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FWC - ICS2 Campaign\03 - Release 2\05 -
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To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Invitation to support the operational roll-out of the new EU customs advance cargo information requirements entering into force on 1 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

On 1 March 2023, the European Union is launching the next phase of its customs pre-arrival security and safety programme, **Import Control System 2 (ICS2) – Release 2**.

Launched in March 2021, the ICS2 system aims to gather data on all goods destined for or transiting through the EU prior to them reaching the EU's borders (including Norway and Switzerland). This will have a direct effect on all actors organising logistics and the transportation of goods to or via the EU by air traffic, namely those involved in the dispatch, transport and handling international freight, express or postal consignments. It is of vital importance that every economic operator directly or indirectly affected by ICS2 align their business processes with this new regulatory and operational regime and complete the necessary steps to conform. Those who are not ready in time and/or have not provided the necessary data, will be stopped at the EU customs borders and, as a result, the goods may either be rejected or subject to intervention, with penalties imposed for non-compliance. Ultimately, through ICS2, customs authorities are strengthening a first line of defence in protecting the security, health and safety interests of the EU, its citizens and legitimate businesses. At the same time, it will enable a more efficient and effective external border control framework, which will help ensure the facilitated movement of legitimate trade across the EU's external borders.

In its first phase, ICS2 focused on express carriers and postal operators shipping goods in their consignments to or through the EU by air. **Starting on 1 March 2023, all postal operators, express couriers, express and air carriers, and freight forwarders** will be subject to ICS2 regulations, irrespective of whether they have legal establishment in or outside of the European Union. Finally, as of 1 March 2024, it will be extended to economic operators organising logistics and transporting goods through maritime, inland waterways, roads and railways.

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Further details about the timeline of the implementation of ICS2 and the new requirements are available [here](#).

We are contacting you, as your company/clients/members of your organisation might be impacted directly or indirectly by the implementation and the new requirements of ICS2 and may need to take the appropriate steps to prepare for this.

These include encouraging member companies of your organisation to:

- Evaluate their operations and determine whether they are involved in **bringing goods into or via the EU, Norway or Switzerland by air to comply with the requirements of Release 2 by 1 March 2023**, or by any other modes of transportation to ensure compliance by 1 March 2024.
- Familiarise themselves with the **entry summary declaration (ENS)** data filing requirements and take steps to align in-house data formats with the ICS2 mandatory messaging standards.
- Work with **IT staff or external representatives** to plan for the alignment of internal systems and business processes with ICS2 Release 2 requirements.
- Verify that companies can connect with ICS2 through their intended trader portal, including verification that the entity has an active **Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number**, is in possession of valid digital certificates, and has tested their ability to exchange messages through ICS2.
 - Companies can find more information about how to request or check their EORI number [here](#).
 - A conformance testing environment will be available for ICS2 Release 2 between July 2022 and February 2023. Companies that are covered by the scope of Release 2 should undertake necessary IT development activities as early as possible and ensure that they have completed conformance testing of their systems prior to 1 March 2023. Technical information regarding ICS2 Release 2 conformance testing and self-certification can be found [here](#).
- **Adjust business operating procedures** to be able to respond to dynamic interactions from EU customs authorities through ICS2, including conducting additional goods screenings (in accordance with EU civil aviation high risk cargo and mail screening requirements or, if applicable, relevant ICAO standards) or providing additional information prior to the loading and departure of goods.

We would greatly appreciate your invaluable support in spreading the information on ICS2 Release 2, circulating the materials in the campaign kit among your network and partners and raising awareness of the upcoming changes the ICS2 system will bring.

The outreach kit includes the following:

- **Two factsheets** with detailed information on the following:

- What economic operators, who are directly affected by the second release, need to do to get their IT systems ready in time.
For further information please visit ([link](#))
- What the new data reporting requirements under Release 2 are for freight forwarders, EU express couriers, postal operators with facilities outside the EU, and air carriers, irrespective of whether these operators are legally established within or outside of the European Union. For further information, please visit ([link](#))
- **Package of social media posts** - for sharing on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.
 - Please feel free to adapt and translate the English copy to the local language. We kindly ask you to use the hashtag #ICS2.
- **News statement** with information about the new ICS2 requirements – available online [here](#) – for sharing on your websites and newsletters.
- **Video** with information about ICS2 Release 2 - available online [here](#)

We appreciate your support, and we would value any feedback you would like to share with us about the kit, as well as the reactions of your members and network.

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed)
Priscila Fernandez-Canadas

Enclosure: Social media posts