

Transport companies are to give advance declarations for goods brought into Finland from Russia as of 1 January 2011

As of 1 January 2011, a new customs declaration, an entry summary declaration, must be lodged for goods brought into Finland from outside the territory of the EU. This electronic declaration lodged in advance is a part of the EU-wide security data reform. The security data of goods imported under a transit procedure can be included in the transit declaration, and in such cases it is not necessary to submit a separate entry summary declaration.

Entry summary declaration

The transport company mentioned in the consignment note has the responsibility to ensure that the transport company or a representative or another actor with the company's consent notifies Finnish Customs of the so-called security data prior to the arrival of the goods. The data can be submitted either with an entry summary declaration to the AREX system of Finnish Customs or it can be included in an electronic T or TIR transit declaration, if transit procedure (e.g. TIR transit) is used in transports of goods in Finland. The declaration containing the security data must be lodged at least one hour prior to the arrival of the goods in Finland. The declaration can be submitted either via the Finnish Customs website or via message exchange: via the declarant's IT system. The latter alternative requires that the company has been authorised to act as EDI sender. Entry summary declarations are required for all commercial goods arriving in Finland by road, except for passengers' personal goods. A declaration is also required for empty means of transport, e.g. sea containers, which are not owned by the transport company and which are carried under a transport contract and in return for payment by the company.

The reference number (MRN) of the entry summary declaration

The Customs system assigns a reference number, MRN, to an accepted summary declaration. The declarant is to forward this reference number:

- to the driver bringing the goods into the territory of the EU
- to the declarant who prepares the next customs declaration for the goods in Finland (e.g. import clearance)

The driver is to present the goods and the MRN of the entry summary declaration – or the transit declaration – lodged for the goods to Customs at the place of arrival. Bringing goods into the territory of the EU is not allowed unless a declaration containing the security data has been submitted and the MRN of the declaration has been presented.

The transport company and the declarant are to be registered for EORI

The transport company responsible for the declaration – and another actor who lodges declarations on behalf of the transport company or with the company's consent – must be registered in the EU-wide EORI database. The EORI number is to be given in the entry summary declaration or in the transit declaration that contains the security data so that Finnish Customs can accept the presentation of the goods when they arrive in Finland.

What measures are required of road transport companies by 1 January 2011?

- The transport companies are to decide whether they will lodge the declarations or agree with a representative or, for example, with the party who has ordered the transport as to how the declarations will be lodged.
- Declarants are to decide whether they will submit message format declarations or online declarations.
 - Companies based in countries outside Finland can also submit online declarations, but companies based in Finland are recommended to obtain a Katso ID from the Finnish Tax Administration.
 - Message format declarations require an authorisation from Finnish Customs, which means that declarants should apply for AREX EDI customer status with Customs as soon as possible. Obtaining an authorisation requires adequate software which is to be tested with Customs. Applicants should observe that once Customs receives an application for authorisation, it may take up to three months before message format declarations can be submitted.
- If the declaration is submitted by another party on behalf of the transport company, the company must provide information on how the necessary information concerning the transport and goods will be given to the party who submits the declarations.
- If the declaration is submitted by another party on behalf of the transport company, this party and the company must agree on how the reference numbers (MRNs) will be forwarded to both the driver and the declarant who prepares the next customs declaration – e.g. import clearance – for the goods in Finland.
- The transport company – and the party submitting the declarations, if other than the transport company – are to make sure that they are registered in the EU-wide EORI database for declarants.
- If the transport company uses the transit procedure and decides to include the security data in the transit declaration, the transport company must make sure that the required new security data are available to the party submitting the transit declaration.

Further information

Read more:

AREX Customer instructions 3

<http://www.tulli.fi/en/businesses/eServices/message/AREX/instructions/index.jsp>

Electronic services: Customer notices

http://www.tulli.fi/en/businesses/eServices/customer_notices/index.jsp

Completion instructions for entry summary declarations (only in Finnish)

http://www.tulli.fi/sovellukset/fi/arex_anon/help.html