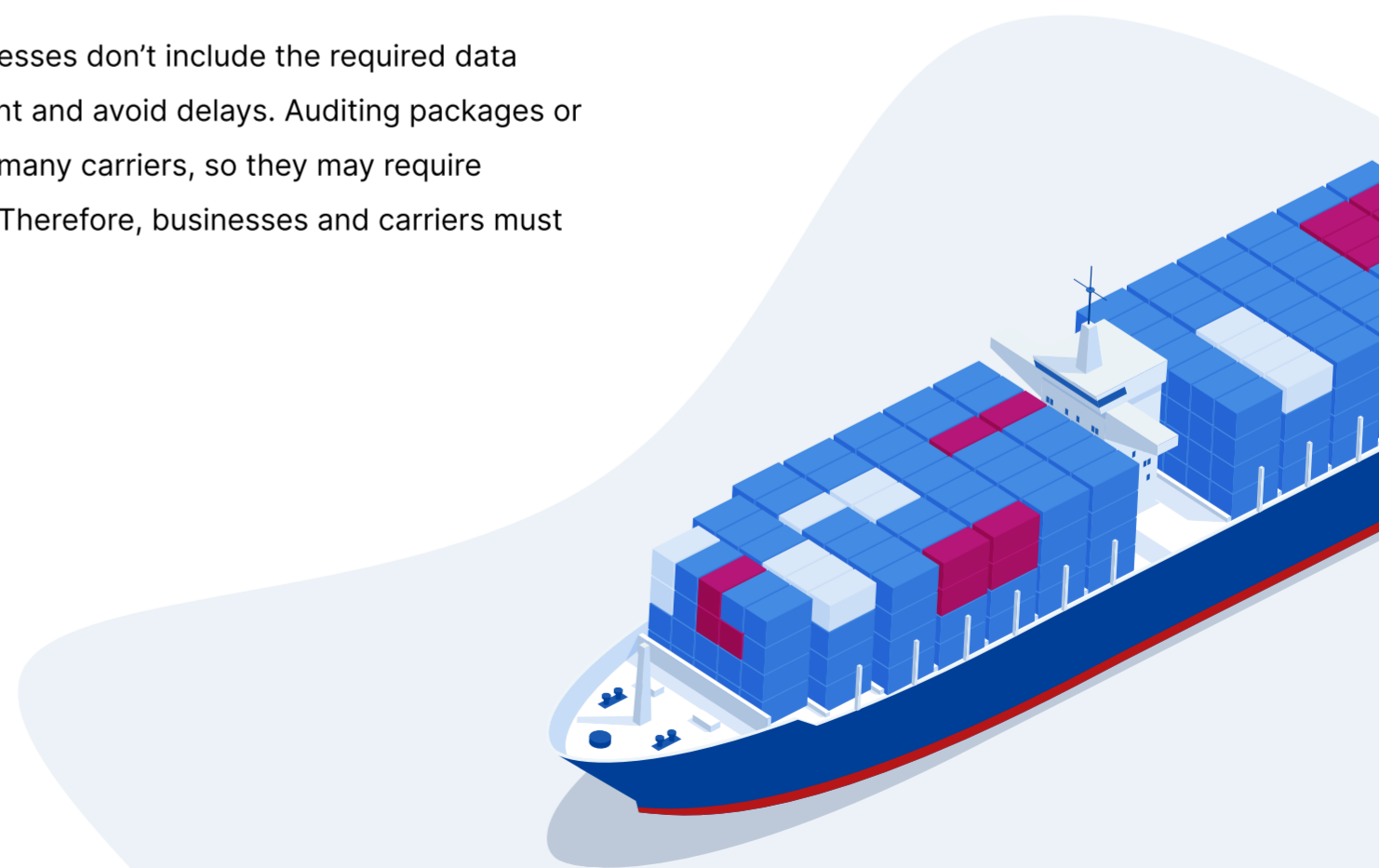
ICS2 releases:		<i>Release 1</i> 3/15/21	<i>Release 2</i> 3/1/23	<i>Release 3</i> 3/1/24
Affected economic operators	Postal operators	●	●	●
	Express carriers	●	●	●
	Third-country postal operators	●	●	●
	Freight forwarding and logistics providers		●	●
	Air carriers		●	
	Maritime, rail, and road carriers			●
	Businesses receiving good in the EU (Eg. consignees, importers)			●
	Affected modes of transportation			
	Air express preloading		Air general cargo	Maritime
	Postal air preloading		Air express full	Road
			Postal by air full	Rail

How to stay compliant

Carriers must submit all package details electronically through ICS2. If businesses don't include the required data with their shipments, carriers are responsible for providing it to stay compliant and avoid delays. Auditing packages or reaching out to businesses for missing information may not be an option for many carriers, so they may require retailers to include completed customs documentation for these shipments. Therefore, businesses and carriers must do their part to ensure shipments flow efficiently.

Businesses with shipments to the EU should:

- Include item descriptions and HS codes on clearance documentation (commercial invoice, CN22, CN23, etc.)
- Be aware of requirements for shipping restricted items safely within compliance standards





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Air carriers:

- Need an easy way to identify and harmonize goods for packages missing the ICS2 required information
- Need to be integrated with the ICS2 system to pass pre-screening data and receive messages from the customs authority
 - Perform the mandatory self-conformance tests before the deadline
- Need to have the necessary digital certificates from a certificate authority in the List of Trusted Lists (LOTL)



Other ways online retailers can be affected?

If retailers don't supply carriers with HS codes and descriptions for the items in their shipments, they should expect delivery delays, resulting in a poor customer experience. Carriers will likely have to audit these shipments and classify their goods. Since carriers aren't familiar with the products in the shipments, they may use incorrect HS codes, which could result in duty rates being assessed incorrectly, altering the landed cost. If the retailer pre-collects duties and taxes or ships with duties and taxes prepaid (DDP - Delivered Duty Paid), changing their customs info may cause them to lose money.

EORI numbers

Economic Operators Registration and Identification, or EORI, numbers are required for EU businesses to import or export goods into or out of the EU. EORI numbers are only required for business-to-business shipments, and only the EU recipient business must have one.

(Non-EU businesses will have one as sender if they have an EU headquarters.)

For B2B shipments entering the EU, the sender must collect the recipient business' EORI number before passing the shipment to the carrier. The carrier cannot depart without it. [See our guide](#) for more information on EORI numbers.

When an EORI number needed and who needs one

The EU Commission requires businesses to have an EORI. Individuals have a tax ID similar to the U.S. social security number but generally will not have or need an EORI. A non-EU sender should collect an EORI number from a business recipient for business-to-business shipments in the EU before shipping and include the EORI in the recipient tax ID field. If you're concerned about digital products or services, ICS2 and EORI requirements do not apply.

[Learn more](#) about Zonos technology to automate and simplify cross-border.