

eLearning module Automated Export System (AES) Phase 1

Course takeaways

This eLearning module will guide you through the **Automated Export System (AES) Phase 1** that aims at the **automation** of the completion of the **export and exit formalities** as regards Union goods to be **exported** and non-Union goods to be **re-exported**, covering common, national and external domains. It will also focus on the benefits and impact of the System in the related procedures.

This course is addressed to **economic operators** dealing with export and re-export, and **customs officials** using AES for the completion of **export** and **exit** formalities.

This is a quick and handy summary of the most relevant course information.

1 Introduction

1.1 Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the **different scenarios** for goods to leave the customs territory of the Union;
- Explain the functionalities of AES;
- Apply the export and exit formalities within AES;
- Explain the **special cases** in the export process;
- Promote the **benefits** of the AES.

1.2 Did you Know?

The Automated Export System (AES), Phase 1 manages electronically the export and exit formalities performed by customs officials and economic operators when goods leave the customs territory of the Union, by using export or re-export declaration, exit summary declaration or re-export notification.

2 Legal Basis

2.1 Goods Taken out of the Customs Territory of the Union

These are the main ways with which goods can leave the customs territory of the Union.



Export

Export is a 2-step procedure for **taking Union goods outside** the customs territory of the Union. The Economic Operators declare the goods for export by submitting the **export declaration (IE515) to customs**. The export procedure entails the application of all export and exit **formalities**, including the application of prohibitions and restrictions.

UCC, Art. 271, 274, DA, Art. 245, Annex B, IA

Export followed by transit

When an **export** is **followed** by a **transit procedure** (internal or external), AES system interfaces with **NCTS**. The export followed by transit is triggered when at least one export MRN is referenced into the **Previous Document data group** of the transit declaration. *UCC*, *Art.* 159 (3), *DA*, *Art.* 189 (4), *IA*, *Art.* 329 (5)(6)(7a)

Re-export

Re-export is a 2-step procedure for **taking non-Union goods outside** the customs territory of the Union, that have been brought into the customs territory of the Union, leaving the territory again with the **same customs status**.

The provisions for placing goods under a customs procedure **also apply** to the re-export declaration. However:

- ✓ it concerns non-Union goods;
- ✓ it is not a customs procedure, but always part of another customs procedure (special procedures).

UCC, Art. 158-195, 270

Re-export from free zone or temporary storage

For re-exporting non-Union goods that are in **temporary storage** or in **free-zone**, the presentation of an **Exit Summary Declaration EXS (IE615)** is required.

Under certain conditions, when the obligation to lodge an exit summary declaration is waived, a **Re-export Notification REN (IE570)** can be used.

UCC, Art. 271, 274, DA, Art. 245, Annex B, IA

2.2 Lodging a Pre-departure Declaration

Pre-departure Declaration

When goods are to be taken out of the customs territory of the Union, they are covered by a **pre-departure declaration**, lodged at the competent customs office within a specific time limit before the goods are taken out of the customs territory of the Union.

The pre-departure declaration takes the following forms:

a)a customs declaration,

b)a re-export declaration, or

c)an exit summary declaration.

The pre-departure declaration contains the **particulars** necessary for risk analysis for security and safety purposes.

UCC, Art. 263, 270, 271

Customs declaration

When **Union goods** are to be **taken out** of the customs territory of the Union and placed under the **export procedure**, an **export declaration** is lodged at the customs office of export, containing the necessary particulars for placing the goods under the export procedure. *UCC*, *Art. 162-269*, *DA*, *Annex B*, *IA*

Re-export declaration

When **non-Union goods** are to be taken out of the customs territory of the Union, a **re-export declaration** is lodged at the competent customs office. *UCC, Art. 270, DA, Annex B, IA*

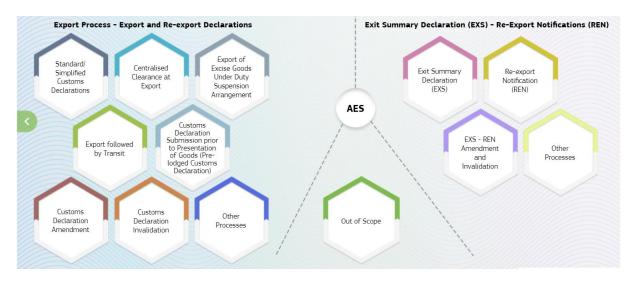
Exit summary declaration (EXS)

Where goods are to be taken out of the customs territory of the Union and a customs declaration or a re-export declaration is not lodged as pre-departure declaration, an **exit summary declaration** shall be lodged at the customs office of exit. **UCC, Art. 271**

3 The System

3.1 AES Phase 1.0 Scope

The Automated Export System, Phase 1 System covers the following customs procedures and processes.



Export Process – Export and Re-export Declarations

- Standard/Simplified Customs Declarations
- ✓ Centralised Clearance at Export
- ✓ Export of Excise Goods Under Duty Suspension Arrangement
- ✓ Export followed by Transit
- ✓ Customs Declaration Submission prior to Presentation of Goods (Pre-lodged Customs Declaration)
- ✓ Customs Declaration Amendment
- ✓ Customs Declaration Invalidation
- ✓ Other Processes:
 - Exit Specific scenarios
 - Diversions
 - Enquiry Procedure
 - Query Movement Information

Exit Summary Declaration (EXS) - Re-Export Notification (REN)

- ✓ Exit Summary Declaration (EXS)
- ✓ Re-export Notification (REN)
- ✓ EXS REN Amendment and Invalidation
- ✓ Other Processes:
 - Exit specific scenarios
 - EXS Diversions

Out of Scope

The following processes that are out of scope of the AES system Phase 1:

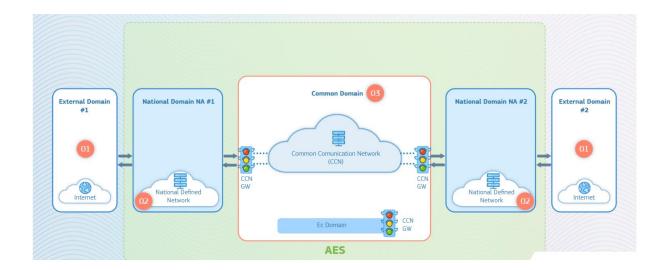
- ✓ Entry into Declarant Record (EIDR)
- ✓ Right to be heard
- ✓ Split consignments/split exit
- ✓ Export declaration amendment after release for export

Retrospective lodgement of customs declaration

Member States can develop these processes at national level according to their needs.

3.2 Architecture and Communication

The Union Customs Code introduces a set of export processes that can be implemented either by a new system and/or by extending the existing national declaration management processing systems. Each national administration is responsible to define its own architecture as far as the national AES application complies with the common AES, Phase 1 System specifications.



External Domain

The network and information exchanges between the national administration and the economic operators.

National Domain

The national administrations use their own **national network** for the communication between their customs offices and other **national systems**, e.g., NCTS and EMCS. Such network may differ from country to country.

Common Domain

The **Common Domain** refers to the **closed secured network platform** and its corresponding infrastructure that ensure the information exchanges between national administrations and between national administrations and the Commission.

The Common Domain consists of the **Common Communication Network/Common Systems** Interface (CCN/CSI) and other central services (e.g. CS/MIS) and the underlying infrastructure.

3.3 Benefits

These are the **benefits** that the Automated Export System brings:

- Provides the full automation of export and exit formalities (including re-export);
- Supports new automatic processes and introduces additional customs office roles;
- Increases the efficiency and effectiveness of export and exit formalities (including re-export);
- Updates existing and adds new **functionalities** to improve trader facilitation and process automation as foreseen in the UCC legislation;
- Aligns the information exchanges to the data requirements of the UCC, DA and IA and to the **EU Customs Data Model**;
- Interfaces with other related IT systems.

Automated Export System (AES) Phase 1 - Course takeaways

4 Export and Re-Export Customs Declarations

4.1 Export with Standard Customs Declaration

When **Union goods** are to be **taken out** of the customs territory of the Union and placed under the **export procedure**, an **export declaration** is lodged at the customs office of export through the **Automated Export System (AES)**. This export declaration contains the necessary particulars for placing the goods under the export procedure.

The system is also used to **lodge re-export declarations** aiming to take non-Union goods out of the customs territory of the Union, e.g., to discharge special procedures as temporary storage or inward processing procedure.

UCC, Art. 162, 269, 270, DA, Annex B, IA

An economic operator established in Lisbon, Portugal exports Union goods to Egypt using a standard customs declaration. The goods will exit the customs territory of the Union from the Customs Office in Cartagena, Spain. The economic operator is using AES for completing the export procedure formalities.

A presentation of the export core flow process with standard customs declaration.



Step 1: Lodging of the export declaration

The **declarant** (or his representative) lodges an '**Export Declaration**' (**IE515**) message in the AES at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon, where he is established, and at the same time **presents the goods** at that office.

Step 2: Verification of customs declaration

AES performs **automatic checks** and validations to assure that the customs declaration **complies** with the conditions for placing the goods under the export procedure.

AES at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon:

a)Validates the customs declaration

b)Checks and verifies that all required authorisations exist and are valid, and

c)Verifies that the export declaration **is not submitted prior to the goods presentation** to the customs.

If the export declaration lodged by the declarant is found valid and the goods are presented at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon, together with the export declaration, the customs officer **accepts** the customs declaration.

Step 3: Customs declaration acceptance

The AES at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon assigns a **Master Reference Number** (**MRN**) to the declaration and informs the declarant with an '**Export MRN Allocated**' (IE528) message. The export declaration is **accepted**.

Step 4: Risk Analysis at the Customs Office of Export

AES at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon ensures that **risks analysis** is initiated once the export declaration is accepted. It interfaces with the Portuguese **risk analysis system** to request a risk analysis.

Step 5: Control of the consignment

Consulting the risk analysis results, the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon decides to **control** or not the goods.

If the customs officer decides to **control** the movement, then the declarant will be notified with an **'Export Control Decision Notification**' (IE560) message. The customs officer will perform the movement controls and register the control results in AES.

Step 6: Consignment released for export

If **no control** is decided, or if the control results are satisfactory, the consignment is **released** for **export**. Consequently, the consignment **leaves** the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon, and it is transported towards the declared Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena.

Step 7: The office of export sends the AER to the office of exit

The AES in Customs Office of Export in Lisbon sends the **Anticipated Export Record (AER)** (IE501) message to the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena and communicates the **release for export** to the declarant with a '**Release for Export**' (IE529) message. At this point AES starts recording the **timer for receiving the exit results** and the **timer for certifying the exit of the goods**.

Step 8: The office of exit validates AER - Risk Analysis

After receiving the Anticipated Export Record AER (IE501) message, the AES at the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena **validates** the received message and requests the **national risk analysis** system for feedback.

Based on the results of the risk analysis the customs officer can decide whether control of the goods might be needed or not after the arrival of the goods at exit.

Step 9: The arrival notification

Upon the **arrival** of the consignment at the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena, the **trader at exit** sends an '**Arrival at Exit**' (IE507) notification to the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena and requests that the goods are allowed to **leave immediately** the European Union customs territory. There is the possibility for the trader at exit to use the 'Arrival at Exit' (IE507) message to inform the customs office of exit about **discrepancies and additional_information** of the consignment, such as: goods measure, packaging, transport equipment, transport document and UCR at arrival for consideration to the Customs Office of Exit.

Step 10: The office of exit validates the arrival notification

AES in the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena verifies that the arrival notification is **valid**, and that the AER is **available**.

Step 11: Exit of goods

The Customs Officer at the Office of Exit in Cartagena decides **not to perform any control** at the goods and to **authorise the exit of goods**. AES verifies that the trader at exit had requested the **immediate leave** of the goods and therefore an **'Exit Release'** (IE525) notification is sent to the trader at exit announcing the release. The goods are released for immediate leave.

Step 12: Exit notification

When the consignment **has left** the European Union customs territory, the trader at exit registers in AES at the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena an 'Exit Notification' (IE590) message announcing that the goods have **exited**. Sequentially, the Customs Office of Exit in Cartagena sends to the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon the 'Exit Results' (IE518) message confirming the exit of the consignment including the exit control results.

Step 13: AES timers stop

The **time limit** to receive the exit results at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon **stops** at this point. AES verifies that the exit control results are found **satisfactory** at the Customs Office of Export in Lisbon and the movement is exported. The **time limit** to certify the exit of goods also **stops**.

Step 14: Export notification

The Customs Office of Export in Lisbon **notifies** the declarant with an '**Export Notification**' (IE599) message that the consignment was **exported** from the customs territory of the Union providing all the export details.

4.2 Export with Simplified Customs Declaration

The declarant, if authorised, can lodge a **simplified customs declaration** omitting certain of the particulars necessary for application of the provisions governing the export procedure. In this case, the declarant should lodge a **supplementary customs declaration** within a time limit.

The **supplementary declaration**, that either contains the missing particulars or the full data set (depending on the national decision of the Member States) should be lodged at the place where the simplified declaration was lodged, i.e., the customs office of export (or the supervising customs office, in the case of CCE). Together, the simplified and its supplementary declaration must contain all the particulars necessary for the export procedure.

In AES, the supplementary declaration can be lodged when the state of an export movement is one of the following:

- Goods Released for Export,
- Diversion Accepted,
- Under Exit Confirmation Request, or
- Exported

UCC, Art. 166, 167, DA, Annex B, IA

4.3 Amendment of an Export Customs Declaration

The declarant shall, upon application, be permitted to amend one or more of the particulars of the customs declaration after that declaration has been accepted by customs.

The amendment shall not render the customs declaration applicable to goods other than those which it originally covered. An amendment is not allowed to be performed on the following particulars of the customs declarations in AES:

- Exporter
- Representative
- Declarant
- Customs office of export
- Customs office of exit (declared)
- Customs office of presentation (PCO), in case of centralised clearance
- MRN
- LRN
- Declaration type
- Additional declaration type
- Security

Conditions

Amendment of a customs declaration is not permitted in the following cases:

a)the customs authorities have informed the declarant that they intend to examine the goods; b)the customs authorities have established that the particulars of the customs declaration are incorrect;

c)the customs authorities have released the goods.

After the Release of Goods

The amendment of the customs declaration may be permitted after the release of the goods at a **national level**, upon application by the declarant and within three years of the date of acceptance of the customs declaration. This allows the declarant to comply with his obligations relating to the placing of the goods under the customs procedure concerned. *UCC, Art. 173*

4.4 Invalidation of an Export Customs Declaration

After an export declaration has been accepted, there can be cases that the declarant may request to invalidate this export declaration. The customs office of export handles all declaration invalidations initiated by either:

- the declarant, or
- the customs officer at the customs office of export.

An export declaration invalidation can be initiated:

- > By the declarant before the release of the goods for export
- > By the customs officer at the customs office of export
- > By the declarant after the release of the goods for export

UCC, Art 174, DA, Art 148, 248

4.5 Export with Pre-lodged Customs Declaration

The declarant can lodge a customs declaration **prior** to the expected presentation of the goods to the customs authorities, a **pre-lodged** customs declaration.

The pre-lodged customs declaration might contain or not information about the **location** of goods and/or the departure **transport means** or the **transport equipment**; the declarant might not be aware of these data elements at the moment of the lodging of the pre-lodged customs declaration. Until the acceptance (MRN allocation), the pre-lodged customs declaration **has no legal effect**. In such cases, the goods must be presented within **30 days** of the pre-lodged customs declaration submission. If this time limit is **exceeded without the presentation of the goods**, then the customs declaration shall be deemed **not to have been lodged**.

UCC, Art. 171, IA, Art. 227, DA, Art. 24 (3)

4.6 Centralised Clearance at Export

Centralised Clearance at Export is a simplification introduced by the UCC, which allows economic operators with an AEO status to **lodge the export declaration** at the customs office responsible for the place where they are **established** (Supervising Customs Office - SCO), while the goods are **presented** to customs at another customs office located in another Member State (Presentation Customs Office - PCO).

Centralised Clearance is possible in case of a **standard**, **simplified** or **pre-lodged** customs declaration. *UCC*, *Art.* 179, *DA*, *Art.* 149, *IA*, *Art.* 229 - 232

4.7 Export of Excise Goods Under Duty Suspension Arrangement

An **excise movement**, initiated by the **Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS)** may result in exporting, i.e., excise goods may be moved under a duty suspension arrangement to a place from where the excise goods shall be exported outside the customs territory of the Union.

The **Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS)** is a computerised system for monitoring the movement of **excise goods under duty suspension** in the EU. It records, in real-time, the movement of **alcohol**, **tobacco** and **energy** products for which excise duties have still to be paid.

Under EMCS, a movement of excise goods is documented at every stage through an electronic **Administrative Document (e-AD).**

The communication between the Member State of Administration (MSA) of Dispatch (where the goods are declared in EMCS) and the Customs Office of Export is facilitated by **fine-tuning** the messages between **AES** and **EMCS** to provide better coordination.

The interface between AES and EMCS covers only the scenarios regarding export of excise goods under duty suspension where Office of Export and MSA of Export are located in the **same** country. *UCC, Art. 3(a), 47, 280, Council Directive (EU) 2020/262, Art. 21, <u>25</u>*

4.8 Export followed by Transit

In cases when an **export** is **followed by a transit** procedure, the AES system interfaces with the **New Computerised Transit System (NCTS)**.

External Transit (T1)

External Transit (T1) is generally applicable to **non-Union goods**.

The external transit procedure allows mainly non-Union goods to be moved from one point to another point within the customs territory of the Union, so that customs duties and other charges are **suspended**.

When Union goods are exported under excise duty suspension arrangement and the transit procedure may follow, external transit is used in order to provide appropriate protection for the customs debt (through the transit guarantee).

When the release for export occurs and the external transit procedure follows, the **customs office of** exit shall be the **customs office of departure** of the transit operation.

Internal Transit (T2)

Internal Transit (T2) is applicable to Union goods.

The internal transit procedure allows goods to temporarily leave and re-enter the customs territory of the Union, while **maintaining** their Union status.

When the release for export occurs and the internal transit procedure follows, the customs **office of exit** shall be the **customs office of departure**, in case the customs office of destination is placed:

- in a common transit country, or
- at the border of the customs territory of the Union and the goods are taken out of that customs territory of the Union, after having passed through a country or territory outside the customs territory of the Union.

The communication and information exchange between the AES and the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) happens through the national domain.

DA, Art. 189 (4), IA, Art. 329(5)(6)(7a), 333(2)(b)(c)

5 Other Processes

5.1 Query Movement Information

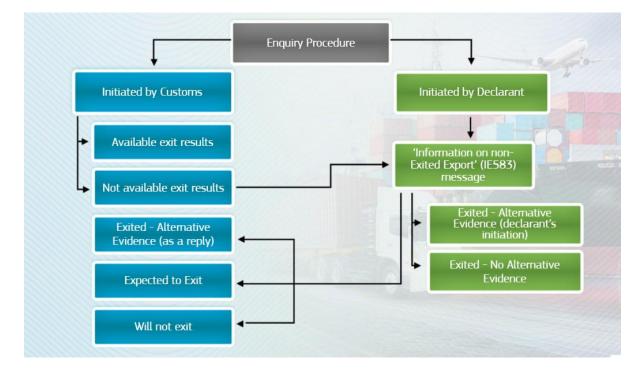
The **status check mechanism** is of **generic use** and can be used at all times after the **acceptance** of the export declaration.

The 'Status Request/Response' mechanism can be initiated either by the Customs Officer or AES. The requesting customs office uses 'Status Request' (IE594) message in order to request the status of an export operation from the customs office of exit.

The customs office of exit replies with the '**Status Response**' (**IE595**) message which includes the latest information available at that office, including the case of national diversion.

5.2 Enquiry Procedure

The enquiry procedure may be triggered in order for the customs office of export to certify the exit of the goods after they have been released for export. The enquiry procedure can be initiated by the customs or by the declarant.



Initiated by Customs

In case the time limit of **90 days** from the release for export **has expired** and **no 'Exit Results'** (IE518) message has been received at the customs office of export, the customs office of export **requests information** from the customs office of exit. When the consignment is **exited** or the **goods are not allowed to exit**, the exit results will be available at the office of exit.

The customs office of export initiates the **status request/response** (IE594/IE595) mechanism in order to identify the status of the export operation at the customs office of exit.

Initiated by Declarant

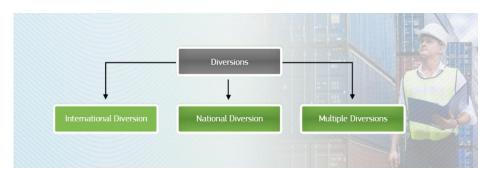
The declarant can provide on his own initiative information on the export operation by sending an 'Information on non-Exited Export' message (IE583).

In this case the customs office of export initiates the **status request/response** (IE594/IE595) mechanism in order to identify the status of the export operation at the customs office of exit.

5.3 Diversions

Diversions occur when the goods are presented to a customs office of exit different to the "Declared" one. International or national diversions may occur.

IA, Art. 331 (2)



International Diversion

International diversion occurs when the goods are **presented** to a customs office of exit (actual) located in a different country to the one that the customs office of exit (declared) is located.





National Diversion

National diversion occurs when the goods are presented to a customs office of exit (actual) located in the **same** country as the customs office of exit (declared). In this case, the customs office of exit (actual) retrieves the 'AER' data **nationally** since the information about the movement is already **available** in the national system. **No AER** request is sent to the customs office of export.

Multiple Diversions

Multiple diversions occur in case the consignment is initially diverted to **several** customs offices of exit, in the same Member State or in different Member States, before exiting from the **last customs office of exit (actual)**, which could be the customs office of exit **initially declared** or a **different** customs office of exit.

5.4 Exit after Storing

If the arrival notification, received by the customs office of exit with an 'Arrival at Exit' message, indicates that the goods will be stored prior to their exit, the customs office of exit, after dealing with the exit formalities for the movement, and if the consignment is released for exit, informs the trader at exit that the goods are allowed to be stored prior to their exit with an 'Exit Release Notification' message.



Immediate Leave (No Storing)

In case goods are released for immediate leave, the trader at exit is informed upon the release of the goods with an **'Exit Release Notification'** (IE525). When the consignment has exited the customs territory of the Union, the trader at exit notifies the customs office of exit with an **'Exit Notification'** (IE590).

To be Stored prior to Exit

In case the '**Arrival at Exit**' (IE507) indicates that the goods need to be stored prior to exit (i.e. goods are held for storing), the '**Exit Release Notification**' (IE525) is sent to the trader at exit confirming that goods are allowed to be stored prior their exit.

The exiting process of the goods being held for storing is initiated by the submission of a '**Manifest Presentation**' (IE547) message from the trader at exit. The manifest lists all the stored goods belonging to the corresponding export movement MRN intended to leave the European Union customs territory on a given mean of transport.

Storing with Multiple Manifests

In case the 'Arrival at Exit' (IE507) indicates that the goods need to be stored prior to exit (i.e. goods are held for storing), the 'Exit Release Notification' (IE525) is sent to the trader at exit confirming that goods are allowed to be stored prior their exit.

The exiting process of the goods being held for storing is initiated by the submission of a '**Manifest Presentation**' (IE547) message from the trader at exit. The manifest may cover only a part of the stored items belonging to corresponding MRN indented to leave the customs territory of the Union. A second (or more) manifests (IE547-IE548-IE590) can follow covering the successful exiting of the remaining (or part of the) goods items of the stored movement up to the point that all stored items are exited.

6 Exit Summary Declaration (EXS) – Re-Export Notification (REN)

6.1 Exit Summary Declaration (EXS)

Goods to be taken out of the customs territory of the Union shall be covered by a **pre-departure declaration**, containing the **particulars** necessary for risk analysis for security and safety purposes. When the pre-departure declaration is not lodged at the customs office of export in the form of an export or re-export declaration, it should be lodged at the customs office of exit in the form of an **Exit Summary Declaration** (EXS).

As a rule, the EXS should be lodged by the carrier at the customs office of exit and therefore no communication between different customs offices is envisaged. The IT systems used to submit and process the EXS are developed and implemented by each MS at national level.

EXS lodged at a customs office other than the office of exit

There is a possibility for the customs authorities to allow the EXS to be lodged at a customs office other than the office of exit, providing that this "Customs Office of Lodgement" immediately transmits the EXS to the customs office of exit. There is no further communication between the customs office of lodgement and the economic operator.

UCC, Art. 271(1), DA, Art. 245, Annex B, IA

6.2 Re-export Notification (REN)

A **re-export notification** is lodged at the customs office of exit, when non-Union goods under the free zone procedure or in temporary storage are taken out of the customs territory of the Union and the obligation to lodge an exit summary declaration is waived.

The re-export notification contains **the particulars** necessary to **discharge** the free zone procedure or to end the temporary storage.

UCC, Art. 274-276, DA, Art. 245(2)(e), IA, Art. 343, 344

6.3 EXS - REN Amendment

The declarant may, upon application, be permitted to amend **one or more particulars** of the **exit summary declaration** or the **re-export notification** after it has been lodged.

Conditions

Amendment of the exit summary declaration or the re-export notification is not permitted in the following cases:

a) the customs authorities have informed the person who lodged the exit summary declaration or the re-export notification that they intend to examine the goods;

b)the customs authorities have established that one or more particulars of the exit summary declaration or the re-export notification are inaccurate or incomplete;

c)the customs authorities have already granted the release of the goods for exit. UCC, Art. 272 (1), 275 (1)

6.4 EXS - REN Invalidation

Where the goods for which the exit summary declaration or the re-export notification has been lodged are not taken out of the customs territory of the Union, the customs authorities shall invalidate that declaration or the notification without delay in either of the following cases: (a) upon application by the declarant; or

(b) after 150 days have elapsed since the declaration was lodged. UCC, Art. 272 (2), 275 (2)

Remember, this is a quick and handy summary of the most relevant course information. Only the European Union legislation published in the Official Journal of the European Union is deemed authentic. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the training.



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