



New Computerised Transit System

New Transit for a New Europe

NCTS Newsletter - March 2003

New Information for CT traders published

Last month's NCTS Newsletter advised that, due to the various revisions of MCC software since it was published on the C&E website last May, the document "NCTS - An Introduction for the Transit Trader" was out of date and was being revised and updated.

This has now been replaced by a new document - "NCTS - Information for the Transit Trader" on the [website](#), which will provide up to date information on how the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) is intended to operate in the UK. It focuses on the NCTS procedures that will be available to the CT trader and the associated terms and conditions for those traders that will be approved to use simplified procedures as Authorised Consignors and/or Consignees.

It also contains an explanatory guide to the actual information required in the various fields for completion, by declarants, of the Transit Declaration and other Information Exchange (IE) messages that connected traders will need to send to the NCTS.

UK NCTS preparing for EDI ...

The NCTS Project Team has now, by use of dummy declarations, successfully tested all of the IE exchange messages between trader and system required by NCTS, for both Normal and Simplified NCTS procedure, and are fully prepared for trader connection during the next quarter.

Traders that need to acquire or to develop software packages for NCTS should consider the scope of their requirement in respect of the messages that they will need to exchange with the NCTS, as this will depend upon their use of the various procedures. Different sets of IE messages are required at Office of Departure and Office of Destination and very few traders will need to exchange all of the 15 IE messages that are currently part of the full NCTS processing range.

For example, traders that will only use NCTS to make transit declarations to an Office of Departure, using either the 'Normal' procedure or, provided that they are an Authorised Consignor, the 'Simplified' Procedure, will use:-

SEND TO NCTS		RECEIVE FROM NCTS	
IE015	Declaration data	IE016	Declaration rejected
		IE028	Acceptance notification MRN allocated
		IE060	Control decision notification (Normal Proc. only)
IE014	Declaration cancellation request	IE009	Cancellation decision
		IE051	No release for transit
		IE029	Release for transit
		IE045	Write-off notification

However, a trader at destination that will use NCTS only to advise an Office of Destination of the arrival of the goods at an approved place, under the 'Normal' procedure, will only use

SEND TO NCTS		RECEIVE FROM NCTS	
IE007	Arrival notification	IE008	Arrival notification rejection
		IE025	Goods release notification

If the Destination trader is an Authorised Consignee, then the necessary set will be:-

SEND TO NCTS		RECEIVE FROM NCTS	
IE007	Arrival notification	IE008	Arrival notification rejection
		IE043	Unloading permission
IE044	Unloading remarks	IE058	Unloading remarks rejection
		IE025	Goods release notification

It is quite logical, therefore, that separate NCTS solutions, certainly for 'Departure Trader' and 'Destination Trader', could be developed.

... and EDI Testing continues

More than a dozen Software Houses have requested an EDI test pack, and two are already actively testing the exchange of messages with the system. The person to contact for a test pack, for other testing information or to arrange suitable test slots, is the NCTS Testing Manager, Ian Bradley

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Electronic Transit declarations

One consequence of the introduction of NCTS under trial conditions at the pilot sites, during which Customs staff are keying in transit declaration data from the paper (T-Form) declaration presented, has been to expose the lack of completeness and accuracy in many of the transit declarations currently being presented.

The NCTS automatically validates the data input to the system and will reject any declaration that is not complete, i.e. that does not have all of the mandatory data fields completed, or that has invalid codes or other data included. While small errors on a paper declaration may be missed, or simply amended, by the Office of Departure, the NCTS demands complete accuracy.

An electronic NCTS declaration requires exactly the same type and amount of information, set down in EU regulations, as does the current T-form declaration, and the fields in the electronic declaration co-relate directly to the Boxes on a SAD. Declarants must ensure that all declarations, whether paper or electronic, meet the legal requirements. Guidance on the correct completion of CT documents is included in Notice 751, How to fill in CT Documents, and in Volume III of the UK Tariff.

Customs Office List

One particular area of concern relating to the completion of transit declarations is the common inclusion by declarants of CT offices across Europe that don't exist. The old reference for CT Offices, "The Grey Book", published by the EU Commission has been replaced by an electronic Customs Office List (COL) on their Europa website. The URL for this list is the Europa Website is:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/dds/en/csrdhome.htm

Electronic declarations to the NCTS will require the Reference Number, listed on the COL, rather than the name, of the declared offices and will automatically reject a declaration containing invalid data.

It is essential that all CT declarants familiarise themselves with the Customs Office List and ensure that the only CT offices of Transit and Destination included on their declarations, paper or electronic, are taken from this list and have that defined role. In cases of doubt, enquiries should be made of the intended consignee to confirm the proper office.

More Countries connecting to NCTS

Ten countries, including the UK, are now using the NCTS for some, at least, international transit movements and this number is soon to be extended to thirteen. Portugal and Finland will start to use the NCTS for movement to and from a number of pilot offices on the 1 April, while Eire will commence similar trials on the 9th.

The new CT Offices to be involved are:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| ▪ Portugal | PT000040 (Alcantara Norte - LISBOA)
PT000284 (Freixieiro PORTO - Matasinhos)
PT000340 (Leixoes PORTO - Matasinhos) |
| ▪ Finland | FI201003 (TURKU SILJA REKKASELVITYS) |
| ▪ Eire | IE001104 (DUBLIN - ALEXANDRA QUAY). |

To date 1209 outward transit declarations have left UK under NCTS and 1173 NCTS movements have arrived.

The UK NCTS continues to give a robust performance, with little unavoidable down-time, and installation of the the new version of the MCC software, which will introduce the facility for traders to make electronic declarations to the NCTS has been satisfactorily completed.

Direct Authentication of the Transit Accompanying Document (TAD)

This new version of the MCC contains the additional functionality requested by UK Customs, to speed up transaction processing even further, and traders already involved in trials at the pilot offices, together with those soon to become involved at other offices, will now move goods forward under TADs directly authenticated by the NCTS.

BOX D of the TAD will now be printed with the Authentication text

"Authentication; (Art 199(2) Code (IP)/Art 4 (2) APiii Convention)"followed by a system generated unique identification number.

This means the TAD no longer needs to be authenticated by the Office of Departure by stamp. If the declaration includes paper load lists, however, then these will continue to have to be manually endorsed , with the MRN, and authenticated (stamped) by the Office of Departure.

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Technical support for traders attempting or intending to connect to the NCTS by e-mail via EDCS will also remain available; contact Fiona Byatt (Technical Documents and Information)

☎ 01702-36 1874 Fax 01702-366901 E-mail fiona.byatt@hmce.gsi.gov.uk;
or Ian Bradley (Testing)

☎ 01702-225200 Mob 07831-592246 E-mail ian.bradley@hmce.gsi.gov.uk

All enquiries about the day to day workings of UK NCTS should now be made of NCTS UK CENTRAL SERVICES HELPDESK (CCTO) , ☎; 01255 244709 or by E-Mail : ncts.helpdesk@hmce.gsi.gov.uk

Further, more detailed information for CT Traders about NCTS, can be obtained by visiting the NCTS page on the C&E website

or by contacting the

NATIONAL ADVICE SERVICE ☎ 0845 010 9000
(8AM TO 8PM, Monday to Friday)

who can put you in touch with your local International Trade Development Liaison Officer (ITDLO)