

Customer Advisory

4th Nov 2025

UAE's Maritime Pre-load Cargo Information (MPCI) program

The UAE's Maritime Pre-load Cargo Information (MPCI) program is a new system that requires the electronic submission of containerized cargo details to the National Advance Information Centre (NAIC) at least 24 hours before loading at the last port before the UAE. This initiative, effective July 31, 2025, aims to enhance cargo security through early risk and compliance assessment for all containerized cargo entering the UAE for import, transit, or transshipment.

This regulation will be in full force from 31st March 2026. To ensure smooth transition and adherence, Maxicon is planning a trial run of the MPCI submission in Q3 2025. This trial will allow us to identify and address any potential issues before full implementation. Further information with regards to revised SI timelines etc. will be shared in due course.

Shipping Line, freight forwarders, and NVOCCs transporting cargo through or into the UAE are required to file shipment data with the National Advance Information Centre (NAIC). This applies exclusively to containerized cargo, including import, transshipment, and FROB (Freight Remaining on Board).

Note: The MPCI filing process is separate from customs filing and does not replace or impact existing customs requirements.

Filing Options

NAIC uses accredited integration service providers to facilitate the filing process. The following options are available:

- Freight Forwarders and NVOCCs: Must file shipment data through accredited service providers.
- Shipping Line: Can choose to either:
 - File through accredited service providers, or

- Use direct integration with the NAIC system.

A complete list of accredited service providers can be found [here](#)

Scope of Filing

The following cargo types are required to file:

- Shipping Line: Must file either the Direct Bill of Lading (for non-consolidated shipments) or the Master Bill of Lading (for consolidated shipments).
- Freight Forwarders and NVOCCs: Must file the House Bills of Lading

In cases where the Carrier Bill of Lading is consigned to a Forwarder or NVOCC, both the Carrier and the NVOCC are required to file their respective documents: the Carrier Bill of Lading and the corresponding House Bill of Lading.

Exclusions from Filing

The following cargo types and situations are excluded from filing requirements:

- Export Shipments: Shipments being exported from the UAE.
- Non-Containerized Maritime Cargo: Bulk cargo (breakbulk, liquid bulk), Ro-Ro shipments, etc.
- Wooden Vessels: Excluded for the current phase of MPCl implementation.
- Empty Containers: Containers without cargo inside.
- Crew's Effects: Personal belongings of the vessel's crew.

Required Information:

Primarily consists of the data found on the Bill of Lading, along with additional information such as:

- Bill Number
- Issue Date and Location
- Ports (Loading, Discharge, Transshipment, Receipt, and Delivery)
- Container Details & Seal Numbers

- Goods Details & HS Code
- Involved Parties (Shipper, Consignee, Notify Party, Freight Forwarders and Agents)
- Vessel & Voyage Information: Mandatory for shipping lines.
- Identifiers: Shipping lines and freight forwarders must provide their own identifiers: MPCI Party ID (Link to next section). Additionally, freight forwarders must include identifiers for the master co-loader or shipping line. Shipping lines or master co-loaders must include identifiers for any consolidating(child) freight forwarders in cases of consolidation.
- Other Standard Information: Any additional standard information typically included in the BOL.

NAIC Response

After filing, NAIC will respond with one of the following main status codes:

- ACT (Accepted): Approved to proceed with loading.
- DNL (Do Not Load): Loading is not permitted.
- RFI (Request for Information): Additional information is needed for approval.

We strongly encourage all partners to ensure timely integration and compliance with this requirement, as it is **separate from customs processes** and **mandatory for pre-loading clearance** into UAE ports.

All entities (Shipping Line, freight forwarders, NVOCCs, and shipping agents) must register with NAIC before initiating filings

For additional details, please refer to the

[https://naic.icp.gov.ae/portal/mpci/guide-lines for guidelines /](https://naic.icp.gov.ae/portal/mpci/guide-lines-for-guidelines/) for guideline/procedure

