DHL EXPRESS

2026 UNION HANDLING FEE REGULATORY CHANGES

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OVERVIEW

EU REGULATORY CHANGES OVERVIEW



From 1 November a new **EU[1] Handling Fee** known as the **"Union Handling Fee"** (UHF) will apply to all **Business to Consumers (B2C)[2]** imports into the EU **regardless of the value** of the goods.

[1] EU (European Union): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
[2] Goods in scope of "distance sales of imported goods" within the meaning of EU Value Added Tax (VAT) Directive and applicable national VAT legislation of EU member states.

The draft legislative act provides that the Union Handling Fee will be applied at a rate of 2 EUR per import customs declaration line item.

IMPORTANT: Please note that the Union Handling Fee is a mandatory regulatory fee imposed by EU legislation and is not a DHL Express Fee.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

The following changes are effective as of 1 November 2026:

- DHL Express will charge the Union Handling Fee to the payer of the import duties, import taxes and other Customs-related charges, based on the selected DHL Duty Billing Service. This fee applies only to shipments arriving into the EU on or after 1 November 2026. The fee will be charged to the payer of the import duties, import taxes and other Customs-related charges, based on the selected DHL Duty Billing Service. Any applicable EU Handling Fee will be shown on the DHL Express invoice as a separate line item, in accordance with the local billing process.

IMPORTANT

Be aware of the following payment methods (**DHL Duty Billing Service**), i.e.:

Payment done by Shipper:

- As today, if you pre-select to pay all DHL Express charges when booking a shipment (on behalf of your customers/receivers of the goods), then DHL Express will outlay the import duties & import taxes and other Customs-related charges and **charge it back to you**.
- This ensures no charges to your customers/receivers of goods in the EU.
- This service is known as the **DHL Duty Tax Paid (DTP)** Billing Service – please contact your DHL representative for more information.

Payment done by Importer/Receiver:

- Alternatively, the import duties & import taxes and other Customs-related charges will be charged to the importer/receiver of the goods in the EU.
- The final delivery of the shipment will only be completed once the payment of the import duties & import taxes and other Customs-related charges has been made.
- This service is known as the **DHL Duty Tax Unpaid (DTU)** Billing Service – please contact your DHL representative for more information.

HOW CAN YOU AVOID DELAYS?

➢ **Shippers (from non-EU countries to the EU shall):**

✓ Provide accurate and complete details of the goods, including the actual value of the products and HS codes. Provide **complete and accurate Commercial/Proforma Invoice data electronically** via DHL Express Electronic Shipping Solutions.

✓ Provide the correct name/email address and mobile phone number of the importer/receiver.

- For additional information, please consult the European Commission EU Customs Reform information page: click **here**.

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