

Info

Digitalisation

Customs procedures



Transit procedures in rail transport – digitalisation in the customs area

With the introduction of the Union Customs Code on 1 May 2016, the EU decided to **fully digitalise (automate)** customs procedures and formalities. In accordance with a work programme, paper-based procedures will be gradually replaced by **electronic procedures** by 2025.

This affects the simplified rail transit procedure – **SPR**, in which the CIM consignment note is the customs document. The SPR is now being replaced by the standard electronic transit procedure **NCTS, Version Phase 5**.

NCTS Phase 5 also includes in contrast to the current version Phase 4 the functionalities required for rail traffic. This means that the paper-based transit procedure can be replaced and a further step is taken towards fully implementing the requirements of the new customs law.

When will the changeover take place?

The transition from NCTS Phase 4 to **NCTS Phase 5** will begin in 2021. The deployment of the national customs systems is largely proceeding according to plan and should be completed by the **end of 2023**. The decision at which point in time within the transition period the NCTS version change of the national customs administrations takes place is made autonomously by the countries.

- Q4/2021: Poland
- Q2/2022: Germany, Greece
- Q4/2022: Czech Republic
- Q1/2023: Slovenia
- Q2/2023: Austria, Croatia, Bulgaria
- Q3/2023: Hungary, Romania
- Q4/2023: Italy

(Status: June 2021).

What does this mean for your rail transport?

The relevant date is the date of conversion of the NCTS IT system of the national customs administrations and the mandatory use of NCTS Phase 5 in the countries participating in the common transit procedure (EU Member States, EFTA States, United Kingdom, Serbia, North Macedonia, Turkey).

As of this date, the **SPR** is no longer permitted **in departure**. **Transport to or transit through** the already converted countries is **still possible until the end of 2023**.

(Prerequisite: valid SPR authorisation of the RUs in these countries).

What does this mean for RCG?

As one of Europe's leading rail logistics companies, the Rail Cargo Group is all about digitalisation and has set itself the task of actively shaping the future of rail freight transport in Europe.

In order to be able to offer you the desired customs services in a timely manner in the future, we are already actively working on the implementation of **NCTS Phase 5** as part of the RCG digitalisation offensive.

Do you still have questions?

The customs specialists at Rail Cargo Group will be happy to answer your questions.

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