How to use NES to complete a customs export declaration

A guide to submitting export declarations through the National Export System

1 What is NES?

The National Export System is an electronic based system which allows exporters to lodge an export entry with Customs before their goods leave the UK. It is connected to the Custom Handling of Import and Export (CHIEF) system, which records the movement of goods, automatically checks for entry errors.

Exporters submitting declarations must ensure that their goods are cleared on NES before they're loaded for transport. Clearance can only be obtained through the provision of a goods arrival message in NES that formally enters the goods into customs control (legal acceptance).

NES is currently used for goods movements from the UK to the EU and does not cover exports to NI, which will use the Customs Declaration Service. Further guidance on this can be found here.

2 How do I access it?

NES can be accessed directly through the HMRC web portal. Users can also access NES indirectly through software providers (email/XML submissions) or Community System Providers which operate with Inventory management system ports and airports.

Web	Email	XML	CSP

Ways to access into NES

Indirect ways to access NES using external software providers

NES has a number of functions including inputting data to complete a customs declaration, command functions, requesting data forms and submitting declarations. Alternative software providers may have different interfaces and lay out the submission and grouping together of declarations. In order to access NES:

You must have an Economic Operator Registration and Identification EORI number.

You must also have a CHIEF badge role (if you're using a freight forwarder you do not need to apply).

You must have a Government Gateway user ID and password if you're not using a CSP.

If using Email or XML declarations you must use a **CHIEF compatible** software package

Port Systems / Timings

From January 2021 to the end of June 2021 for goods moving via Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) locations and Other listed locations, an arrived declaration must be submitted (and permission to progress received) before the goods leave the traders premises and are moved to the frontier location. For inventory linked systems the carrier will do this through their CSP systems on receiving the goods.

AEO status

Traders may have the option of getting Authorised Economic Operator status to enable a faster clearance at the border and simplify customs and security and safety.

A. Government Gateway webpage

Sign in using Government Gateway
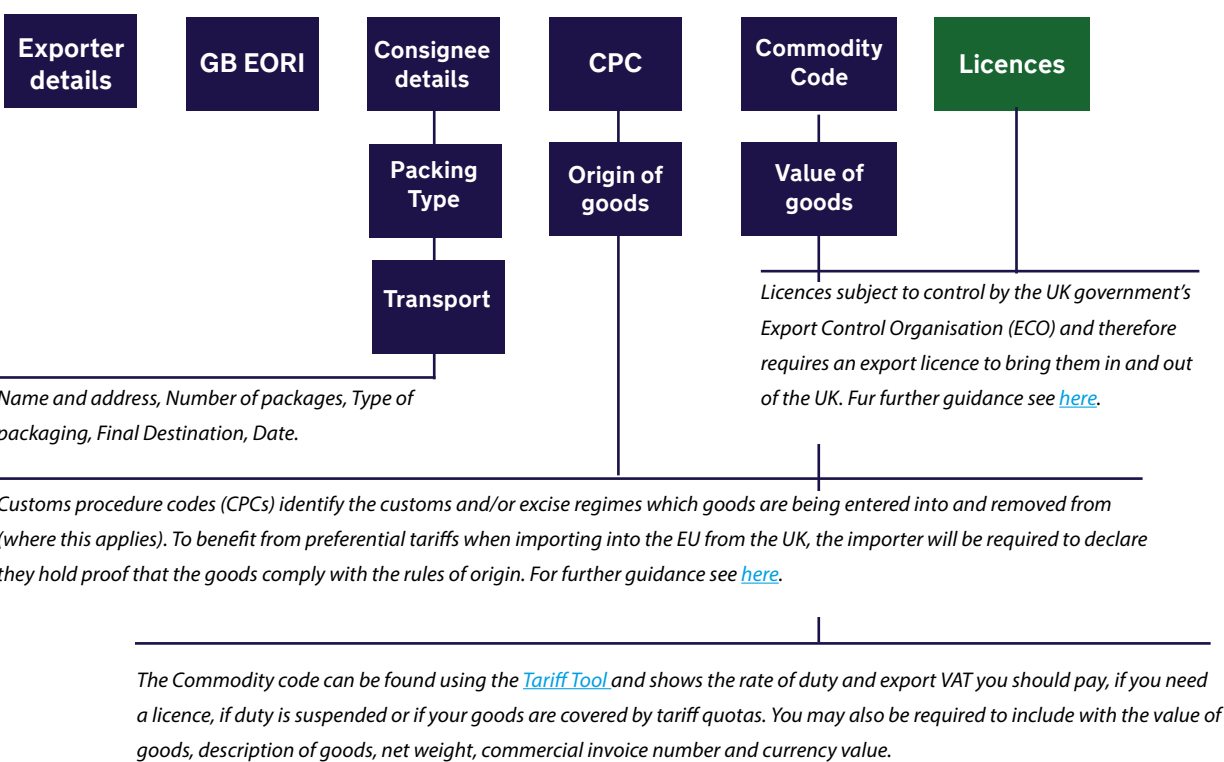
Government Gateway user ID
This could be up to 12 characters.

Password

Sign in

3 What information is needed?

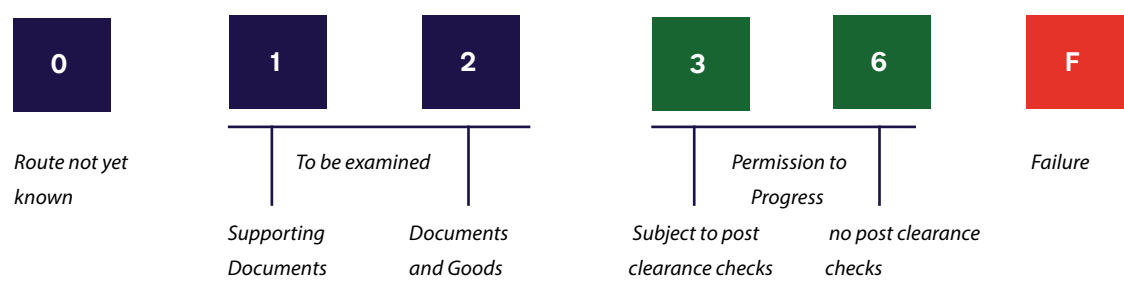Below is a list of information included on the export declaration:

Exporter details	GB EORI	Consignee details	CPC	Commodity Code	Licences
		Packing Type	Origin of goods	Value of goods	
		Transport			

Licences subject to control by the UK government's Export Control Organisation (ECO) and therefore requires an export licence to bring them in and out of the UK. Fur further guidance see here.

Name and address, Number of packages, Type of packaging, Final Destination, Date.

Customs procedure codes (CPCs) identify the customs and/or excise regimes which goods are being entered into and removed from (where this applies). To benefit from preferential tariffs when importing into the EU from the UK, the importer will be required to declare they hold proof that the goods comply with the rules of origin. For further guidance see here.

The Commodity code can be found using the Tariff Tool and shows the rate of duty and export VAT you should pay, if you need a licence, if duty is suspended or if your goods are covered by tariff quotas. You may also be required to include with the value of goods, description of goods, net weight, commercial invoice number and currency value.

B. This screenshot of NES (direct webpage) shows the layout for inputting declarations and the command tools at the bottom.

4 Receiving clearance

Once the NES declaration is sent, CHIEF will automatically assess the data and either grant Permission to Progress, ask for further evidence, categorise the data entry as failed, or apply no action. In NES these actions are described as "routes" as shown below. For further guidance on what they mean see here [link].

0	1	2	3	6	F
Route not yet known	To be examined		Permission to Progress	no post clearance checks	Failure
	Supporting Documents	Documents and Goods	Subject to post clearance checks		

Permission to Progress

Once exporters have received the permission to progress message they will be ready to transport their goods. Drivers can be provided with screenshots or emails of the movement reference number as evidence of the declaration while clearing port customs. The requirement for S&S information on exports can be fulfilled via the customs export declaration, which contains information to fulfil both fiscal and S&S requirements. Where an export declaration is not submitted pre-departure, a standalone exit summary declaration (EXS) may be needed.

Approval	Systems	Details	Delaration	Clearance	Depature