

1. Introduction

The existing CHIEF manual fallback procedures require a lot of manual intervention during the fallback period. The recovery after the fallback period requires reconciliation to ensure that all declarations have been completed. This has historically proved to be impractical, resulting in reluctance by HMRC to invoke fallback and long delays for import clearances. CCS-UK has developed an Automated Import Fallback system which will allow CHIEF fallback to be more easily invoked, easily operated and to make recovery after fallback a simple and auditable procedure.

When the Fallback system is operating, initial declarations (i.e. not amendments) from Authorised (AEO) agents containing a Header Level Additional Information (AI) statement of FBK03 will receive FALLBACK RELEASED status (subject to HMRC profiles).

HMRC advise that any misuse of the fallback system, for example using the AI Statement FBK03 for non-innocent goods, may result in the agent not being able to use the Automated Import or Export Fallback system in the future.

There are no software changes required to TSO/Airline and Agent systems to use Automated Import Fallback. Authorised (AEO) agents who plan to use the Header Level AI statement FBK03 should check that this code has been added to reference tables in their systems (if this is a requirement of their system). The FBK03 AI statement does not require AI text.

2. Automated Import Fallback Operation

When CHIEF stops being available, CCS-UK helpdesk is alerted and will advise all CCS-UK users by email. Please make sure that CCS-UK has the correct email address for your company key contacts and that the use of this email address will make the required users aware that there are problems with the CHIEF service. At this time, TSO/Airline arrival messages will be stored on CCS-UK and no responses will be returned.

It is recommend that on receipt of such notification, Authorised (AEO) agents add the FBK03 AI statement to all new declarations where a route 3 or 6 is normally obtained. This will ensure that declarations submitted before fallback is invoked will be FALLBACK RELEASED when fallback is invoked (subject to HMRC profiles). Declarations amended to include the FBK03 AI statement will not achieve FALLBACK RELEASED status.

After 90 minutes, HMRC will authorise CCS-UK to invoke Automated Import Fallback if certain conditions are met. TSO/Airlines and Agents systems will receive a GENERAL message advising that fallback has been invoked.

When Automated Import Fallback is invoked, a GENERAL message will be sent to all TSO/Airline and Agents systems to advise users that fallback is now in operation.

Agents

When fallback is invoked, all declarations which achieved Route 3 and Route 6 within 10 minutes prior to the CHIEF service not being available and which would therefore have automatically cleared, will be processed under fallback and will become FALLBACK RELEASED (subject to HMRC profiles). Declarations which had achieved Route 1 or 2 within a certain period before the CHIEF service was no longer available will also be processed under fallback and will receive FALLBACK HOLD status. This will give Agents the opportunity to request NCH to release the shipment during fallback if the document or physical check is completed during the fallback period. This will generate a FALLBACK RELEASED Customs Status message to the Transit Shed and a GENERAL message to the agent advising the FALLBACK RELEASED status.

Declarations which were submitted before fallback was invoked but were not received by CHIEF will be processed under fallback. Declarations from Authorised (AEO) agents with the FBK03 AI statement will become FALLBACK RELEASED (subject to HMRC profiles).

Authorised (AEO) agents should (continue to) identify innocent goods – i.e. those goods which will normally receive route 3 or 6. For these goods they should add a Header level AI statement – FBK03 in the *initial* declaration. CCS-UK will process such declarations and will issue a FALLBACK RELEASED status (subject to HMRC profiles) to both the Agent and the TSO/Airline.

Authorised (AEO) Agents can also submit a declaration under fallback for goods that require HMRC/BF document checks, e.g. licence or carnet, but they MUST omit the FBK03 AI Statement. These will still be processed under fallback but will receive a FALLBACK HOLD TYPE 2 status and can be released by NCH after document checks have been completed.

Note : this procedure may not be applicable during Import Fallback trials.

Agents who are not authorised (non AEOs) will receive FALLBACK HOLD status for their declarations, giving them the possibility to contact NCH with the necessary documentation to effect the release of the shipment. This will generate a FALLBACK RELEASED status message to both the Agent and TSO/Airline.

Note : this procedure may not be applicable during Import Fallback trials.

TSO/Airlines

During fallback, TSO/Airlines will continue to create inventory consignment records as usual. Removal requests (inter-airport, inter-shed and transshipment)

and through Airwaybill processing will continue to function as normal as these are not dependent on CHIEF.

The shed can physically release goods with FALLBACK RELEASED status. This is equivalent to CUSTOMS CLEARED. No manual out of charge note or wet stamp is required. A release note can be generated for consignments with FALLBACK RELEASED status.

3. Recovery

When fallback is revoked, a GENERAL message will be sent to TSO/Airline and Agent systems to advise users that fallback is no longer in operation.

Declarations that have been stored on CCS-UK during fallback will be forwarded and processed by CHIEF in the normal way. This could result in a consignment that was released under fallback being subsequently selected for examination (Route 1 or 2) by CHIEF. Anomalies such as this will be resolved through liaison of the Agent with NCH until the consignment is customs cleared.

If the TSO/Airline system has a status of FALLBACK RELEASED, this is a final status and will not be updated with the CHIEF status. Otherwise the fallback status will be replaced by the CHIEF status.

4. Summary of Fallback Statuses

Status	Description	Action
FALLBACK HOLD	Goods held against HMRC profile or non AEO Agent declaration	Agent contact NCH and submit supporting documentation as required
FALLBACK HOLD TYPE 2	AEO Agent declaration without AI statement FBK03	Agent contact NCH and submit supporting documentation as required
FALLBACK ROUTE 6	Interim clearance status pending timeout (up to 2 hours)	No Action – Await Timeout
FALLBACK RELEASED	Shipment may be released. Equivalent to CUSTOMS CLEARED	TSO/Airline may release the shipment.