

# EMCS customer testing

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## **Customer testing instructions for EMCS message exchange**

These instructions are intended for customers of Finnish Customs who have a valid excise licence and who are testing EMCS message exchange. The licence types connected to EMCS are: authorised warehouse keeper, registered consignor and registered consignee. The instructions describe the testing process from technical testing to starting EMCS message exchange in the production environment.

A company that is going to start submitting declarations to EMCS using message exchange shall apply for an authorisation for message exchange and complete the customer testing successfully with Customs. EMCS message exchange requires the use of direct message exchange.

In direct message exchange, a company acting as message declarant and service provider must apply for authorisation to use direct message exchange. The application form no. 934e (Application for authorisation to use direct message exchange) is available on the Finnish Customs website.

## **Testing stages and schedule**

The testing ensures that the communications are working and that the EMCS messages sent by the company comply with the message specifications of Customs. The testing aims to ascertain that the company is able to receive all the response messages sent by Customs and to act accordingly. The objective of testing is that the company will send as error-free messages as possible in the production environment.

After the processing of the application for authorisation to use direct message exchange, the EMCS testing official of Customs sends the company a suggestion for the customer testing schedule. The customer testing cases and the schedule depend on the company's activities and the excise licences connected to them as well as on the products concerned.

Customer testing consists of:

- testing of the connection for direct message exchange, which is mandatory for new message intermediaries
- technical testing
- testing with the customer's own material.

Before testing, the testing official sends the company the required test cases and the more specific instructions related to them. After the technical testing, the customer is given the opportunity to test his own material in the customer testing environment. Testing with own material is recommended to ensure that the production can be started swiftly.

The aim is to arrange one free consultation visit before testing begins. Two to three weeks will be reserved for customer testing depending on the type of messages the company will send. The company must commit to the agreed testing schedule. If the company does not adhere to the agreed schedule, the testing will be interrupted and a new deferred testing schedule has to be agreed upon.

The testing is conducted in the customer testing environment of EMCS. The testing official informs the company's contact person of any errors that have occurred during the testing. The company will not pass the customer testing until it has corrected the errors.

**Passing the technical testing and starting production**

When the company has passed the customer testing, the Customs testing official informs the company of this and agrees on the production start date. Customs sends the company a decision on message exchange authorisation (EMCS) and the testing report enclosed to it. The company will start production on the agreed date.

**Further information:**

Further information is available in the guides on direct message exchange available on the Customs website:

Message exchange with Finnish Customs: Technical guidebook, and

Message exchange with Finnish Customs: Introduction to message exchange with Finnish Customs. The guides are available on the Customs website.

Descriptions of the message exchange procedure and required data content are available on the Customs website [Message exchange](#)