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Türkiye's trade and customs systems: BİLGE, NCTS, Single Window and more

What each system does, who uses it and where to log in: a practical map so the acronyms stop getting in the way.

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Online interactive version: **https://ozgurkonakci.com/en/guide/trade-portals-turkiye/**

SHORT ANSWER

In Türkiye, customs declarations are processed in BİLGE (Computerised Customs Activities). Common transit declarations run through NCTS, and permits and certificates from other public bodies through the Single Window System. Product safety controls are handled in TAREKS, and foreign companies exporting to Türkiye are registered in YFKS. Services for individuals and companies, such as debt queries and binding tariff information applications, are listed on e-Devlet under the Ministry of Trade.

Why so many systems?

On a single import or export file you may touch several systems on the same day: the declaration runs in one, transit in another, and product controls and other agencies' permits in separate systems again. This page brings the acronyms you hear most often in one place.

First, a note on names: the **Ministry of Customs and Trade (GTB)** was merged with the former Ministry of Economy on **10 July 2018** to become the **Ministry of Trade**. That is why the "GTB" abbreviation lives on in older systems and terms.

The systems at a glance

System	What it does	Who uses it	Official address
BİLGE	The core customs system where declarations are filed electronically	Importers, exporters, customs brokers; customs officers	Via the Ministry of Trade website
Detailed Declaration Status Query	Checks the status of a declaration, its transfer to VEDOP and express courier (e-commerce) declarations	Declarants, customs brokers	Ministry of Trade website, "E-İşlemler" (e-services)

System	What it does	Who uses it	Official address
NCTS	Runs every step of common transit (T1/T2), from declaration to discharge, through electronic messages	Holder of the procedure, authorised consignors and consignees, customs offices	Via the Ministry of Trade website
Single Window System	One point of application to, and receipt from, public bodies for the permits and certificates customs requires	Declarants, customs offices, issuing agencies	e-Devlet: turkiye.gov.tr/ticaret-bakanligi; circulars on the Ministry of Trade website
TAREKS	Risk-based product safety and conformity controls	Importing and exporting companies, inspection units	ticaret.gov.tr (information), tarekskayit.ticaret.gov.tr (company registration), tareksyetki.ticaret.gov.tr (authorisation)
YFKS	Registration and traceability of foreign companies exporting to Türkiye	Declarants (apply), customs officers (approve)	Via the Ministry of Trade website
VEDOP	The Revenue Administration's system linking tax offices; customs declarations are transferred to it	Tax offices, taxpayers, accountants	Revenue Administration (GİB)
BTB e-application	Applying for binding tariff information and searching issued rulings	Importers, exporters, brokers	uygulama.ticaret.gov.tr/BTBBasvuru/AnaSayfa
Customs services on e-Devlet	Debt queries, taxpayer registration, broker lookup and similar services	Citizens, taxpayers, company officers	turkiye.gov.tr/ticaret-bakanligi

If you get stuck, the Ministry's technical support and legislation line is **444 8 482**.

BİLGE: where declarations are processed

BİLGE (Bilgisayarlı Gümrük Etkinlikleri, Computerised Customs Activities) is the system in which customs declarations are filed electronically. Filing requires a BİLGE user name and password.

- An account is obtained by **petition to the Regional Directorate** with the documents listed in Customs General Communiqué No. 81.
- Declarations are entered from customs data entry rooms or through private companies' software.
- The Ministry's official pages do not give a single general login address for BİLGE.

NCTS: the electronic system for common transit

NCTS (New Computerised Transit System) runs every step from the T1/T2 transit declaration to the discharge of the procedure through electronic messages. It is based on the **Convention on a Common Transit Procedure** of 20 May 1987, to which **Türkiye has been a party since 1 December 2012**.

According to secondary sources, Türkiye moved to NCTS Phase 5 on **17 November 2024** (KPMG), and the **technical switch to Phase 6 was completed on 1 June 2026** (BTSO announcement). The transit process itself is covered in the guide's customs transit topic.

Single Window System

For the permits and certificates required in customs procedures, traders **apply to public bodies through a single point**, and documents are **shared electronically** between agencies. The system has two stages: e-Document and e-Application.

- Its legal basis is Prime Ministry Circular No. 2012/6.
- The first pilot started with the Sugar Authority on 14 January 2014.
- New documents are still being added to the system.
- e-Devlet lists both "Single Window" and "Port Single Window" services.

TAREKS

The Risk-Based Control System in Foreign Trade is where product safety and conformity controls are carried out on a **risk basis**. Company registration and authorisation use separate addresses (see the table). TAREKS is also listed on e-Devlet. We could not confirm the main application's login address from the official page; start from the Ministry's TAREKS page.

YFKS: Foreign Company Registration System

YFKS stands for **Yabancı Firma Kayıt Sistemi**, the Foreign Company Registration System; the expansion "Green Line" that appears in some sources is wrong. It is used to register and trace foreign companies exporting to Türkiye, and was created by updating the earlier exporter registration system for imports. According to a reproduction of the Ministry's guide for officers:

- The **declarant** applies to register the foreign company.
- A **customs officer** with "YFKS User" rights in BİLGE approves or rejects the application.

VEDOP

VEDOP is the Revenue Administration's system that links tax offices. On the customs side it matters because the **transfer status** of customs declarations to VEDOP can be seen in the Ministry's declaration status query. This is a step that is followed in export and VAT refund processes.

Customs services on e-Devlet

e-Devlet lists many customs-related services under the Ministry of Trade. Some of them:

- Customs Tax and Penalty Debt Query (unpaid debts only)
- Customs Repayment and Remission Application System

- Taxpayer Registration for Customs Procedures
- Customs Broker and Assistant Information Query
- Vehicle Entry/Exit Query at Customs and Vehicle Pre-Declaration
- GET-APP, Single Window, Port Single Window, TAREKS
- Inward Processing and Outward Processing applications
- Authorised Economic Operator e-Application System
- Binding Tariff Information (BTB)
- Customs Guide for Travellers

BTB applications

Binding Tariff Information is an administrative ruling, issued on request, on the tariff classification of goods. You apply electronically through the **BTB e-application system** or in writing with the form in Annex 1 of the Customs Regulation. Applications are free and a BTB is valid for 6 years. Issued rulings can be searched in the same system. See the guide's HS codes and customs procedures topic for details.

The "GTB reference number" is not a portal

In practice, "GTB reference number" can sound like a system; it is actually an **identifier**. According to secondary sources:

- When an export e-invoice is passed from GİB's e-Invoice system to the customs system, the customs system generates a **23-digit reference number**.
- The exporter uses this number when preparing the export declaration. If the invoice and declaration data do not match, the declaration is not registered.
- Once the declaration is registered and the goods leave, the exit information comes back through the same channel.

These sources date from 2017 and 2019. Check the number's current name and exact use in **GİB's current e-Invoice guide**.

Test yourself

1. What does YFKS stand for? *(Answer: Yabancı Firma Kayıt Sistemi, the Foreign Company Registration System.)*
2. In which system are customs declarations filed electronically? *(Answer: BİLGE.)*
3. Does the Customs Tax and Penalty Debt Query service on e-Devlet calculate the taxes on a future import? *(Answer: No. It only shows debts that have been assessed and not paid.)*

Frequently asked questions

What is BİLGE?

BİLGE (Bilgisayarlı Gümrük Etkinlikleri, Computerised Customs Activities) is Türkiye's core customs system, where customs declarations are filed electronically. Filing requires a BİLGE user name and password, obtained by petition to the Regional Directorate of Customs and Foreign Trade with the required documents.

What does YFKS stand for?

YFKS is the Yabancı Firma Kayıt Sistemi, the Foreign Company Registration System. It is used to register and trace foreign companies that export to Türkiye, and it was created by updating the earlier exporter registration system for imports.

Is the GTB reference number a portal?

No. It is an identifier: the reference number generated when an export e-invoice is passed from the Revenue Administration (GİB) to the customs system. The exporter uses it when preparing the export declaration. Check GİB's e-Invoice guide for its current name and use.

Where can I see my customs debt?

On e-Devlet, through the Customs Tax and Penalty Debt Query service under the Ministry of Trade. It shows only unpaid debts; it is not a rate lookup tool.

SOURCES

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