

INDUSTRYALERT

November 7, 2022

New International Shipping Requirements to the European Union (EU) in March 2023

Effective March 1, 2023, new European Union (EU) regulations will go into effect, requiring a Harmonized System (HS) tariff code on customs forms (CN22 and CN 23) and Advance Electronic Data (AED), for all EU-bound goods. With this change, the Postal Service will require an HS code for EU-bound goods.

These new regulatory changes are designed to increase accountability, efficiency, and decrease the risk of fraud and security threats. By complying with this new mandate, customers will:

- Avoid fines and penalties associated with noncompliance.
- Reduce safety and security risks.
- Help ensure timely and efficient delivery to the EU.
- Prevent customs delays and/or return of non-compliant mail items.

Per the EU, vague item descriptions on customs forms such as “gifts,” “clothing,” “electronics,” and even “none” will no longer be considered an acceptable description.

To learn more about providing acceptable item descriptions, view the chart below or read the EU’s guidance on acceptable terms at [Guidance on Acceptable and Unacceptable Terms for the Description of Goods](#).

Examples of acceptable and unacceptable descriptions [WAYBILL]:

| Unacceptable Description | Acceptable Description |
|--------------------------|--|
| Clothes | Men’s cotton shirts, lingerie, girls’ leather vests, boys’ denim jackets |
| Appliances | Refrigerator, stove, microwave oven |
| Artwork | Bust, picture, bronze |
| Battery | Lithium batteries |
| Gift | One scented candle, remote-controlled car, silk scarf |
| Fresh Herbs | Basil, thyme, parsley |
| Medicines | Painkillers, antiviral spray |
| Sanitary goods | Detergent, toothbrush, towels |
| Vegetables | Eggplant, onions, broccoli |
| Plants | Cut Christmas trees, tulip bulbs, dried rosemary |

Examples of acceptable and unacceptable descriptions [COMMERCIAL INVOICES]:

| Unacceptable Description | Acceptable Description |
|--------------------------|---|
| Samples | Samples of furniture upholstery fabrics, samples of interior blinds |
| Parts | Parts of pumps for liquids |
| Gifts | Sunglasses with lenses optically worked |
| Textiles | Women’s cotton T-shirts, knitted or crocheted |

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