



Ottawa, May 11, 2011

# CUSTOMS NOTICE 11-004

## Measures to Increase the Use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for Release Purposes

1. This notice is for the attention of importers, customs brokers, carriers, and service providers to announce the phased-in time frames to increase the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for release purposes as the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and industry prepare for the implementation of eManifest. Currently, 93% of all release requests are transmitted electronically to the CBSA.

2. eManifest is the third phase of the Advance Commercial Information (ACI) program and will change the commercial import process to reflect the CBSA's integrated risk management approach and to keep pace with the changing global environment. eManifest will require various members of the trade community to electronically submit trade information to the CBSA in advance of their shipment's arrival in Canada and within prescribed time frames. The June 2009 amendments to the *Customs Act* provide the CBSA authority to mandate pre-arrival data.

3. In April 2008, the CBSA introduced measures to increase the use of EDI. Phase I of this initiative introduced the requirement for the electronic (EDI) transmission of Release on Minimal Documentation (RMD), including the "Pre-Arrival Release System (PARS)", release requests for shipments containing 100 or less invoice line items unless otherwise exempt (e.g., OGD paper-permit requirements) as set out in Memorandum D17-1-4 paragraph 44.

4. Phase II of measures to increase the use of EDI will increase the total number of invoice lines from 100 to 999 (or CBSA system capacity).

5. The table below illustrates the phased-in approach for measures to increase the use of EDI:

RMD and PARS release requests must be transmitted electronically (EDI) to the CBSA effective:	Total number of invoice lines:
September 1, 2011	250 or less
February 1, 2012	500 or less
June 1, 2012	999 (CBSA system capacity) or less

6. Effective September 1, 2011 release requests must be transmitted to the CBSA electronically (EDI) if the total number of invoice lines is 250 or less.

7. Effective February 1, 2012 release requests must be transmitted to the CBSA electronically (EDI) if the total number of invoice lines is 500 or less.

8. Effective June 1, 2012 release requests must be transmitted to the CBSA electronically (EDI) if the total number of invoice lines is 999 (CBSA system capacity) or less.

9. Certain exceptions to transmitting RMD information electronically will remain in effect until an EDI option is introduced. EDI Exceptions Lead Sheets will continue to be required at time of submission of paper release requests.

10. Exceptions to the requirement of transmitting RMD documentation using EDI are as follows:

(a) Goods are subject to the requirements of another government department or agency and there is no EDI link between the CBSA and the other government department or agency;

(b) The number of invoice lines contains more than 250, 500 or 999 invoice lines; depending on the phased in time lines mentioned above;

(c) The release is for Shortages, Entered to Arrive, Value Included, Provisional, etc. where there is no EDI option;

(d) There is more than one warehouse sub-location code per release transaction;

(e) The release transaction is covered by multiple highway cargo control numbers at the border;

(f) The CBSA has issued a paper Form Y50, *Reject Document Control*, to the importer/broker for courier/low-value shipments;

(g) Goods are moved into a bonded warehouse using the release on minimum documentation option (grey wrapper);

(h) Goods are to be released from a Queen's warehouse;

(i) CBSA or client system outages;

(j) Regulated goods qualifying for tariff classification 9813 or 9814 ("Canadian Goods Returning").

11. Brokers and importers are reminded paper RMD release requests will not be accepted if it does not meet one of the exceptions listed above. Should an EDI RMD release option not be used, submission of a B3, *Canada Customs Coding Form "C"* type is required. An EDI Exception Lead Sheet is not required for shipments released using the B3.

12. As the CBSA continues to increase the requirement for brokers/importers to transmit RMD release data electronically, carriers are encouraged to provide the necessary information to the broker/importer as early as possible. Timely submission of information to the broker/importer will assist in reducing delays experienced by highway carriers at the border frontier (e.g., "Failed PARS").

13. For information concerning EDI and electronic transmission of release requests, refer to the ACROSS PRD or visit the Electronic Commerce Unit Web site at [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca).

14. Inquiries related to this notice may be directed to the following Import Programs Unit at: [release-mainlevee@cbsa.gc.ca](mailto:release-mainlevee@cbsa.gc.ca).

