

Key differences between CHIEF and CDS

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There are some distinct differences between how declarations are made on the Customs Declaration Service (CDS) compared to how they are currently done on Customs Handling of Imports and Exports Freight (CHIEF).

Customs legislation

CHIEF is based on the Community Customs Code (CCC) and Single Administrative Document (SAD) Harmonisation rules (boxes) CDS is based on the Union Customs Code (UCC) and Data Integration and Harmonisation rules.

What's the difference?

Essentially, this is a move from using paper-based rules on CHIEF to data processing rules on CDS.

What's the difference?

It is paramount that the correct tariff rules are used. If you submit a CDS declaration using the CHIEF tariff it will be rejected as the completion rules are different and the codes do not exist in CDS

CHIEF declaration completion requirements can be found in the [CHIEF Tariff \(online\)](#)

CDS declaration completion requirements can be found in the [CDS Tariff \(online\)](#)

- **What you'll find on CHIEF:** 68 Paper form multi-use boxes.
- **What you'll find on CDS:** 91 Single use data elements.

What's the difference?

Completing a CHIEF declaration is geared towards paper completion and has several boxes that accept data in a free text format. In CDS most data elements are restricted to code format other than name and address fields.

Procedure Codes

- **What you'll find on CHIEF:** 7-digit fixed Customs Procedure Codes (CPCs) for each goods item.
- **What you'll find on CDS:** Codes split into two parts; a single 4-digit Procedure Code combined with up to 99 3-digit Additional Procedure Codes (APCs) for a single goods item.

What's the difference?

There is no 1-2-1 correlation between CHIEF CPCs and CDS Procedure Codes (PCs)/(APCs). CHIEF CPCs are unique to a goods item whereas CDS PCs / APCs are multiple, interchangeable combinations depending on circumstances.

What's the difference?

The documents you receive from your agent or forwarder for an entry done on CDS will be very different from the documents you receive for an entry done on CHIEF

- **What you'll find on CHIEF:** A C88 and Entry Acceptance
- **What you'll find on CDS:** CDS Entry Document

Main differences - at a glance

Our list on the second page sets out the main differences you might see when making declarations on CDS compared to CHIEF.

The team at Charles Kendall Freight continue to prepare for the start of CDS clearances. If you have any questions about CDS or about using us to support your CDS entries, please speak to your local contact or salesperson or contact our Compliance team at: compliance@charleskendall.com

Key differences between CHIEF and CDS

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Main differences - at a glance

What you'll find on CHIEF	What you'll find on CDS	What's the difference?
Community Customs Code	Union Customs Code	Paper based rules versus data processing
Paper form multi-use boxes	Single use data element	Completion requirements for a CHIEF declaration are geared towards paper completion (layout and format are different)
Business rules driven by unique Custom Procedure Codes (CPCs) for each type of declaration, for example simplified declarations have different CPCs to a supplementary declaration	Business rules driven by data set not Procedure Codes. The same Procedure Codes are used across all declaration types in CDS	Procedure Code is always the same in CDS regardless of the type of declaration being made. Same code used on simplified, standard and supplementary declaration types
Single mainframe system	Multiple components to do a specific task	CHIEF is a single platform, but CDS is built up of several components that exchange messages between each module to process from end to end
EDIFACT messaging language	XML messaging language	Software providers are required to change their software language as well as data changes
7-digit fixed Customs Procedure Codes (CPCs) for each goods item	Single 4-digit Procedure Code combined with up to 99 3-digit Additional Procedure Code. Can have multiple 3-digits codes for a single goods item, it is important that you select all the APCs that apply to the goods item and do not stop at the first APC you identify.	There is no 1-2-1 correlation between CHIEF CPCs and CDS Procedure Code (PC) / Additional Procedure Codes (APCs). Multiple, interchangeable combinations depending on circumstances
68 Boxes on a Single Administrative Document (SAD) form, subsets used for imports and exports	New data elements introduced into CDS under UCC data sets: 91 data elements used across imports and exports. Instead of a single set of boxes for all declaration types, there are different data sets for every type of declaration. A subset of the 76 Data Elements for imports and 65 Data Elements for exports depending on what use the goods are being put too.	CDS declarants need to populate all required data elements, depending on the selected declaration category
Single box used for multiple pieces of information in CHIEF	Boxes split into multiple data elements in CDS. Used for a single piece of data	3 boxes on CHIEF may equate up to 17 different data elements on CDS
Single SAD (C88) form used for multiple purposes	17 different data sets	If declarants do not select the appropriate data set, the declaration will reject
Several boxes provided in free text format	Most data elements restricted to code format other than Name and Address fields	Code lists are not the same for CHIEF and CDS. Declarant must select correct code or declaration will fail

A human name on a **global scale.**