Customer testing instructions for the transit system

19 December 2019

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These instructions are intended for customers of Finnish Customs who are applying to become transit system message exchange customers. The instructions describe the testing process from technical testing to starting the message exchange.

A company that is going to start submitting declarations to the transit system by using message exchange, must complete the customer testing successfully with Customs. Message exchange authorisation is required to receive transit authorisation for simplified procedure.
Direct message exchange or operator-based transactions can be used for message exchange. You can apply to become a Customs message exchange customer by completing customs form 934e.

Testing stages and schedule

The testing ensures that the data communications are working and that the messages sent by the company comply with Customs' message specifications. 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 to ensure that the company will send as error-free messages as possible when entering the production phase. Customer testing will be carried out in the customs testing environment.

After Customs has processed a company's application, the testing official contacts the company's contact person indicated in the application, in order to set dates for the testing and for opening the connections. One free consultation visit will be arranged before testing begins. A Customs business adviser will contact the company to arrange a time for the consultation.

Two weeks will be reserved for the testing of the authorised consignor and the authorised consignee. The company must commit to the agreed testing schedule. If the business does not adhere to the agreed schedule, the testing will be interrupted and a new schedule for subsequent testing must be agreed upon.

For direct message exchange, the company must carry out a separate technical testing of the connection. The aim of the test cases for testing the technical connection is to ensure that the customer's software and the Customs web service for direct message exchange are compatible. Since the web service acts as a transport layer for transit declarations, the aim is to ensure the technical functioning of the connection before starting the testing with application messages. If the company already uses direct message exchange to transmit messages, the technical testing of the connection is optional. More specific instructions on how to test the technical connection are sent to the company in connection with agreeing on the testing time. At this time, the company can also start using the message notification service for direct message exchange if it so wishes. More information can be found in the following message exchange guides [Message exchange](#)

- The customer testing of an authorised consignor consists of a technical testing and implementation testing.
- The customer testing of an authorised consignee consists of a technical testing. If they wish, the authorised consignee can also voluntarily carry out the implementation testing.

The technical testing is carried out by using material prepared by Customs. The Customs testing official sends the company the required test identifiers and the test cases.
Implementation testing is performed with the company's own declaration material. Customs' testing official will inform the company's contact person about any errors that have emerged during the testing and which the company needs to rectify.

Passing the technical testing and starting production

The Customs testing official informs the company that the testing has been approved. When the authorisation for simplified procedure is granted, Customs' authorisation handler agrees with the company on a starting date for production. The company can enter the message exchange production phase on the agreed date.

Company changing over from operator-based message exchange to direct message exchange

In the next few years, Customs is changing over to direct message exchange based on the schedule regarding the implementation of the new customs system.
When a Company changes over from operator-based message exchange to direct message exchange, it should submit an application for message exchange with Customs (customs form no 934e).

Initiating direct message exchange requires approved customer testing with Customs. A company, which previously has used operator-based message exchange and is now changing over to direct message exchange, must carry out a possible technical testing of the connection before customer testing with application messages (se section 1). Since messages in ML format are used in direct message exchange, all companies who previously used an operator for transits, must also carry out the technical testing. A separate implementation test with the company's own material that measures the company's competence, will not be carried out if the company has previously used message exchange for transit.

Enough resources and time for carrying out the customer testing must be reserved. Time is reserved as follows for customer testing with Customs:
- Testing the technical connection (only for new message intermediaries): one week.
- Testing, either with Customs' testing material or the company's own material: no more than three weeks in all

When the company changes over to direct message exchange, the company can choose to use Customs' technical test cases for an authorised consignor or its own declaration material for testing.
Customs' technical testing material must be used in messages by an authorised consignee.

When a company's own material is used for testing, the company selects 5-10 transit declarations already made in the production environment, and sends them in XML format to Customs' customer testing environment via direct message exchange. Before testing, the company must notify the Customs testing official of the MRN's of the produced transit declarations, which it will be sending to the customer testing. When choosing test cases, the company must ensure that the data content of its material covers the company's operation.

When choosing test cases, the company must observe the following:

- Identification details to be used in the testing environment must be agreed on separately with the testing official before testing begins
- The Customs testing official sends to the company the guarantee reference, warehouse ID and the code of the office of departure, to be used in the testing
- Operator examples, offices
- Simplified procedure and standard procedure
- The EORI numbers starting with FIRU in production, do not work in the test environment
- All warehouse ID's and extension codes to operator ID's in use in the production, do not work as such in the test environment
- An office of departure registered for a certain warehouse, can in the test environment be different from the one in production
- When using the codes SUM, 10, 21, 22 and 31 for a previous function/procedure, only MRN's created for the test environment should be used

The following should also be noted in the data content:

- At least one declaration should have the previous procedure code 00
- Submitting an corrective declaration
- Sensitive goods
- Declaring several goods items
- Previous function AREX as well as ELEX (Note! The testing official provides the MRN and the goods item number)
- Declaring several previous functions
- Declaring several attachments
- Nationality of means of transport at departure
- Air transport: transport reference number
- Goods in container
- Declaring the identifiers of several containers
- Packages: packed, bulk goods, break bulk cargo and several package types
- Declaring additional statement
- Border customs office
- Declaring one or several seals

Presence of the following information on heading level as well as on goods item level:
- Country of dispatch and destination country
- Consignor
- Consignee

Furthermore, if the company intends to enter safety and security data in the messages, the following data content should be noted in the test cases:
- The carrier should be declared

Presence of the following information on heading level as well as on goods item level:
- Commercial reference number
- Original consignor
- Final consignee
- Freight charges method of payment

Detailed message content descriptions are available in the transit data content guide on the Finnish Customs website Message descriptions

In transit it is possible to use both direct message exchange and operator-based data connections and at the same time during the transitional period. The company changing over from using an operator to using direct message exchange has to ensure that any subsequent response messages to transit declarations submitted via an operator can still be received via an operator, when necessary. When a company no longer requires an operator-based message exchange connection, it should notify the Customs testing official about this. The testing official and the customer agree on the date when the connections provided by an operator will be closed.

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