
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2019 No. 121

The Customs Safety and Security (Penalty) Regulations 2019

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Customs Safety and Security (Penalty) Regulations 2019 and come into force on 20th February 2019.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“carrier” has the same meaning as in Article 5(40) of the Code;

“the Code” means [Regulation \(EU\) No 952/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 October 2013 laying down the Union Customs Code⁽¹⁾ as it has effect from time to time;

“contravenes” includes fails to comply with;

“Delegated Regulation” means [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2446](#) of 28 July 2015 supplementing [Regulation \(EU\) No 952/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards detailed rules concerning provisions of the Union Customs Code⁽²⁾, as it has effect from time to time;

“declarant” has the same meaning as in Article 5(15) of the Code;

“demand notice” means a demand notice within the meaning of regulation 6(1);

“entry summary declaration” has the same meaning as in Article 5(9) of the Code;

“exit summary declaration” has the same meaning as in Article 5(10) of the Code;

“HMRC” means Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs;

“the Implementing Regulation” means [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2447](#) of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of [Regulation \(EU\) No 952/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code⁽³⁾, as it has effect from time to time;

“penalty” means the one mentioned in regulation 3(1);

“relevant safety and security rule” means any duty, obligation, requirement or condition in relation to customs safety and security requirements imposed by the legislation specified in Column 1 of the Schedule;

“representative”, in relation to any person, means any person acting in a representative capacity in relation to that person including—

(a) the person’s personal representative;

(b) the person’s trustee in bankruptcy or interim or permanent trustee;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No. L 269, 10.10.2013, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No. L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No. L 343, 29.12.2015, p. 558.

- (c) the person’s receiver or liquidator appointed in relation to that person or any of that person’s property;

“the tribunal” means the First-tier Tribunal or, where determined by or under Tribunal Procedure Rules, the Upper Tribunal.

Penalty for contravention of a relevant safety and security rule

3.—(1) If a person engages in any conduct which contravenes a relevant safety and security rule, that person is liable to a penalty under this regulation.

(2) Column 1 of the Schedule specifies relevant safety and security rules.

(3) Column 2 of the Schedule specifies the person whose conduct in contravention of a relevant safety and security rule gives rise to liability under paragraph (1).

(4) Column 3 of the Schedule specifies the maximum penalty for contravention of a relevant safety and security rule to which a person is liable under paragraph (1).

Exceptions from liability to a penalty

4.—(1) A person is not liable to a penalty if the person or that person’s representative satisfies—

- (a) HMRC; or
- (b) on appeal, the tribunal;

that there is a reasonable excuse for the conduct that contravened a relevant safety and security rule.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) it is not a reasonable excuse that the contravention is attributed, in whole or in part, to the conduct of a person on whom reliance to perform any task was placed.

(3) Where, by reason of conduct falling within regulation 3(1), a person is prosecuted for an offence that conduct does not give rise to liability to a penalty.

Reduction of penalty

5.—(1) Where a person is liable to a penalty, HMRC on review or the tribunal on appeal may reduce or increase the penalty to such amount (including nil or up to the maximum provided for under these Regulations) as they think proper.

(2) In exercising their powers under paragraph (1), neither HMRC nor the tribunal are entitled to take into account—

- (a) the insufficiency of the funds available to any person for paying the penalty; or
- (b) the fact that the person liable to the penalty, or a person acting on that person’s behalf, has acted in good faith.

Demands for penalties

6.—(1) Where a person is liable to a penalty, HMRC may give to that person or that person’s representative a notice in writing (a “demand notice”) demanding payment of the amount due by way of penalty.

(2) An amount demanded as due from a person or that person’s representative in accordance with paragraph (1) is recoverable as if it were an amount due from the person or, as the case may be, the representative as an amount of customs duty.

(3) Paragraph (2) is subject to—

- (a) paragraph (4);

- (b) any appeal under regulation 9; and
 - (c) any review by HMRC under regulation 11.
- (4) An amount so demanded is not recoverable if the demand has been subsequently withdrawn.

Time limits for demands for penalties

7.—(1) A demand notice may not be given in relation to a penalty more than three years after the conduct giving rise to the penalty ceased.

(2) A demand notice may not be given more than two years after there has come to the knowledge of HMRC evidence of facts sufficient in the opinion of HMRC to justify the giving of the demand notice.

No prosecution after demand notice for penalty

8. Where a demand notice is given for an amount due by way of a penalty in respect of any conduct of a person, no proceedings may be brought against that person for any offence constituted by that conduct (whether or not the demand notice is subsequently withdrawn).

Right to appeal

9.—(1) Where HMRC give a demand notice to a person or that person's representative, the person or that person's representative may appeal to the tribunal in respect of—

- (a) HMRC's decision that the person is liable to a penalty; or
 - (b) HMRC's decision as to the amount of the liability.
- (2) Subject to regulation 5, the powers of the tribunal on an appeal under this regulation include—
- (a) the power to quash or vary a decision; and
 - (b) the power to substitute the tribunal's own decision for any decision so quashed.
- (3) On an appeal under this regulation—
- (a) the burden of proof as to the matters mentioned in regulation 3(1) lies on HMRC; but
 - (b) it is otherwise for the appellant to show that the grounds on which any such appeal is brought have been established.

Offer of review

10.—(1) Where an appeal lies under regulation 9(1) in respect of a decision made by HMRC, HMRC must offer a person a review of their decision.

(2) The offer of the review must be made by notice given to the person or that person's representative at the same time as the demand notice is given to that person or that person's representative.

Review by HMRC

11. HMRC must review a decision if—
- (a) they have offered a review of the decision under regulation 10;
 - (b) the person or that person's representative notifies HMRC accepting the offer within the period of 30 days beginning with the date of the document containing the notification of the offer; and
 - (c) the person or that person's representative has not appealed to the tribunal under regulation 9 before notifying HMRC of acceptance of the offer.

Review out of time

- 12.—(1) This regulation applies if—
- (a) HMRC have offered a person a review of a decision under regulation 10; and
 - (b) the person or that person’s representative does not accept the offer within the time allowed under regulation 11(b).
- (2) HMRC must review the decision under regulation 11 if—
- (a) after the time allowed, the person or that person’s representative makes a request to HMRC in writing for a review out of time;
 - (b) HMRC are satisfied that the person or that person’s representative had a reasonable excuse for not accepting the offer within the time allowed;
 - (c) HMRC are satisfied that the person or that person’s representative made the request without unreasonable delay after the excuse had ceased to apply; and
 - (d) the person or that person’s representative has not appealed to the tribunal under regulation 9 before making the request for a review out of time.

Nature of review

- 13.—(1) This regulation applies if HMRC are required to undertake a review under regulation 11 or 12.
- (2) The nature and extent of the review are to be such as appear appropriate to HMRC in the circumstances.
- (3) For the purpose of paragraph (2), HMRC must, in particular, have regard to steps taken before the beginning of the review—
- (a) by HMRC in reaching the decision; and
 - (b) by any person in seeking to resolve disagreement about the decision.
- (4) The review must take account of any representations made by the person liable to the penalty or that person’s representative at a stage which gives HMRC a reasonable opportunity to consider them.
- (5) Subject to regulation 5, the review may conclude that the decision is to be—
- (a) upheld;
 - (b) varied; or
 - (c) cancelled.
- (6) HMRC must give the person or that person’s representative notice of the conclusions of the review and their reasoning within—
- (a) a period of 45 days beginning with the relevant date; or
 - (b) such other period as HMRC and the person or that person’s representative may agree.
- (7) In paragraph (6) “relevant date” means—
- (a) the date HMRC received the notification accepting the offer of a review (in a case falling within regulation 11); or
 - (b) the date on which HMRC decided that the obligation to undertake a review applied (in a case falling within regulation 12).
- (8) Where HMRC are required to undertake a review but do not give notice of the conclusions within the time period specified in paragraph (6), the review is to be treated as having concluded that the decision is upheld.

(9) If paragraph (8) applies HMRC must notify the person or that person's representative of the conclusion which the review is treated as having reached.

Bringing of appeals

14.—(1) This regulation applies to an appeal to the tribunal under regulation 9.

(2) In a case where regulation 13(8) applies, an appeal may be made at any time from the end of the period specified in regulation 13(6) to the end of the period of 30 days beginning with the conclusion date.

(3) In a case where HMRC are required to undertake a review under regulation 11 and paragraph (2) does not apply—

- (a) an appeal may not be made before the conclusion date; and
- (b) any appeal is to be made within the period of 30 days beginning with the conclusion date.

(4) In a case where HMRC are requested to undertake a review in accordance with regulation 12 and HMRC have notified the person or that person's representative that a review will be undertaken and paragraph (2) does not apply—

- (a) an appeal may not be made before the conclusion date; and
- (b) any appeal is to be made within the period of 30 days beginning with the conclusion date.

(5) In all other cases an appeal is to be made before the end of the period of 30 days beginning with the date of the demand notice.

(6) An appeal may be made after the end of the period specified in paragraph (2), (3)(b), (4)(b) or (5) if the tribunal gives permission to do so.

(7) In this regulation “conclusion date” means the date of the document notifying the conclusions of the review, including a document notifying the conclusions of a review under regulation 13(9).

Settling appeals by agreement

15. Section 85 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994(4) (settling appeals by agreement) has effect as if the reference to section 83 of that Act included a reference to regulation 9 above.

Service of notices

16. Any notice to be given to any person for the purposes of these Regulations may be given—

- (a) by sending it by post to that person at that person's last or usual residence or place of business; or
- (b) if the person consents in writing to the use of a certain means of electronic communication, by that means of electronic communication.

Amendment of the Export (Penalty) Regulations 2003

17. In the Export (Penalty) Regulations 2003(5), in the Schedule omit the entry headed “Articles 263, 267 and 271 of the Code and Article 337 of the Implementing Regulation”.

(4) 1994 c. 23; section 85 was amended by S.I. 2009/56.

(5) S.I. 2003/3102; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 2011/2512, 2018/507.

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