



Electronic customs tariff

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Training Material
DAKOSY GE 2024.2
Release Date 2024/10

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Applicable documents und sources

in the respective valid versions

[1] the application's online help

[2] www.zoll.de

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1 Electronic customs tariff

The Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT) is a computerised information system that brings together the EU and national rules governing customs treatment. The legal basis for the measures implemented remains exclusively the relevant regulations, for example the Foreign Trade and Payments Act.

If a forwarding agent, customs declarant or other customs participant wishes to submit an application for clearance of a consignment to the customs administration, he must specify the consignment as far as possible. In order to take advantage of the most favourable tariff and tax rates, it may, for example, provide information on tariff quotas, tariff quantities and import documents. The ECT provides information on the exact description of the goods and the measures to be applied. The ECT is the successor of the "German utility tariff" in paper form and is based on the common customs tariff of the European Union and the TARIC database of the EU Commission. The ECT has no legal significance in its own right; it is not binding. The legal basis for the assessment of import duties is only the relevant regulations in each case. The ECT comprises 21 sections, 97 chapters and more than 5000 subheadings.

The ECT supports you in the tariffing of goods as follows:

- Determining the documents to be submitted
- Determining the import sales tax Percentage Rate
- Determining the Customs Rate
- Preliminary calculation of customs and excise duties

Processing

The EU customs tariff is updated daily in Brussels, these changes are centrally entered in the computer centre of the German customs administration in Karlsruhe and sent to the customs offices. The basis for the import or export of goods can change daily due to the current political and economic situation. DAKOSY is automatically supplied with ECT data daily by the BMF.

Goods tariff number

Within the ECT, a distinction is made between import mode and export mode. In import mode, goods are identified with an 11-digit goods tariff number and in export mode with an 8-digit goods tariff number. The 11-digit code number is based on the Harmonized System (HS), which is managed by the [World Customs Organization \(WCO\)](#) and which contains the first 6 digits of it. The HS serves to designate and code the goods and is used in 180 countries. There are other nomenclatures that extend the Harmonised System nomenclature and add additional digits to the goods tariff number.

The following table describes the commodity tariff number using live wild horses as an example (commodity tariff number **01019019009**, as of January 2017).

Goods tariff number	Description
01	Chapter - Harmonised system
0101	Position - Harmonised system
0101 90	Sub-position - Harmonised system
0101 9019	Sub-position - Combined Nomenclature The KN is an extension of the European Union. On the basis of this 8-digit number, customs duties, textile categories, prohibitions and restrictions or import authorization facts can be assigned during import clearance.
0101 9019 00	Sub-position - TARIC The ninth and tenth digits of the European Union's Integrated Tariff (TARIC) encrypt Union measures, such as anti-dumping regulations, customs suspensions or customs quotas.
0101 9019 00 9	Code number - Electronic customs tariff The eleventh digit of the code number is used for national purposes, for example to encrypt VAT rates or national prohibitions and restrictions.

Table 1: Structure of the goods tariff number

1.1 Open Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT)

This chapter describes how to open Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT).

- You can optionally:
 - Search in Electronic Customs Tariff search, see [Search in the Electronic Customs Tariff \(ECT\)](#) on page 2
 - Navigate through the Electronic Customs Tariff in sections, see [Navigating sections of the Electronic Customs Tariff \(ECT\)](#) on page 2
 - Create a Electronic Customs Tariff preliminary calculation and generate a customs declaration from it or vice versa, see [Create Electronic Customs Tariff preliminary calculation](#) on page 3

1.2 Search in the Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT)


This chapter describes how to search in the Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT).

- Select the menu item **Maintenance > Customs > Elektronischer Zolltarif**.
This opens the overview **Commodity Codes**.
- In the **Direction of Trade** field, select if you want to search for an import or export tariff number.
The nomenclature of the commodity tariff number differs according to the customs procedure, see [Goods tariff number](#) on page 1.
- Enter the commodity number in the **Commodity code** field or a keyword from the commodity description in the **Description** field and click the **Search** button.
The found goods are shown in the table.
- To display the goods in the ECT, double-click the commodity tariff number in the **Commodity code** column.

1.3 Navigating sections of the Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT)

This chapter describes how to navigate sections of the Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT).

- Select the menu entry **Maintenance > Customs > Customs Tariff**.
This opens the overview **Commodity Codes**.

2. To directly open the Electronic Customs Tariff select in the area **Overviews** the menu entry **Customs Tariff Catalogue**.
3. In the **Direction of Trade** field, select if the commodity tariff numbers are to be displayed in the import nomenclature or in the export nomenclature and click the **Search** button. The nomenclature of the commodity tariff number differs according to the customs procedure, see [Goods tariff number](#) on page 1.
4. Double-click a section or chapter in the Electronic Customs Tariff to collapse or expand the section or chapter. Commodity tariff numbers are preceded by the icon .
5. Double-click on the commodity tariff numbers.
The goods are displayed in the **Details Commodity Code** window. In this window you can search for all entries for the goods tariff number.

Example

For example, to view the TARIC footnote of an action type using the commodity tariff number, proceed as follows:

1. Open the commodity tariff number 15019000001.
2. Open the tab **Dues**.
3. In the **All Countries** area, double-click an action type.
4. In the **Taric Footnotes** area, double-click on a footnote.

1.4 Create Electronic Customs Tariff preliminary calculation

You can use the Electronic Customs Tariff preliminary calculation to determine the expected taxes for the import of goods.



Tip: You can also open an Electronic Customs Tariff preliminary calculation from a customs declaration. Open a customs declaration and select in the area **Related actions** the menu entry **New customs tariff precalculation**.

1. Select the menu entry **Maintenance > Customs > Customs Tariff**.
This opens the overview **Commodity Codes**.
2. In the area **Overviews**, click on the menu entry **EZT precalculation**.
3. In the area **Related actions**, click on the menu entry **Create precalculation**.
The window **Create precalculation** opens.
4. Enter in the field the **Reference number** the reference number preliminary calculation and then click on the button **OK**.
The preliminary calculation opens.
5. Fill out as many fields as possible. Most fields of an import customs declaration are available. The more precise your details are, the more precise is the calculation of the preliminary calculation.

Important fields for the calculation are for example:

- **Business type**
- **Delivery Terms**
- **Currency**
- **Cost Items** in the tab **Goods Items/DV1**



Tip: In the **Total other Costs** area, enter the costs that arise from your service and are to be passed on.



Tip: You can check with individual commodity tariff numbers whether additional documents may be required by entering a commodity tariff number in the tab **Goods Items/General** and clicking the **Do ECT Check** button. You can enter missing documents in the tab **Goods Items/Documents**.

6. Enter in the area **Goods Items** your positions. The procedure is the same as for a normal import customs declaration.

7. In the area **Actions**, click on the menu entry **Calculate Duties**. If the levies can be calculated, the message **EZT Precalculation found no errors..**
8. To print the preliminary calculation select in the area **Actions**, click on the menu entry **print**.



Tip: You can generate an import customs declaration from the preliminary calculation by opening the preliminary calculation and choosing **Related actions** in the **Create customs declaration** area.

1.5 ECT from Open customs declaration

This chapter describes how to load the goods description from the Electronic Customs Tariff (ECT) in a customs declaration and perform an ECT check.


A customs declaration with positions must be open.

1. In your customs declaration, open the **Goods Items** tab.
2. On the **General** tab, in the **Commodity Code/KN8** field, enter your goods number.

You have several options:

- Load goods description from Electronic Customs Tariff
- Perform ECT check

Load goods description from Electronic Customs Tariff

- a) Click on the field **Commodity Code/KN8** on the icon .
The window **Find Commodity Code** opens.
- b) Double-click on the goods number in the result list.
The commodity description is taken over in the field **Description**.

Perform ECT check

- a) Click on the button **Do ECT Check**.
If the Electronic Customs Tariff check finds an error, it is displayed in a note.

2 Contact information

You will find contact information in this section.

In case of specific questions, please contact the customs office competent for you. Further contact possibilities:

Questions on DAKOSY GE

- Contact partner: DAKOSY service desk
- Telephone: [+49 \(0\)40 3786 0990](tel:+49(0)4037860990)
- Email: servicedesk@dakosy.de
- [Contact form](#)

Specific questions on customs

- Contact partner: Central information customs
- Telephone: [+49 \(0\)351 4483 4520](tel:+49(0)35144834520)
- Email: info.gewerblich@zoll.de

Specific questions ATLAS

- Contact partner: Service Desk ITZBund
- Telephone from within Germany: [0800 8007 5451](tel:080080075451)
- Telephone from outside Germany: [+49 \(0\)69 2097 1545](tel:+49(0)6920971545)
- Email: servicedesk@itzbund.de