ROUTE MAP NO. 011 · EU · VAT E-COMMERCE

What is IOSS and do I need it for parcels to the EU?

8 stops

Checked against European Commission, 9 November 2026

Published by Clive Angel, 30 years in finance

Zero2CFO

ROUTE MAP No. 011
EU · VAT E-COMMERCE

What is IOSS and do I need it for parcels to the EU?

IOSS covers consignments up to EUR 150 sent to EU consumers.

8 stops | Checked against European Commission, 9 Nov 2026 | Published by Clive Angel

01 Selling to EU consumers?

IOSS is a simplified way to declare and pay import VAT on distance sales into the EU.

Source 1

02 EUR 150 or less?

Is each consignment's intrinsic value EUR 150 or less?

Yes — IOSS can cover that sale.

No — IOSS does not cover it.

Sources 1, 3

03 VAT at purchase

With IOSS, VAT is paid at purchase. Without it, the courier or customer may pay import VAT on delivery.

Source 4

04 Appoint an intermediary

A seller established outside the EU must appoint an intermediary to use the import scheme.

Source 2

05 Excise goods out

Products subject to excise duties cannot be declared in the import scheme.

Source 3

06 Monthly IOSS return

The import scheme tax period is one calendar month. File and pay by the end of the following month.

Source 3

07 No weekend extension

If the filing deadline falls on a weekend or public holiday, the due date does not move.

Source 3

08 IOSS path clear

Stay at or under EUR 150 per consignment, exclude excise goods, and keep your intermediary live.

KEY: Start here | Decide | Online service | Deadline | Watch out | Tip | Done

SOURCES checked 9 Nov 2026

1. European Commission: Customs formalities for low value consignments
2. European Commission: One Stop Shop
3. European Commission: One Stop Shop: declare and pay
4. European Commission: Buying goods online coming from a non-European Union country

zero2cfo.com/eu/ioss

General information, not personal advice. Check the source before you act.

IOSS lets you declare and pay import VAT on distance sales of goods into the EU in consignments not exceeding EUR 150. This page is general information, not tax advice.

The route, stop by stop

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The EUR 150 limit

The Commission's low value consignments rules set the IOSS threshold at consignments not exceeding EUR 150.

Why use IOSS

With IOSS, VAT is paid at the point of purchase on the website. Without it, import VAT may be charged to the consumer on delivery, and goods can be held pending payment of duty and tax.

Sellers outside the EU need an intermediary

A taxable person established outside the EU is required to appoint an intermediary to use the import scheme.

Excise goods are out

Products subject to excise duties cannot be declared in the import scheme.

Monthly return

The import scheme tax period is one calendar month. The return and payment are due by the end of the following month, with no weekend or public holiday extension.

Common questions

Is the threshold in pounds?

No. The EU sets the limit in euros: EUR 150 per consignment.

Do I need an intermediary from Great Britain?

Yes, if you are established outside the EU and choose to use IOSS.

Is this tax advice?

No. It is general information from Commission pages checked on 9 November 2026. Rules change, so check the sources before you act.

Where the rules come from

1. European Commission: Customs formalities for low value consignments checked 9 November 2026
2. European Commission: One Stop Shop checked 9 November 2026
3. European Commission: One Stop Shop: declare and pay checked 9 November 2026
4. European Commission: Buying goods online coming from a non-European Union country checked 9 November 2026

This map is general information, not personal advice. Rules and rates change, so check the sources before you act. If your situation is tricky, talk to your accountant or tax adviser.

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