

to the attention of the members of IG Air Cargo Switzerland

Zurich Airport, February 8, 2024

BAZG: NCTS Phase 5 – PASSAR – Road Feeder Service (RFS)

Dear members,

By changing the NCTS release to phase 5, new regulations will apply to the participating countries in the common transit procedure from December 1, 2023, in particular with regard to the mandatory provision of data for goods in transit. Due to the gradual introduction of the new customs system (PASSAR) by the BAZG, NCTS Phase 5 will be deactivated and, together with the provisions issued by the EU, will only be implemented by PASSAR.

With the changeover from PASSAR phase 4 to 5, by **December 1, 2024** at the latest, the new provisions will come into full force. They mainly concern the declaration obligation in airfreight replacement traffic (LEV), where the 6-digit HS code must now be specified for each consignment (on FHL level).

The same regulation also applies to inbound transit goods.

What are the consequences of providing incomplete data?

In the event of incorrect or missing data transmission of the HS code to the airlines, the shipment will not be transported by RFS until the correct and complete data is received from the airline/ground handling agent. This can lead to delays, i.e. missed connections, especially at weekends and is all the more problematic if the shipment is a consolidated shipment with several FHLs. Very often shipments are rebooked by the airlines at short notice to RFS connections at off-peak times, where the forwarder can no longer be reached for queries, e.g. at weekends.

In order to prevent such cases and avoid unnecessary additional work for all parties involved in the transportation, we recommend that freight forwarders provide the following information for each air freight shipment as of immediate effect.

Swiss exports by RFS from Switzerland – per March 17, 2024

MANDATORY:

- GDRN («Goods Declaration Reference Number») / Zollquittungsnummer (ZQN)
(an edec Web ZQN cannot be used – in such cases the HS-Code (customs tariff number – ZTN must be indicated)

OPTIONAL (if no GDRN/ZQN is available):

- HS-Code (customs tariff number – ZTN) – 6-digits
- Value per HS-Code/ZTN

Exceptional for/or BSL EuroAirport only – as of immediate effect ***

Swiss exports by RFS from Switzerland via France – per February 1, 2024

MANDATORY:

- HS-Code (customs tariff number – ZTN)
(GDRN/ZKN cannot be used by French customs)
- Value per HS-Code/ZTN

Airlines operating at EuroAirport are required to inform freight forwarders how their RFS will be loaded, from CH or via FR territory.

*** IG Air Cargo is currently trying to work out a solution with the FR customs authorities regarding the suddenly enacted regulation on the required value declarations. For the time being, however, the above-mentioned regulation applies.

The information should be included or transmitted in the data transmission in the FWB or FHL in the OCI data field - "Other Customs and Security Information". The HS-Code (customs tariff number – ZTN) is to be entered in FWB in Rate Element with NH/12456 or FHL in HTS/123456. The GDRN shall be transmitted for FWB and FHL in OCI information field.

As a current example from EuroAirport in Basel shows, the regulations are already being rigorously implemented today and are leading not only to irregularities and annoyance, but also to an enormous amount of additional work for airlines and ground handling agents. The resulting additional costs (data completion, request for missing data, storage costs) will be passed on to the forwarders via the airlines in accordance with the published tariff. In addition, the ground handling agents reserve the right to return shipments without complete data on peak days, such as on Fridays.

In the interests of all, we would like to prevent this as far as possible by preparing for it today and thus implementing the new guidelines at an early stage.

On behalf and in the interest of IG Air Cargo Switzerland, we would like to thank you all for your support and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards

IG AirCargo Switzerland


Gerry Zurmühle

President