

S&S GB – Guidance on common data errors (v1 – February 2026)

Data field	Completion guidance on GOV.UK	Common errors
Identity of means of transport crossing border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — For maritime, the IMO ship identification number to be included. — For Rail the wagon number to be included. — Not to be used for Air — the IATA flight number should be included in the data field ‘conveyance reference number’. — For accompanied roll-on roll-off, the Vehicle Registration Number to be included. — Road (Channel Tunnel), the Vehicle Registration Number to be included. — For unaccompanied roll-on roll-off, the IMO ship identification number to be included <p>These need to be entered with no spaces or special characters.</p>	<p>For accompanied RoRo, trailer registration number (TRN) is frequently included in this field rather than the vehicle registration number (VRN) which is the requirement. TRN details should be included in the ‘Container Number’ data field.</p>
Container number	<p>This field must be provided when containers or trailers are being moved. If a container is being moved on a trailer then the container number should be entered into this field in preference to the registered trailer number. The unique Container or trailer number (letters or numbers) which identifies the container/trailer is to be entered.</p> <p>However, where multiple consignments are carried in a single container provision of Marks and Numbers will</p>	<p>This field is frequently left blank although it should be completed wherever containers or trailers are being moved. As above, this field (not ‘Identity of means of transport crossing border’) should be used to provide any TRNs.</p>

	<p>assist identification of the relevant cargo and minimise delays.</p> <p>In particular this must be provided for Maritime Containers, Road (Channel Tunnel), Accompanied RoRo, and Unaccompanied RoRo. The Trailer number provided should be the trailer number registered with the respective national authority in the country of registration. (Refer to Trailer Registration Tab for details of your respective national registration schemes.</p>	[To note, this data field in the GOV.UK guidance is in the process of being updated so it is titled 'Container / trailer number' to provide further clarity for declarants]
Expected Date and Time of Arrival (EDTA)	<p>The time must be GMT.</p> <p>Scheduled date and time of arrival of means of transport at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — (air) first airport — (Road) 'Channel Tunnel' arrival at the Eurotunnel terminal in Coquelles, France. — (sea, unaccompanied RoRo, and accompanied RoRo) arrival at first port — (rail) arrival at Dollands Moor freight yard 	<p>Declarants are required to amend this data field if the EDTA changes.</p> <p>We are aware that in some circumstances the EDTA can fluctuate multiple times during a voyage, so we are currently working to provide guidance on when the EDTA should be amended. We will share this with stakeholders as soon as it is finalised.</p>
Customs Office of First Entry (CoFE)	<p>You must identify the customs office of first entry in the UK.</p> <p>Codes are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the first 2 characters (a2) serve to identify the country by means of the country code • the next 6 characters (an..6) stand for the office concerned in that country. <p>Codes will be set up for the identification of all potential customs offices of first entry.</p>	<p>Previously, COFE codes were not available for all ports, and declarants were advised to use the closest alternative code where one wasn't available.</p> <p>HMRC are in the process of updating the list of location codes to ensure all ports are included: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/location-codes-for-ports-of-entry-in-great-britain so we would encourage declarants to check this list periodically to ensure the appropriate COFE code is used.</p>

		Codes GB000060 (Folkestone) or GB000040 (Dover) in particular are often being used incorrectly.
Mode of transport at the border	<p>Enter the appropriate mode of transport code corresponding to the active means of transport in which the goods are expected to enter the customs territory of the Community.</p> <p>For all accompanied movements via the Channel Tunnel the appropriate mode of transport code is 3 (Road).</p> <p>Where air cargo is transported on modes of transport other than air, the other mode of transport shall be declared.</p> <p>However, IATA number must be completed in the 'conveyance reference number' field and Airway bill number must be provided in 'Transport Document Number.'</p>	<p>There appears to be confusion around the correct use of Mode of Transport code 3 (Road – Channel Tunnel – Le Shuttle service) and 10 (roll-on roll-off – accompanied).</p> <p>Where Mode of Transport code 3 is used, the only CoFE code that can be used is GB000060 (Folkestone).</p> <p>These details must be provided to the best of the declarants knowledge and be accurate at the time of submission. If the route changes, they must amend their declaration with the actual route, as amendments can be done up to the point of arrival at the GB border</p>
Transport charges method of payment	You must enter the relevant code specifying the payment method for transport charges.	Whilst S&S GB does not mandate the completion of this data field, it is a required field in our guidance and legislation so should be completed.
Country(ies) of routing	<p>You must provide, in chronological order, the countries through which the goods are routed between the country of original departure and the country of final destination. The countries must be entered in the appropriate country code format.</p> <p>Please note, as this information is only collected at header level it is important that all consignments included in the declaration have followed the same routing.</p>	All countries the consignment(s) have travelled through from country of original departure to the country of final destination must be included.

	The country routing list should include the countries of departure and destination.	
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