

# Export Control System (ECS) implementation – Single Transport Contract (STC)

Customs Information Paper (09) 33	
Who should read:	All traders involved in international export trade including exporters, agents, freight forwarders and carriers.
What is it about:	This paper concerns exports which move under a Single Transport Contract (STC). From 1 July 2009 it is imperative that, where applicable, the CHIEF export declaration contains this information. Exporters and their agents should confirm whether goods are exported under STC.
When effective:	1 July 2009.
Extant until/expires	Until further notice.

## 1. Introduction

[CIP \(09\) 31](#) provided a summary of the major changes traders can expect when the Export Control System (ECS) and the safety and security requirements are implemented from 1 July 2009. This CIP, on Single Transport Contract (STC), is one of a series which provide more detail on specific issues relating to ECS. The paper explains why it is important to claim STC and also outlines the process which should be followed when completing an export declaration from 1 July 2009.

## 2. Background - STC

One of the legal changes which come into effect on 1 July 2009 is that exporters may need to specify on their CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) export declaration that goods will travel under a STC.

A STC may also be referred to as a through Bill of Lading (for maritime) or a through Air Waybill (for air freight) and is where the commercial contract of carriage is end-to-end. An example of this would be where an exporter makes a booking with their freight forwarder the terms of which are, for example, Glasgow to Shanghai. The export will not move directly between these locations, but may be moved using various modes of transport (including by road) through any route determined by the freight forwarder or ocean carrier. The precise details of this routing may be unknown to the exporter or declarant.

Exporters and their declarants are therefore advised to start speaking now to their usual freight forwarder or ocean carrier(s) about the terms under which their exports are carried so that, from the 1 July 2009, they are able to correctly complete their export declaration where goods will be travelling under STC.

Please note that it is not possible to claim STC where final exit from the EU is to be by road.

### **3. HMRC responsibilities where STC is claimed**

When STC is claimed, it allows the UK to operate as both Office of Export and Office of Exit so the formalities of the Office of Exit are completed here in the UK before the export starts its journey.

Some EU Member States have, however, indicated that they may wish to check that the goods are legitimately travelling under STC (particularly where the goods will pass through a Member State by road on their way to the 'actual' point of exit from the EU).

For this reason, HMRC advise that all consignments carried under STC have available or can make available the Movement Reference Number (MRN) in the event that Customs officers at the actual point of exit in another Member State may want to verify that the export procedures and checks have been correctly completed at the Office of Export/Exit in the UK.

### **4. Process for indicating that goods are travelling under STC**

The process for claiming STC on CHIEF from 1 July 2009 is as follows:

- STC must be 'claimed' at the point the export declaration is input to CHIEF (ie by the exporter/declarant) by inputting the Additional Information (AI) code 'STC99' into box 44
- box 29 (Office of Exit) must be left blank for all STC movements even where it is known that they are moving indirectly via another Member State

All STC movements will be allocated an MRN.

If a subsequent Member State decides to query an STC movement they may use the MRN to retrieve the data from the UK ECS system (ECN+) electronically.

## 5. Contacts

Further details on the Export Control System and related issues can be found on the ECS web page. The Tariff is also being updated to reflect all the changes – the updated exports section (Volume 3 Part 1) will be available in June. If your query is not answered by the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) available on the ECS web page or the Tariff please email your query to:

ECS Project Team

[Mark Dillon](#)

[Jim Sigley](#)

Exports policy team

[Janet Guest](#)

Issued on the 9 May 2009 by the [JCCC Secretary](#), HMRC, Customs & International Directorate.

If you have a question about the content of this paper please use the details provided in the Contacts section. For general HMRC queries speak to the National Advice Service (NAS) on Tel 0845 010 9000.

For comprehensive guidance on international trade regulation, as well as advice on market information and business growth visit the [Business Link website](#).