

## ICS Helpdesk Notification – Ref: 01/2011

**Subject:** Grace period for Import Control System – Update

**Who should read:** All Carriers/Agents

### 1. Introduction

The wording of the original grace period for ICS, as agreed in December, is as follows:-

*“Before deciding on imposing penalties on economic operators not having lodged pre-arrival or pre-departure declaration by the deadlines, Member States should take into account any objective difficulties faced by those economic operators, being outside their control, during the start-up phase for the full application of the Safety and Security Amendment (‘grace period’). Therefore, for Entry Summary Declarations, the Commission, in close collaboration with the MSs (in the framework of the ECG), will closely monitor the implementation and the stabilisation of the new rules across all MS for the first 2 months of 2011. Thereafter, the Commission, in close collaboration with the MSs (in the framework of the ECG), will take a view on when the ‘grace period’ for penalties will be terminated; such period shall not exceed 6 months as from 1/1/2011”.*

A discussion on this issue was held at the EU Electronic Customs Group meeting on 31 March 2011, at which the Trade were also in attendance. Whilst there are still some difficulties being encountered in a small number of MS, in general the ICS system is available and fully stable in the majority of MS, including Ireland, while the volume of Entry Summary Declarations being lodged is still low. The Commission suggested that the grace period be extended until, at latest, 30 June 2011, but did note that MS are entitled to end the grace period before June on a national level.

Given that the ICS system in Ireland has been in operation and available to Trade since June 2010, Revenue would expect that all economic operators should now be in a position to connect to this system and submit Entry Summary Declarations by the end of April 2011, at the latest. Any economic operator required to submit Entry Summary Declarations but not in a position to do so before end April should make immediate contact with this Office.

## 2. Queries

Any queries or comments in relation to the contents of this Notice can be made to the email address and/or phone numbers outlined below:-

Mail to: [icshelpdesk@revenue.ie](mailto:icshelpdesk@revenue.ie)

Phone: +353 – 67 63340 or 63449

ICS Helpdesk

07/04/2011