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Information (reminder)

VAT number in customs declarations: Only in UID format from 1 January 2014

The Federal Tax Administration has been assigning VAT numbers only in the new UID format since 2011. The six-digit format may continue to be used only until 31 December 2013.

Format of the new VAT number:	CHE-123.456.789 VAT
Format of the old VAT number:	123 456 (usable until the end of 2013)

Customs declaration

Only new format VAT numbers may be entered in customs declarations from 1 January 2014. The number is to be provided without dashes, full stops and add-ons in the customs clearance software e-dec and NCTS:

CHE123456789 (sample number)

The addition "VAT" * is provided in a new, separate field. In e-dec as soon as the XML schema version 3.1 ([see number 3.1 in document Business Use Case Schema V. 3.1¹](#)), approx. Q1 2014 or version 4.0 (around 2015) is used. In NCTS from 1 January 2014; the Edifact Guidelines CH802A will be updated soon.

* The abbreviation VAT cannot be used, only MWST, TVA or IVA are allowed – more details under : <http://www.estv.admin.ch/mwst/themen/00154/00589/01107/index.html?lang=de>

Principality of Liechtenstein

The Principality of Liechtenstein will continue to use the five-digit VAT number (e.g. 12 345). Consequently, this is to be entered in the existing format for importers in the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Information sources

Federal Tax Administration:
www.estv.admin.ch (Topics > Value added tax > Business identification number)

Federal Statistical Office (online query and search function):
<https://www.uid.admin.ch>

Swiss Customs Administration - questions on the customs declaration e-dec / NCTS:
[Contact form Helpdesk KSC](#) und Phone number +41 (0) 31 322 60 00

¹ This document is only available in German.