

CERTEX Transition for Northern Ireland Import Declarations

From 28th June 2025, controls on Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) goods for Northern Ireland imports will pass from ALVS to CERTEX. This will involve changes in the format of the CHED reference number and in the document code used for declaring a CHED-PP.

CHED-PP

The CHED-PP controls on CERTEX will be conducted using document code C085 but we do not anticipate the EU updating the TARIC measures by 28th June 2025. In order to ensure that the CHED-PP is declared against C085, new validation will be introduced on 26th June 2025 which will mandate declaration of C085 on Northern Ireland import declarations if either of the document codes N002 or N851 is declared. This will mean that the CHED-PP identification will need to be declared against both C085 and N002/N851. The change to mandate C085 will apply regardless of the status code declared with N002 or N851, and also applies to NIRMS movements. This change will also apply to Supplementary Declarations using Additional Declaration Type Code Y, even if C085 was not included on the Simplified Frontier Declaration.

Appendix 5A is being amended to include a note against document codes C085, N002 & N851 to reflect this requirement. The requirement will not be enforced by CDS until 26th June 2025, but we would encourage declarants to start making the change as soon as possible to reduce the impact when the new validation is applied. Pre-lodged Northern Ireland declarations which are arrived from 26th June 2025 onwards and which include N002 or N851 without also including C085, will be rejected on arrival.

Format changes to CHED reference numbers

The format of the CHED reference number to be declared against document codes C085, C640, C678, N002, N851 and N853 on Northern Ireland import declarations from 28th June 2025 will be changing to comply with CERTEX requirements. Pre-lodged declarations for consignments arriving in Northern Ireland from 28th June 2025 will need to be submitted with the CHED reference number in the new format, or will need to be amended before the goods are arrived. Pre-lodged declarations for consignments arriving in Northern Ireland before 28th, should continue to use the existing ALVS compliant format of CHED reference number.

If a new format CHED reference is declared for goods expected to arrive from 28th June or later but the goods actually arrive before 28th June, the CHED reference will have to be amended to the ALVS compatible format before the consignment is arrived on CDS.

If a CERTEX compatible CHED is partially rejected then the CHED reference number will be split into two – the code with an R suffix for the rejected part and with a V suffix for the valid part. The V suffix must be declared as part of the CHED reference number for the part of the consignment which is to be cleared e.g. CHEDA.XI.2024.1234567V .

Pre-validation of pre-lodged declarations will be switched off until the 28 June to accommodate for this change. This means that any errors to the CHED format, including mis-keying of the CHED reference number, will not be identified until the declaration is arrived.

These changes do not impact declarations for goods being imported into GB.

Changes to non-SPS document codes

The following changes to treatment of document codes will apply to both GB and Northern Ireland declarations –

- Document codes C057 (Copy of the declaration of conformity – Option A), C079 (Copy of the declaration of conformity - Option B) & C082 (Copy of the declaration of conformity - Option C) will no longer permit use of document status code XB. This results in the document ID for these document codes becoming mandatory instead of conditional and the document reason become not applicable instead of conditional. Any exemptions will need to be claimed by use of waiver document codes instead. Please refer to the tariff measures for the available waivers applicable to the commodity code.
- Document code L100 is being amended to make it clear that an import licence is required on entry to Customs Warehousing or Free Port/Free Zone unless the goods are going to be re-exported within 45 days.

The attached spreadsheet includes the draft amendments to be published in Appendix 5A when the CERTEx validation goes live. This cannot be published sooner because declarants following this guidance for consignments arriving before 28th June 2025 would find that their declarations do not get recognised by ALVS.

Document codes for import cultural goods licences will be added to Appendix 5A once they have been finalised by the EU and added to the EU TARIC measures. Commodity code changes to facilitate the introduction of import cultural goods licences are already available to view in the Online Trade Tariff with a start date of 28th June 2025.