

New Zealand Customs EDI Guide for Software Developers

Introduction

The following guide has been prepared to assist software developers and users of New Zealand Customs EDI service. It provides a basic overview of messages, the EDI service and the process to follow to "go live". It should be read in conjunction with the EDI Message Implementation Guidelines, Customs Requirements for Importers and Exporters and Customs Fact Sheets, all available at www.customs.govt.nz

Messages

New Zealand Customs currently support four EDI messages:

- CUSDEC -Customs Declaration, also known as Entries
- CUSCAR 98A -Customs Cargo Report, also known as Electronic Cargo Information (ECI)
- CUSCAR 03A -Customs Outward Report
- CUSRES - Customs Response

All four messages are based on the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Trade (UNEDIFACT) standards.

CUSDEC Customs Declaration

The CUSDEC Customs Declaration is used by Importers, Exporters and Excise clients to declare goods to be entered for home consumption or export for Customs and Statistical purposes. The implementation guidelines for the CUSDEC are available on the Customs website:

<http://www.customs.govt.nz/library/technical+publications/default.asp> in document CusdecV2.pdf.

CUSCAR 98A Customs Cargo Report

The Customs Cargo Report is primarily used by Shipping Companies and Airlines to report full details of cargo carried on vessels and aircraft arriving or departing New Zealand. It may also be used by Importers and Exporters to obtain Customs clearance ("write-off") of low value consignments for both import and export. The implementation guidelines for the Cargo Report are available on the Customs website:

<http://www.customs.govt.nz/library/technical+publications/default.asp> in document CuscarV5.pdf.

CUSCAR 03A Customs Outward Report

The Customs Outward Report is used by Shipping Companies and Airlines to report the Customs export clearance numbers and shipping bills of all goods carried on vessels and aircraft departing New Zealand. It may also be used by Consolidators to summarise the clearances for goods contained in LCL containers. The implementation guidelines for the Outward Report are available on the Customs website <http://www.customs.govt.nz/library/technical+publications/default.asp> in document Outward Report MIG V3.pdf

CUSRES Customs Response

The Customs Response message is used to provide responses to each of the above messages. Responses may be in the form of error reports, clearance advice, acceptance advice or free text messages. Responses may also be sent to third parties e.g. container releases to Port Companies. CUSRES implementation guidelines for to each of the above messages are contained within that messages guideline.

EDI Service

All EDI messages are transferred to the Customs system via a single EDI gateway operated by The Electronic Commerce Network (ECN). ECN are contracted to Customs to provide, mailbox services, message transfer and 24 hour message tracking and support. ECN also host Customs on-line declaration website.

Datacom Systems Ltd operate and maintain the Customs system itself. This includes the support of the EDI translator, processing system and databases.

Once received by Customs, messages undergo translation, validation and processing. Once processed a response message will be generated and returned to the sender, again via ECN. In most cases messages are processed and responses returned in under 30 minutes. If responses are not received within 60 minutes senders should contact ECN.

EDI Development

Before developing their own EDI systems for transmission to Customs, it is suggested that Customs clients look at the existing solutions available. There are a large number of commercial Customs software packages available that can be used stand alone or integrated into existing company systems. In addition to this is the Customs on-line declaration website hosted by ECN. This is a viable solution for low to medium volume clients.

Having decided to build their own system, developers should firstly read and understand the Message Implementation Guidelines available on the Customs Website (see above for details). The Guidelines set out the data structure and definitions that must be followed. Syntax examples of each message are provided and should be used for comparison purposes. If the file you produce does not match the example it will in all likelihood fail processing. EDI messages are relative simple however the CUSDEC message contains a complex algorithm used to authenticate each message. Developers of CUSDEC are advised to read and understand Implementation Guideline Section 3.6 – MAC Algorithm before they commence programming.

Once your system can produce files that resemble the syntax examples you should contact ECN and apply for a test code and mailbox. This will allow you to send messages to the Customs EDI test environment that mirrors the production environment.

Note: Test messages are identified by the use of the NZCS System Id CUSSWT in the UNB segment.

If you need support while using the Test system contacts are as follows:

- For EDI Message transmission problems (e.g. no response received)
Contact the ECN helpdesk (0800 69 28 78, help@ecngroup.co.nz)
- For EDI message syntax problems/queries and MAC "debug" files
Contact Robert Bryson, Senior IT analyst, Customs Information Services, (04) 462 0196, robert.bryson@customs.govt.nz
- For Customs business rules problems/queries and approval to "go live"
Contact the Customs Business Analysts - Carl Hagedorn (04) 462-0184, carl.hagedorn@customs.govt.nz, or Ross Baird (04) 462-0101, ross.baird@customs.govt.nz

When you can successfully transmit messages and receive responses you should apply to Customs for approval to go live. As a minimum requirement, you must be able to demonstrate the

ability to successfully send original, replacement and cancellation messages. Customs will verify your test files and if these are acceptable will authorise your connection to the production environment.

Connection

Once authorised to go live, you should apply to Customs for a Production Client Code. An application form (NZCS 224) is available from the Customs Web site. Once you receive your client code you should contact ECN to arrange a production mailbox set-up. ECN will liaise with Customs regarding the set-up on the Customs system. Once set-up is complete you will be able to send live messages.

Note: Production messages are identified by the use of the NZCS System Id CUSMOD in the UNB segment.

If you need support while using the live system contacts are as follows:

- For EDI Message transmission problems (e.g. no response received)
Contact the ECN helpdesk (0800 69 28 78, help@ecngroup.co.nz)
- For Customs queries
Contact the Customs Call Centre (0800 428 786)