

Weekly bulletin

49th edition

Date: 20/10/2021



HM Revenue
& Customs



Trader Support Service (TSS)

Weekly bulletin: 3 key updates to support you

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- Northern Ireland Protocol update: EU response to HM Government proposals on NIP
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TSS in numbers

42,049

The number of businesses now registered on TSS, with over 17,060 signing up since 1 January.

369,686

The total number of reported goods movements created by TSS since 1 January, involving over 1,281,296 consignments.

71,105

The total number of inbound calls to TSS since 1 January, with over 193,371 outbound calls to support traders.

Northern Ireland Protocol update: EU's response to HM Government proposals on NIP

In its Command Paper published on 21 July 2021, HM Government set out proposals for a new balance in how the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) should operate. A copy of the paper can be viewed [here](#).



On Wednesday 13 October, the EU published its response to the Command Paper, setting out proposals for bespoke arrangements. The response can be viewed [here](#).

UK Government officials are now working closely with their EU counterparts. Both sets of proposals will be discussed intensively to see if the gaps between the proposals can be bridged and a solution found which delivers the significant change needed.

What does this mean for traders?

- **None of the reported changes, or documents shared this week by either party on the NIP, have yet been agreed.** Both the UK and EU have shared proposals with each other and discussions continue
- **Existing arrangements will continue for now**
- Traders should continue to meet the requirements of the NIP as currently being operated, including a requirement for the ongoing submission of Supplementary declarations
- Businesses in Great Britain without their own fixed address in NI can continue to be authorised for the UK Trader Scheme, provided they meet the scheme's other existing requirements
- The existing approach to post and parcels movements from GB to NI will continue
- HM Government will ensure that reasonable notice is provided if the current approach changes, to enable businesses to make appropriate preparations



Special Procedures Guidance

Did you know you may be able to claim relief from customs duties, import VAT, and/or excise by using a customs special procedure or relief?

This could include:

- **Customs Warehousing** allows for goods not in free circulation in GB or NI to be stored without payment of customs duty, and where appropriate excise duty or import VAT, in a customs warehouse
- **Inward Processing** allows for the payment of customs duties, import VAT and excise duties to be suspended on goods moving into NI whilst processing is taking place
- **Outward Processing** allows for the temporary movement of goods out of NI for processing or repair, and for moving processed products into NI whilst retaining domestic status or with partial relief from import duties
- **Returned Goods Relief** allows you to claim duty or VAT relief on goods being re-imported, for example for goods moving EU to GB and then on to NI or if you move goods between GB and NI
- **Temporary Admission** allows goods to be moved into NI temporarily (for a period up to 24 months) with total relief from import duty
- **Authorised Use** provides for customs duty to be charged at a reduced or nil rate for certain goods sold into NI – provided those goods are put to a prescribed use and processed within a specific period.

To know more about any of the above procedures, please visit the guide [here](#) or watch a webinar where we covered each procedure [here](#).

If you are waiting for TSS to release functionality for you to clear your Supplementary declaration backlog for goods that moved under special procedures or reliefs, you will receive an email shortly advising you on how to access these declarations and get them completed.



Now live: New TSS features to improve service to traders

TSS has been upgraded with new and enhanced features to improve its service and provide more options for traders moving goods between GB and NI.

Among the new features are:

- **You can clear freight movements through inventory linked ports:** you can clear maritime (sea) freight movements that have arrived at inventory-linked locations within Northern Ireland using TSS.

TSS will allow you to claim your inventory-linked cargo at Belfast and Warrenpoint through the TSS portal, while our contact centre agents will provide assistance for inventory records at Foyle Port.

Please refer to the [ILP guide](#) for further details.

- **Use TSS as a customs agent or intermediary:** if you are a customs agent or intermediary who provides services to traders, you will be able to use TSS more easily to submit declarations and facilitate payments on your customer's behalf.

You'll be able to register for a new profile type that designates you as a customs agent or intermediary. If you already have an existing profile on TSS, you can convert it into the new customs agent profile.

Traders will then be able to authorise you to represent them in the TSS portal to create, edit and submit declarations.

Traders should also update their Standing Authority to allow you to facilitate their payments.

Please refer to the [Agents & Intermediaries Handbook](#) for further details.



- **Changes to TSS API:** the TSS API functionality currently matches what is on the TSS portal, so it can be used for Entry Summary and Security (ENS) declarations, Supplementary declarations and Full Frontier declarations (FFD).

The TSS API will now also enable agents and intermediaries to represent multiple traders through the service.

If you think the API might be able to support your business, please refer to the [API guide](#) for further details and raise a case on the TSS portal to speak to a member of the API team.

Supplementary Declaration Guides available

You may previously have seen a Supplementary declaration preparation guide available on the NICTA website. This guide has been removed but the advice can now be found in the main Supplementary declaration user guide, dated October 2021 and [available here](#).

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TSS Contact Centre hours of operation:

07:30 – 22:30, 7 days a week

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