

Customs Proposals

P-001 (Customs)

Ottawa, September 24, 1999

In this publication, you will find two proposals for change in customs procedure for the attention of all parties involved in importing commercial shipments into Canada. They are a follow-up to Customs Notice N-265, *Time Frames for the Release of Goods*, issued on January 29, 1999.

Note: We are looking for comments or suggestions on this Customs Proposal.

Estimated Time and Date of Arrival of Commercial Goods

1. Cargo control documents (CCDs) issued by carriers, freight forwarders, or agents to the importer or customs broker **before** the arrival of the goods at the customs office of release must show the estimated time and date of arrival of the goods at the destination customs office. CCDs issued **after** the arrival of the goods at the customs office of release must show that the goods are on hand.
2. The exception to the above is a situation called "Driver Waiting" at highway border locations, where the carrier, importer, or broker has indicated "Driver Waiting" on the CCD of the release package. This indicates that the goods are on hand at the time the release request is submitted.
3. We are proposing this procedure in order to determine whether the release request is submitted within the specified time frames and to facilitate the scheduling of the examinations of the goods.
4. Where "Location of Goods" is a field on the CCD, the estimated time and date of arrival or goods on hand indicator may be included as part of the location of goods information. If the document does not have this field, the information should be indicated in an area of the document that is clearly visible.

Before Arrival

5. Under normal procedures for the Pre-Arrival Review System (PARS), the importer or broker will provide the estimated time and date of arrival as part of the mandatory release information. PARS includes AIRPARS, INPARS, MARINEPARS, and RAILPARS.

After Arrival

6. Where the importer or broker uses a post-arrival service option, such as a release on minimum documentation (RMD), and does not provide an estimated time and date of arrival as part of the release information, we will assume that the goods are available for examination at the customs office of release at the time the release request is submitted.
7. Where the importer or broker uses a post-arrival service option and the goods are not available for examination at the time the release request is submitted at the customs office of release, the release information must include the estimated time and date of arrival of the goods at the destination customs office. The release request must be submitted within the time frames and policy outlined in Customs Notice N-265. Importers or brokers should use this type of transaction only where PARS is not viable.
8. The estimated time and date of arrival may be provided by the importer or broker in one of the following ways:

- (a) Electronic Data Interchange (EDI):

- (1) in the "Goods Location" field in addition to the Warehouse Location or Warehouse Sub-location code; or
- (2) in the "Description of Goods" field.

Note: We prefer option (1).

(b) Paper or hard copy:

- (1) on the lead sheet of the release package; or
- (2) highlighted on the cargo control document.

9. This proposal is expected to take effect on April 3, 2000.

Container Number

1. Where goods are in a container, the importer or broker must provide the container number(s) to customs as part of the release information.
2. We are proposing this procedure in order to facilitate customs processing and examination of goods.
3. The container number(s) may be provided by the importer or broker in one of the following ways:
 - (a) Electronic Data Interchange (EDI):
 - (1) in the "Container Number" field; or
 - (2) in the "Description of Goods" field.

Note: We prefer option (1).

(b) Paper or hard copy – on the cargo control document of the release package. The carrier, freight forwarder or agent is responsible for including this information when providing the cargo control document to the importer or broker.

4. This proposal is expected to take effect on April 3, 2000.

General Information

We welcome your comments or suggestions on these proposals by October 29, 1999. Please send them to the following address:

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