

# Payment of Import Duties for UK Imports

**Updated February 2022**

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## Introduction

As a result of Brexit, the Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) business model is the most common business model for trade with the UK. The release of goods in the RoRo context is time sensitive and the absence of sufficient funds in the TAN account when the goods arrive in the port will result in a delay, as the goods cannot be released from Customs control until the Customs payment clears. These delays can be avoided by ensuring that the TAN account has sufficient funds in advance of the goods being placed on the ferry.

This differs from the Load-on Load-off (LoLo) business model where the goods can be held in the ferry compounds in the port for a period until a driver is available to move the goods. In these instances, the trader/Customs agent can manage the funds in the TAN account and need only top-up the account when they want the goods to be released.

This paper provides information on import charges, how to set up and top-up a trader account and how to defer payment of charges.

## Background

The UK became a third country for Customs purposes from 1 January 2021 and this has implications for businesses in terms of Customs Duties and VAT. Businesses need to make the necessary arrangements to pay these taxes and duties either at point of import or using deferred / postponed payment methods. Where taxes / duties are due at the point of import it is essential that there are sufficient funds in the business' Customs account to pay the amounts owed. If there are insufficient funds, then the goods cannot be released into free circulation and will be held in temporary storage until payment is made.

## Customs Duty - Preferential Tariff Treatment

Customs Duty or the 'Common Customs Tariff' (CCT) applies to goods being imported into the EU from a third country. The CCT applies in all EU member states and the rates of duty differ depending on the product and its origin. Through the CCT, the EU ensures that domestic producers can compete fairly and equally on the internal market with manufacturers from third countries.

In the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, CCT duties are eliminated for trade between the EU and the UK **where relevant rules on origin are met**. A claim for preferential tariff treatment of 0% for imports into Ireland can be made where the goods are of UK origin. To prove the origin of a product the exporter should include a 'statement on origin' on an invoice or any other document that describes the product in sufficient detail to enable the identification of that product. Further information on origin is available at <https://www.revenue.ie/en/customs-traders-andagents/importing-and-exporting/index.aspx>

A claim for preferential tariff treatment is made on the customs import declaration. See Appendix 1 for the relevant codes for use in claiming Preferential Origin Rate in AIS. If a claim is not made, then Customs Duty will be charged at the current rates for 3rd country imports.

## Import VAT Liabilities

Value-Added Tax (VAT) is payable at point of importation into the State on goods being imported from third countries. This means that from 1 January 2021, VAT is payable on goods being imported from the UK. Imported goods are liable to VAT at the same rate as applies to similar goods sold within the State. Goods which are zero-rated on sale within the State (for example, most food, children's clothing and printed books) are also zero-rated at importation.

If VAT is payable, it can be paid at the point of import. Businesses can also use postponed accounting for VAT where the business is Irish VAT registered and the business has an EORI number. Importers who avail of this facility will instead account for import VAT through their normal VAT return. Revenue have auto registered importers for postponed accounting, but businesses must still elect to avail of the facility on each Customs import declaration. See Appendix 2 for the relevant codes for electing for postponed accounting in AIS. If this option is not selected, then VAT is payable at the point of import.

The use of code 1A01 for existing VAT Free Authorisation holders (VAT56b/13b) is unchanged. The relevant authorisation number should be declared in AIS.

### **Payment of Import Duties (Customs Duties and VAT)**

Once you are registered for an Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number, you will automatically be assigned a Customs and Excise (C&E) Trader Account Number (TAN). This C&E/TAN account is a secure channel through which you can make payments. Payment for any tax and duties arising on a customs declaration must be collected or secured before the goods are released.

Payments of the following charges can be made by cash or by using Revenue's deferred payment facility:

- Customs Duty
- Excise Duty
- VAT at import.

### **Online payments to your C&E cash account using ROS**

Cash payments can be made into a TAN account/Customs account by using Revenue's online payment facility, in ROS or myAccount. Payments can be made by credit card, debit card or single debit instruction. See the following link which gives information on how to submit payments online using ROS [ce-online-payments-in-ros-and-myaccount](#)

### **Deferred account payments**

The Customs Deferred Payment Facility (Bank Direct Debit) is a facility whereby traders and/or their agents are authorised to defer payment of customs duties. Authorisation will require provision of a bank guarantee/cash deposit and compliance with the conditions of the authorisation. Once approved, payment of taxes and duties arising may be deferred for payment by direct debit to the 15th day of the following month. Deferred payment is chosen in AIS by inserting "E" in D/E 4/8.

Further information is available in [Payment methods](#)

### Deduction of Import Duties and Insufficient Funds

Revenue's automated customs declaration system AIS calculates the import duties payable and deducts the amounts automatically from the trader's TAN account. It is critical that sufficient funds are available to meet the liabilities due. When there are insufficient funds in the TAN account to meet the import duties due, an 'Insufficient Funds' message IE099 is issued to the trader. The goods will not be released until there are sufficient funds in the TAN account to meet the import charges due.

### Amending a Customs Declaration

If an error has been made in your customs import declaration with regard to e.g. claiming a tariff preference or with the value of the goods, this may result in insufficient funds being in the TAN account to meet the customs duties payable. To amend the Customs declaration, please follow the steps outlined in Appendix 3.

## Appendix 1

### **Claiming Preferential Origin Rate on Import declarations in the Automated Import System (AIS)**

You should use the following codes to claim preferential origin upon release for free circulation in the EU:

- AIS Data Element 4/17 (Preference) should contain the code '300'.
- AIS Data Element 5/16 (Country of preferential origin) is 'GB'.
- AIS Data Element 2/3 (Documents produced, certificates and authorisations, additional references), one of the following codes should be used:
  - Where the claim for preferential tariff treatment is based on a 'statement on origin' for a single shipment, use code 'U116' followed by NAI.
  - Where the claim for preferential tariff treatment is based on 'importer's knowledge', use code 'U117' followed by NAI.
  - Where the claim for preferential tariff treatment is based on a 'statement on origin' for multiple shipments of identical products, use code 'U118' followed by NAI.

## Appendix 2

### **Claiming Postponed Accounting on Import declarations in AIS**

The following outlines the data requirements on the import declaration, and the response message details from Revenue.

#### **Claiming Postponed Accounting in AIS:**

- Insert 1A05 in Data Element (DE) 2/3 followed by text IEPOSTPONED.
- If the authorisation is not valid, the declaration will be rejected.
- If the authorisation is valid, the declaration will progress as normal. VAT is calculated and indicated with tax type 1B2 in the IM429 message back to the declarant. The amount of VAT under 1B2 is NOT included in the total liability for collection.

## Appendix 3

### **Amending a Customs Import Declaration in AIS**

- Where the AIS systems establishes that a trader has insufficient funds to meet a duty demand, the trader will receive message IE099 (insufficient funds)
- The trader must top-up their TAN account sufficiently to meet the duty demand. This top-up must take place within 5 days of receipt of message IE099
- If there are no other problems with the declaration (e.g. wrong commodity code used/failure to claim a preference), then topping up the TAN account will resolve the issue of insufficient funds
- If the trader needs to amend the original declaration for whatever reason, they must then submit message IM413 to request an amendment to the original declaration
- Failure to top up the TAN account will lead to the cancellation of the declaration after 5 days. The trader has 90 days to place the goods in customs procedures or risk forfeiture to the state. The goods will not be released until a declaration is lodged and payment made. The only exception is cases where the trader is lodging supplementary declarations, in these circumstances the supplementary declaration must be lodged within 10 days of the release of the goods.
- In AIS where the declaration is not released and under Customs control, an Officer will request the business to submit an amendment.