

Information sheet

Customs procedure now that the simplified rail transit procedure, the vgVV, no longer applies

1 Background

An EU decision relating to the law on customs procedures requires that a changeover plan be produced so that by 2025 paper-based procedures will be gradually replaced by electronic procedures.

This affects the simplified rail transit procedure, the vgVV, according to which the CIM consignment note represents the customs document. The dates for changing over from the paper procedure, the vgVV, to electronic transit procedures are not uniformly applicable and have in some instances been postponed due to various problems. The current changeover dates for each individual country can be seen in the table on SBB Cargo's website.

Link: <https://www.sbbcargo.com/de/angebot/zusatzleistungen/bahnahe-logistikleistungen.html>

As of the dates listed, it will no longer be permissible to use the vgVV in those countries as the shipment starts its journey. Movements within or transit through countries which have already switched to the new system will still be possible until 2025. So that we can still provide you with the customs services you require without undue delays, we have for some time now been actively working on the implementation of alternative procedures.

2 NCTS

The **vgVV** will be **replaced** by the electronic **standard transit procedure, NCTS** Phase 5 version. Compared with the current Phase 4 version, NCTS Phase 5 also includes the functionalities required for rail traffic. This means that the paper-based transit procedure can be superseded and a further step taken towards the full implementation of the requirements of the new EU customs law.

The NCTS transit procedure will become the new standard procedure for exports from Switzerland. SBB Cargo AG and the FOCBS have jointly drawn up new processes for the railway; these processes will be applied from the changeover date. Further information on the NCTS transit procedure can be found on our website.

Link: <https://www.sbbcargo.com/de/angebot/zusatzleistungen/bahnahe-logistikleistungen.html>

3 Advance EU export in acc. with UZK-IA article 329.7

As a further option, SBB Cargo AG provides the advance EU export procedure for export consignments from Germany to Switzerland (other countries on request). As regards goods destined for export, the customs office of departure, i.e. the customs office responsible for the despatching station, will carry out the duties normally performed by the customs office of exit.

The CIM consignment note (Convention International concernant le transport des marchandises par chemin de fer) must refer to the EU export declaration by quoting the MRN export number and by quoting the CIM consignment note number on the export declaration.

This procedure offers some advantages compared to the NCTS transit procedure and will therefore be introduced by SBB Cargo AG as the standard procedure for exports from Germany.

There is no transit procedure in Switzerland for goods that leave the EU under the advance export procedure. If Swiss import customs clearance is not carried out at the border, simplified transit by rail is possible on Swiss territory from the border customs office to the authorised consignee's registered site. This procedure is called: "simplified transit from the border customs office to the authorised consignee's registered site." We use a short version of this name: "National ZE Corridor", SBB Cargo owns this procedure.

More information about the "advance EU export" and the "national ZE corridor" procedures can be found on our website.

Link: <https://www.sbbcargo.com/de/kundencenter/dokumente/agb-recht.html>

4 Reciprocal Border customs clearance

The reciprocal border customs clearance (i.e., both export from the country of departure and import into the country of destination at the same customs office) is the last alternative for handling international traffic in a customs-compliant manner (with the exception of Chiasso). The obvious disadvantage is that any wagons needing to be cleared through customs will have to be uncoupled at the border and only transported onwards once customs clearance has been obtained. This will involve additional shunting costs and will impact negatively on the time during which the deliveries are in transit.

Due to circumstances particular to Switzerland, the border customs clearance procedure is mainly used in connection with traffic to and from Italy. For consignments to and from other countries, border customs clearance is only used (whenever possible) in the case of goods for which - for customs reasons - no other type of clearance is possible. This applies in particular to deliveries of waste materials, which must always be cleared at the border.

5 Contact

Do you have any questions or do you not yet know which customs procedure will be used for your international shipments by SBB Cargo AG?

Contact either your personal account manager or our customs department directly.

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