CSP CDS Interface Specification

Overview FAQ

Draft Version 0.1

MCP plc
Port Community Systems

CNSI

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What happens to my agent role/CHIEF role/badge code?

The agent role; chief role; and badge code are synonyms. These corresponds to the data element name AGENT-ROLE in the DES 209. These corresponds to the field “Badge allocated by the CSP” in the Badge details section of the C1800 form.

Badges will continue to be issued by the CSP for access to CDS. An online form equivalent to the C1800 will be provided for CDS. You should not need to complete the new C1800 form if you already have an existing badge associated in CHIEF. All badges previously issued will be migrated by HMRC and associated with your government gateway account linked to the already associated EORI. You do not need to request a new badge for CDS and will be able to continue to use the same value(s) you do for CHIEF.

The badge code will continue to be linked with an EORI and associated with a specific office location. As with the existing CHIEF system, requests issued to a CSP relating to a badge code must come from user credentials linked to the same office location as the badge.

What happens to my CSP user credentials?

The current CSP user credentials used to submit CHIEF declarations can also be used to submit declarations to CDS. Limitation around submitting declarations only from user accounts associated

with the submitters badge will continue to be in effect. You will need to contact your CSP regarding setting up routing rules for how DMS notifications will be returned to your software before you can use the new APIs.

Is anything happening to claiming, splitting or amalgamating consignments?

No. You should be able to claim, split and amalgamate consignments in the same way as you do now. Note consignments here is used as a generic term and terminology may vary between CSP's software.

Is anything happening to reports generated by my inventory system?

Yes. While reports are likely to look much the same as they do now, there are a number of changes to field lengths introduced in CDS that will be reflected in these reports. Note reports produced by inventory system can vary and you should consult with the respective CSP regarding the changes happening to their reports.

What is happening to CHIEF prints?

Most of the data held in CHIEF prints will be provided instead via DMS notification. There is currently no requirements outlined by HMRC relating to an equivalent to the DES222 mappings of this data to plain text reports. As is, the CSP will be unable to produce any of the existing plain text reports either. The CSP will always send the DMS notification in its original XML form to the software provider. Users requiring these existing reports should follow up with HMRC.

What is happening with the existing SOAP based interface?

The existing SOAP based interface for submitting customs declarations will run throughout the transition period from CHIEF to CDS. It is exclusively for submitting declarations to CHIEF only. Once CHIEF is turned off the SOAP based interface will no longer be available. To submit declarations to CDS you will need to use the new RESTful based APIs.

If you do not use the existing SOAP based interface to submit declarations to CHIEF then you will need to speak to your CSP about how the mechanism you do use for submitting declaration to CDS will be provided by your CSP.

The new RESTful API aligns more closely with the new CDS APIs available on the HMRC developer hub: https://developer.service.hmrc.gov.uk/api-documentation/docs/api . Please refer to the provided documents explaining how to use the APIs.

Are Inventory Pre-checks required?

Pre-checks are carried out for import declarations that are linked to an inventory record. The CSP checks some of the details in the declaration to confirm they correspond with the details held in the inventory. As with CHIEF CSPs are not mandated to carry out inventory pre-checks. Pre-checks are recommended to avoid an invalid declaration being submitted to CDS where it would require either cancellation or amendments. CSP's that do support pre-checking can disable this option for customers that do not want them.

How do the CDS APIs work?

You will submit a customs declaration using the same CSP user credentials and badge code as you would with CHIEF. See the customs declarations API for the exact form this request takes.

The CSP will check user credentials, validate the badge code and do schema validation of the submitted customs declaration. If these checks pass then the CSP will return a standard HTTP 202 status response. This responds only indicates that the CSP has successfully received the request and not that the declaration has been accepted by the CSP or HMRC.

Additional processing will then occur asynchronously within the CSP to validate the request against the inventory and then to forward the declaration onwards to HMRC's multi digital tax platform (MDTP).

The CSP will receive from HMRC notifications relating to any declaration it has submitted.

The CSP will check for the badge code in the notification header and will then deliver the message based on routing rules setup by the CSP in conjunction with the software house and the owner of the badge.

The CSPs will introduction an additional notification service which supports both push and pull mechanism for delivering the above notifications for CDS. This mechanism will also support returning non DMS notifications such as when inventory linking fails or when a processing error is returned directly from the MDTP platform.

The push and pull mechanism are described in more detail in the Notification Pull API and Notification Push API documents.

The new push and pull mechanism works around topics. Topics can be considered in much the same way as the existing MAILBOX/Device ID currently used for the mailbox web-service. The CSP will setup the topic and associate it with an office location. Each topic is unique to a single office location. Each office location can have one or more topics associated with it. The CSP will setup rules to deliver any notification for a badge code to a topic. The topic must be linked to the same office location as the badge. Each message placed on a topic will be assigned a partition number using a round-robin algorithm. Partitions can be used when pull based mechanisms are being used – this is to support multiple concurrent consumers.

The CSP will configure the topic to be either push or pull. This will be dependent on the software houses product setup requirements. You should request this information from your software provider before requesting the CSP to set this up for you.

How do I relate the notifications received with my original request?

There is no way of directly relating individual requests with notifications received. However each declaration will have an LRN (UCC 2/5) which in DMS terms is the FunctionalReferenceID and will be unique to that declaration for its lifetime. The LRN will be contained in any DMS notification and in the inventory linking failure notifications and will be returned as a header in any MDTP platform error. This should be used for relating any notifications with the original declaration entry.

You should avoid submitting concurrent requests for the same LRN as this can cause confusion when error notifications are returned.