

ICN Online – a short guide

Departments must complete SD Forms whenever they acquire goods from another EC state. However, the completion of these forms is often problematic because of the requirement to classify the type of goods received. Identifying the appropriate “Commodity Code” has now been made easier with the introduction of the [ICN \(Intrastat Classification Nomenclature\)](#).

“ICN Online” can be used either to find the appropriate commodity code of goods itemised on a purchase invoice, or to check the validity of an apparently given code.

It is strongly recommended that you browse through this site. However, the following hints may be useful:

- a.) If you have the item’s description click on “Browse the ICN structure” for a list of section headings or try a description search by typing part of the description in the “Search ICN” box. You may get quite a long list of possibilities with the latter!
- b.) If you see an 8 digit number on an invoice which looks as if it may be a commodity code then click on “Commodity Code” and input the first four digits. Again you may have to work down a fairly long list.
- c.) There is a helpline advertised on the website – the Tariff Classification Helpline on 01702 366077 – however they are supposed to be a last resort and will only field three code enquiries at a time.

These are perhaps the most immediately worthwhile aspects of the site but you may find other options of interest depending on your circumstances e.g. “ECIS” provides classification of all chemical substances. It’s often a good idea to spend a little time now in order to save more time later!

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