
The European Commission has introduced a “Prior Surveillance” import licensing regime to monitor imports of certain iron and steel products into the European Union. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2017/1092 was published on 20th June 2017.

In response to queries from importers we have compiled answers to the following ‘Frequently Asked Questions’. If you have a query that is not answered here please send it to ironandsteel@dbei.gov.ie and we will update the document accordingly.

**When do I need an import licence?**

You will need an import licence to import any iron and steel products covered by the commodity codes listed in Annex I to the Regulation. The requirement applies to those goods arriving for Customs clearance into Ireland or the EU on or after 31st May 2016 which have a net weight of more than 2,500 kg or for products which have a tariff code which commences with 7318 and a net weight of more than 5,000 kg.

**Where can I find a copy of Annex I and a list of these commodity codes?**

The list of the commodity codes is set out in Annex I to the Regulation with a complete list provided on our website at iron and steel licensing requirements.

**Do I need an import licence if my goods arrive before 31st May 2016?**

No. Goods customs cleared before 31st May 2016 do NOT need an import licence.

**Do I need an import licence if my goods originate in Europe?**

No. You do not need an import licence if your goods were made in the European Union or in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.

**Do I need an import licence if my goods fall under one commodity code with a net weight of less than 2,500 kg?**
No. You do not need an import licence if your goods originate from one country, are covered by one licensable commodity code and whose net weight is less than 2,500 kg or in the case of goods with a tariff code which commences with 7318 a net weight of less than 5,000 kg.

Do I need an import licence if I am importing a range of goods of one country of origin under a number of licensable commodity codes and whose combined weight is over 2,500 kg?

You need an import licence only where the total weight of goods under an individual licensable commodity code weighs 2,500 kg or more, per country of origin.

What if I am importing a range of goods under a number of licensable commodity codes and the net weight under each commodity code is 2,500 kg or more?

You will need an import licence for each commodity code and each country of origin where the total weight of goods under each individual licensable commodity code weighs 2,500 kg or more.

What if I am importing a range of licensable goods from a number of different countries of origin, all over the 2,500 kg weight limit? Will I need more than one licence?

Yes. You will need an import licence for each commodity code and each country of origin.

How long is an import licence valid for?

Licences have a four month validity period which may be renewed for a further four months if not fully used. Please email ironandsteel@dbei.gov.ie should you wish to renew your licence.

Do I need an import licence for each shipment?

No. An application can be made for a licence covering more than one proposed import from the same exporter, provided the goods being imported are of the same commodity code and same country of origin. Once you can provide a copy of your pro-forma invoice or your sales/purchase contract showing the intention to import the amount on the import licence application, you can apply for an import licence for as many shipments to be customs cleared during the four month validity of the import licence as you wish.

I placed an order for 10,000 kg of goods under one of the licensable commodity codes and have an invoice for this order. However, I intend to import them in a number of different shipments, each being under the 2,500 kg weight limit. Do I need an export licence?
Whilst if, at customs clearance, the weight of each shipment under each commodity code is less than 2,500 kg an import licence is not required, deliberately splitting an order into several different shipments under the weight threshold could be seen as a deliberate circumvention of the import controls. You are advised to apply for import licence/s for the entire order that you will be importing into Ireland / the EU.

**Does the 2,500 kg weight threshold apply per import or over a certain time period?**

The 2,500 kg limit applies to each commodity code within each shipment being presented for customs clearance. However, deliberate attempts should not be made to avoid import controls, as set out in the question above.

**How do I get an import licence?**

Applications must be made on the relevant application form. The required information should be typed onto the form and a scanned / PDF copy of the completed and signed form must be emailed to ironandsteel@dbei.gov.ie. You will also need to provide a copy of your pro-forma invoice or your sales/purchase contract. The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation may require additional information on the proposed transaction and will contact you directly if that is the case.

**How much does an import licence cost?**

There is no charge for the issuing of import licences under this Regulation.

**What information do I need to apply?**

In addition to a copy of your pro-forma invoice or your sales/purchase contract, your application form must include the following details:

a. Product description / trade name,

b. TARIC code,

c. volume of goods subject to that commodity code in kilos,

d. product value in euros on a CIF (Cost plus Insurance plus Freight to the EU border) basis,

e. where the products were made (country of origin),

f. where the products were shipped from (country of consignment).

**How long will it take to receive my import licence?**
The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation’s Import Licensing Unit aims to issue licences within five working days of receipt of a completed licence application.

**Can I apply for an import licence online?**

It is not possible to apply for an import licence online. Scanned application forms must be submitted as set out above.

**My licensable import is being made by a distributor. They are bringing a large consignment of licensable product into the EU and then distributing the product to companies throughout the EU. Do I need an import licence?**

An import licence is required when the licensable goods are arriving for Customs clearance into the EU. If the initial import was made by the distributor under an import licence you do not need a second licence for the movement of the goods within in the EU. For administrative convenience an application for an import licence can be made in any Member State and shall be valid throughout the Union, as per Article 2.4 of the Regulation.

**If the value of my order changes after I receive my licence do I need to apply for a new licence?**

Your licence remains valid, and does not require amendment, if the unit price and/or net weight of the import is within a 5% tolerance. Therefore you can use your existing licence where the difference in value comprises up to a 5% change in the unit price and/or up to a 5% change in the net weight.

**My purchase orders are provided on a product description basis and not a TARIC / commodity code basis. Will this cause a problem in the processing of my licence application?**

No. The licensable products should be clearly highlighted on the purchase order/invoice. We will contact you if we require any additional information or clarification.

**What if I don’t know which TARIC / commodity codes my goods fall under?**

Please consult the Tariff Classification Unit of the Revenue Commissioners at 067 63370 / 1890 62 63 64 or at tarclass@revenue.ie if you are uncertain of which Tariff Code to use.

**Can I use an agent to apply for my import licences?**

Yes. Both the importer and agent should be clearly identified on the application form. You should indicate on your application form whether the licence should be posted to the agent or importer.