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National Board of Customs

Customer instruction 8, AREX de-  
clarations

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## **PROVIDING THE SECURITY DATA: EMPTY MEANS OF TRANSPORT**

As of 1 January 2011, it has been obligatory to submit security data to Customs for all goods crossing the border of the EU before the goods enter or leave the territory of the Community.

If transport companies transport vehicles other than their own empty means of transport (such as containers, trailers, wagons and pallets) for which a transport contract has been drawn up, an entry or exit summary declaration must be provided for them.

The summary declaration is to be lodged within the time limits prescribed for the different modes of transport (e.g. for road transports, no later than one hour prior to the arrival at the land border or the exit). When an empty means of transport arrives in the EU, the transport company or a representative is to present the MRN received from the Customs system when providing the declaration and, accordingly, Customs carries out the customs clearance for the means of transport.

In road traffic, it is recommended that the MRN and the container number are provided as an entry in the journey authorisation or in another document carried along during the transport. In sea and railway traffic, an electronic exit manifest presentation and arrival notification and presentation are to be used.

Containers that have been rented for the company's own use are regarded as the company's means of transport, and thus, summary declarations need not be submitted for them. In addition, security data declarations need not be submitted for transports of empty containers within the Community (or between the EU and Norway or Switzerland).

### **Declaration data on an Entry / Exit Summary Declaration**

It is recommended that both the commodity code and a written description are provided for an empty container. The text "EMPTY CONTAINER" should be entered as the verbal description. In road traffic, the container number must also be provided. Correspondingly, in railway traffic, "EMPTY WAGON" should be entered as the description. The code NE (unpacked) can be entered as the package type, in which case is the number of means of transport (e.g. containers) is to be entered as the number of pieces. The identification number must be entered under "container identification number", even if the container number has been entered under the goods description.

If an empty container or other means of transport carried under a transport contract is returned without providing a separate consignment note concerning the return, the consignment note drawn up for the purpose of exporting the goods is provided as the transport document. It contains an entry on returning the empty container.

It is recommended that the operator who has received the containerised cargo is provided as the consignor of the empty container that is to be returned. The container storage operator at the port can be given as the consignee. The holder of the empty container who has requested the cargo to be returned can also be given as consignor and consignee.

For further information, contact Finnish Customs at [turvatiedot@tulli.fi](mailto:turvatie@tulli.fi).