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Information on the security amendment

Why in Switzerland handling agents are responsible for the entry summary declaration

The agreement on the simplification of customs formalities and on customs security measures¹ between Switzerland and the EU has been in force since 1 January 2011. In this agreement, the obligation to lodge an entry summary declaration for goods from third countries within specified deadlines, amongst other things, has been contractually regulated.

Based on Art. 10 para. 5 of the aforementioned agreement, the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) has designated the handling agents as the party responsible for lodging the entry summary declaration.

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

The entry summary declaration is only required in air traffic in Switzerland (Geneva and Zurich airports).

The entry summary declaration has to be entered in the Swiss system e-dec import, security amendment module. The EU Import Control System (ICS) is not applicable.

In the case of security checks which have been ordered, only the handling agent is authorised to move the goods in the airport area. Only direct contact between the customs office and the handling agent guarantees the smooth flow of goods (arrival - control - release).

In Switzerland, the entry summary declaration number has to be noted in the transfer document for the carrier. International airlines have no direct connection with the carriers.

¹ [0.631.242.05](#) [only available in the official languages German, French and Italian]