



NAI CENTER

المركز الوطني للإستعلام المبكر
National Advance Information Center

UAE NAIC HS Code Requirements

Specification Document for
Harmonized system codes v 1.1

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1. Harmonized System Code Introduction

The UAE's Advance Cargo Information program (ACI), developed by the National Advance Information Center (NAIC), has been operational since May of 2020, and requires the advance filing of cargo information for goods being imported into, exported from, or transiting through the UAE. As part of NAIC's ACI new filing requirement, The Harmonized Systems Code (HS Codes) must be specified for all goods items in a waybill.

2. Harmonized System Code Requirement

NAIC Advance Cargo Information system requires the submission of cargo information, including HS codes, as early as possible **before Arrival** at the first UAE airport for inbound and transit shipment. For outbound shipments, submission must take place as early as possible **before Departure** from the last UAE airport.

As a minimum requirement, the 6-digit HS code is required and will be validated (i.e., Chapter, heading and sub-heading) against the World Customs Organization (WCO) HS code list. 8- and 10-digit codes will also be accepted, but validation will only take place against the first 6 digits. If an ACI filing does not include the 6-digit HS codes, or if the filing includes invalid HS codes, such filing will be automatically rejected by the ACI system. HS codes submitted from operators are recommended to match the accurate nature of goods submitted in the AWB documents and not describing a false nature of goods.

HS Codes will be either submitted using FWB or FHL messages depending on the shipment type:

- For **Consolidated Shipments**, in which the shipment is associated to more than one house Waybill; operators must submit the HS code on the House Waybill level (See Section 2.2).
- For **Direct Shipments**, in which the shipment is associated to one Master Waybill; operator must submit the HS code on the Master Waybill level (See Section 2.1).
- For **Direct Back-to-Back Shipments**, in which one master Waybill associated with one house air waybill is to be submitted, operator must submit the HS code on the House Waybill level (See Section 2.2).

2.1 HS Code in FWB Message

The figure below shows the FWB message section 12.17, which is the only section to submit HS code in a Master Waybill. Following IATA C-IMP Specifications, the HS code must be preceded by AWB code identifier "NH" in a separate line with no spaces among the six digits. Number of HS code occurrences will be respective to the rate description section's number of occurrences which is twelve times. The HS codes written in any other section will not be validated.

HS Code Data	Corresponding IATA C-IMP FWB Specs	Data Mandates
Harmonised Commodity Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 12.17 	Mandatory
Separator : Slant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 12.17.1 Separator Example: / 	Similar to CIMP
AWB Column Identifier (N)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 12.17.2 Format: alpha Example: N 	Similar to CIMP
Goods Data Identifier (H)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 12.17.3 Format: alpha Example: H 	Similar to CIMP
Separator : Slant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 12.17.4 Separator Example: / 	Similar to CIMP
Harmonised Commodity Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 12.17.5 Format: Numeric (6....18) Example: 521132 	Similar to CIMP
Elements Occurrences	Elements 12.2 thru 12.20 can be repeated. Can occur a maximum of 11 times. The 11 th occurrence of 12.2 thru 12.20 can be followed by a 12 th occurrence comprising of elements 12.2, one of 12.11 thru 12.18 and 12.20 only.	Similar to CIMP

Figure 1 FWB Harmonized Code Section

2.2 HS Code in FHL Message

The figure below shows the FHL message section 5, which is the only section to be used to submit HS code in a house waybill. Following IATA C-IMP Specifications, each HS code must be in a separate line with no spaces among the six digits. The HS code can be repeated maximum of nine times. The HS codes written in any other section will not be validated.

HS Code Data	Corresponding IATA C-IMP FHL Specs	Data Mandates
Harmonised Tariff Schedule Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 5.0 	Mandatory
Line Identifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 5.1 Format: 3 Alpha Example: HTS 	Similar to CIMP
Separator: Slant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 5.2 Separator Example: / 	Similar to CIMP
Harmonised Commodity Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 5.3 Format: Numeric (6....18) Example: 521132 	Similar to CIMP
Separator: CRLF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Number 5.4 Separator 	Similar to CIMP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: 'New Line' 	
Elements Occurrences	Elements 5.2 to 5.4 can be repeated. Can occur a maximum of nine times.	Similar to CIMP

Figure 2 FHL Harmonized Code Section

3. Harmonized System Codes Timing & Liability

Based on the Federal Law No. 52 of 2022 and while carriers are generally responsible for filing Advance Cargo Information to NAIC, it is recognized that carriers depend on the accuracy of information provided to them by their customers (e.g., Freight Forwarders). Accordingly, it is recommended that carriers perform the necessary validation before accepting shipments and passing cargo information to NAIC, to avoid potential penalties resulting from missing or invalid filing.

According to the Federal Law the filer is liable of submitting the required information including HS codes **before Arrival** of the destination airport inside the UAE. On the other hand, for export shipments submitting the HS code is **before Departure** from any UAE airport.

The HS code submission liability will be as following:

General Cargo Carriers

- The general cargo carriers are responsible for submitting the HS code for all Master Waybills and house Waybills handled by the airline. For the air waybills issued and organized by express carriers but handled by other carrier; **Express Carrier** will be responsible for submitting the HS Code on house Waybill level and the **Cargo carrier** will not be responsible on filing the HS code.
- The **operating carrier** can delegate a GSA to file the documents including the HS codes.

Express Carriers

- Express Carriers are responsible for submitting the HS code for all express consignments on the House Waybill level, regardless of whether a consignment is transported using the Express Carrier’s own flight or via another carrier flight. flight.

4. Harmonized System Codes Samples

The following table lists valid messages’ samples for the new Harmonized System Codes requirements.

Message Type	Message
FHL	FHL/4 MBI/000-000000DUMDUM/T1K9 HBS/0000000000/DUMDUM/1/K9/1/IVERMECTIN MEDI TXT/IVERMECTIN MEDICINE FOR HOSPITAL USE HTS/293890 SHP/ABC LIMITED /ANY /ANY /NA/00000/TE/0000000000 CNE/XYZ LLC

	/ANY /ANY/NA /NA/00000/TE/00000 CVD/USD/PP/NVD/1/XXX
FHL	FHL/4 MBI/000-000000DUMDUM/T1K9 HBS/0000000000/MFMPHL/1/K9/1/PANTS TXT/MEN DENIM PANTS HTS/520942 /521132 /521139 SHP/ABC LIMITED /ANY /ANY /NA/00000/TE/0000000000 CNE/XYZ LLC /ANY /ANY/NA /NA/00000/TE/00000 CVD/USD/PP/NVD/1/XXX
FWB	RTD/1/P6/K45/CQ/W142/R14.88/T2112.96 /NG/FLOWERS /2/ND/K100/CMT105-52-26/10 /3/NV/MCO.85 /4/NH/060311 /5/NH/060313 /6/NH/060314 OTH/P/AWC35 PPD/WT2112.96/VCO/TX0 /OA0/OC35/CT2147.96 ISU/20APR23/XXX/XXXX
FWB (Optional for consolidation)	RTD/1/P15/K186/CK/W186/R50.02/T9303.72 /NC/CONSOLIDATION /2/ND/NDA /3/NV/MCO.30 /4/NS/15 /5/NH/853400

Figure 3 Valid HS code - Messages Samples

The following table lists invalid messages' samples for the Harmonized System Codes requirements.

Message Type	Message
FHL (No Spaces among HS code sections or headings)	FHL/4 MBI/000-000000DUMDUM/T1K9 HBS/0000000000/DUMDUM/1/K9/1/IVERMECTIN MEDI TXT/IVERMECTIN MEDICINE FOR HOSPITAL USE HTS/2938 90 SHP/ABC LIMITED /ANY /ANY /NA/00000/TE/0000000000 CNE/XYZ LLC /ANY /ANY/NA /NA/00000/TE/00000 CVD/USD/PP/NVD/1/XXX
FHL (HS code not to be submitted either in the goods description sections or OCI section)	FHL/4 MBI/000-000000DUMDUM/T1K9 HBS/0000000000/MFMPHL/1/K9/1/IVERMECTIN TXT/HSCODE 29389000 IVERMECTIN HS CODE 29389000 HTS/29389000 OCI/US/HTS/HS/29389000

	SHP/ABC LIMITED /ANY /ANY /NA/00000/TE/0000000000 CNE/XYZ LLC /ANY /ANY/NA /NA/00000/TE/00000 CVD/USD/PP/NVD/1/XXX
FWB(HS code not to be submitted either in the goods description sections or OCI section)	RTD/1/P6/K45/CQ/W142/R14.88/T2112.96 /NG/FLOWERS HSCODE 060311 /2/ND/K100/CMT105-52-26/10 /3/NV/MCO.85 OTH/P/AWC35 PPD/WT2112.96/VC0/TX0 /OAO/OC35/CT2147.96 ISU/20APR23/XXX/XXXX

Figure 4 Invalid HS code - Messages Samples