

# New Electronic Customs Declaration System in Ireland ("AEP2")

The current Irish Automated Entry Procedure (AEP) for customs declarations (i.e. SADs) is being replaced from 1 June of this year by "AEP2".

May 2007



We set out some important points (below) to consider prior to its implementation. We would suggest that a review of the role of your customs clearance agents as well as your instructions to them be undertaken as soon as possible. The structure of AEP2 is such that incorrect information used by your clearance agents may, post 1 June, result in unnecessary delays for your goods imported into and exported from Ireland.

We understand that there will be no transition period and therefore it is advisable that all necessary review steps be undertaken immediately.

## Background

As an AEP user, the Revenue Commissioners will have sent you information regarding AEP2. In addition, if you are authorised to operate any of the customs procedures with economic impact (IPR, PCC, OP, End-Use, etc), you may already have received notification of your new authorisation number.

To assist you in managing the changes, we would draw particular attention to:

## The need for digital signatures.

The digital signature of the 'Declarant' will be required to submit SAD entries. This will impact where you use DTI (Direct Trader Input) and also where you avail of the services of a clearance agent to complete your entries. The scenarios are as follows:

- If you use the DTI facility, then you will need to ensure that you have a digital signature.
- If your clearance agent completes declarations in your name then you will have to obtain a digital signature and they in turn will be required to be approved as a sub-user of your digital signature.
- If your clearance agent completes declarations in his own name, the clearance agent will use his own digital signature.

The same principles will apply where you propose to use software agencies to process your customs declarations.

## New Validation System for Customs Declarations

Revenue will have the ability to directly validate data entered in certain key SAD boxes against

the information that Revenue holds for your approved Customs activities. Therefore, your clearance agents must ensure that all the appropriate details on customs declarations for your goods are completed correctly. Thus your agents must enter the correct TAN and VAT number, tariff classifications, authorisation numbers and customs procedure codes as well as any other details required under authorisations/rulings held by your company.

- For example, it is envisaged that where a company holds an Inward Processing Relief authorisation (IPR), AEP2 will validate all imported materials assigned to that IPR authorisation at both importation and subsequent exportation against the Revenue held list of approved materials for that authorisation. Any inconsistencies will result in the rejection of the import SAD.

The aim of AEP2 is to enable Revenue to analyse customs declarations through their Risk Management profiling software and, we understand, assist them in future Audit programmes.

### Changes in the data sets on your Customs Declarations

AEP2 will require the completion of new information sets, revised codes and additional boxes on the declarations. Therefore it is critical that both you and your clearance agents fully understand the information that will be required to be entered on customs declarations at import and export for your goods.

### Conclusion

In light of AEP2, we would recommend that you:

- Determine whether you will require a digital signature and sub users
- Review the details used by your clearance agents, for example, your TAN and VAT number, tariff classifications, new authorisation numbers, customs procedure codes to ensure they meet the new requirements.
- Identify what additional or revised information will be required.

Finally, it should be noted that while Ireland is implementing AEP2 on 1 June 2007, similar software interfaces are being rolled out across the EU in the forthcoming months. Therefore, to ensure minimum disruption to your business, we would suggest that you ensure that all appropriate declaration details are being used in all the other Community countries where you make customs declarations.

### PwC Support

If you need any assistance to fully understand the impact of this significant change in customs declarations or require support to implement procedures to ensure compliance, we would be delighted to offer our assistance.

---

For more information, please contact your usual PwC contact or specifically:



**Damian McCarthy,**  
Partner,  
Customs and International Trade  
Email: [damian.mccarthy@ie.pwc.com](mailto:damian.mccarthy@ie.pwc.com)  
Tel: 353-1-792 6203  
Fax: 353-1-792 6200



**Anna Blake,**  
Senior Manager,  
Customs and International Trade  
Email: [anna.blake@ie.pwc.com](mailto:anna.blake@ie.pwc.com)  
Tel: 353-1-792 8645  
Fax: 353-1-792 6200



**Anne Williams,**  
Director,  
Customs and International Trade  
Email: [anne.c.williams@ie.pwc.com](mailto:anne.c.williams@ie.pwc.com)  
Tel: 353-1-792 6528  
Fax: 353-1-792 6200



**Colin Doolin,**  
Senior Manager,  
Customs and International Trade  
Email: [colin.doolin@ie.pwc.com](mailto:colin.doolin@ie.pwc.com)  
Tel: 353-1-792 6852  
Fax: 353-1-792 6200