UNITED KINGDOM VAPING DUTY STAMPS SCHEME

UK Vaping Duty Stamps
User Guide for Logistic Traceability

Web Application Guide

Version: 1.1
07.10.2026

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Observations
V1.0	31.08.2026	First release
V1.1	07.10.2026	Update based on Scanning Operator Role

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1 Preface

Purpose

This guide provides instructions for the correct use of the UK Vaping Duty Stamps Portal (UK VDS Portal) to perform the logistic operations related to the vaping duty stamps in the United Kingdom (UK).

Note: All images in this manual are examples and may differ slightly from the actual.

Intended audience

This manual is intended for authorised users i.e. **Scanning Operators** who have been authenticated in the UK VDS Portal with proper access permissions. The user shall access only the data related to their production.

Related documents

DOCUMENT NAME	DESCRIPTION
United Kingdom Vaping Duty Stamps Application Guidelines v.1.2	This document provides guidelines for correct affixation of the **Digitally Enhanced Stamps** to vaping products. Application of the stamp is the responsibility of the Affixing Operator.

Conventions

The following conventions are intended to alert the user to the associated instructions:

Hint: Helpful hints and tips for using the system.

Note: Relevant information to facilitate operation or compliance, which may improve the operation of the system.

Getting help

Always refer to this user manual first for information on using the system. If you cannot resolve the issue after reading this manual, please contact support VDS-support@cartor.com. Tel: +44 0800 229 4160.

Document applicability

The information contained in this user manual is valid as at the date indicated on the front cover. For further releases, please contact support VDS-support@cartor.com. Tel: +44 0800 229 4160.

2 Introduction

From 1 October 2026, the Vaping Duty Stamps (VDS) scheme requires all vaping products manufactured or imported into the United Kingdom (UK) to have a duty stamp fixed to the final retail packaging. Duty stamps will only be issued to approved individuals, manufacturers and importers. From 1 April 2026, businesses must apply for approval from the authorities to affix duty stamps from 1 October 2026.

A transitional duty stamp has been made available to support businesses through the interim period before VDS are introduced.

Who needs to use vaping duty stamps?

Any business approved by the UK authorities and involved in manufacturing, importing, storing, or distributing vaping products in the UK. You can check if you're impacted by Vaping Products Duty and the Vaping Duty Stamps scheme information - GOV.UK

What is the process?

1. **Registration:** This is the first step and involves registering for the VDS scheme.
2. **Ordering:** The second step involves ordering duty stamps in the UK VDS Portal https://vds-cartor.co.uk.
3. **Reception of deliveries**: This step requires a confirmation by the operator that the ordered stamps have been properly received.
4. **Affixing:** This step involves affixing the stamp to the vaping product.
5. **Activation:** This step involves scanning the Digitally Enhanced stamped product and recording data. Activation should be done at the point of affixing the stamps. Vaping products must be activated before being released to the market.
6. **Inspection:** This step involves scanning the Digitally Enhanced stamped product for authentication and traceability in the supply chain.
7. **Public authenticity check:** This step involves a public facing audience. The public can scan a Digitally Enhanced stamped product to access certain product information.

For more information, consult the following websites:

- Prepare for Vaping Products Duty and the Vaping Duty Stamps Scheme - GOV.UK.
- Vaping Duty Stamp Programme - Cartor

2.1 Roles & Responsibilities

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
Purchasing Operator	Responsible for placing orders for vaping duty stamps, creating new sites (local and/or foreign) and following up the deliveries to those sites.
Affixing Operator	Responsible for affixing the vaping duty stamp to vaping products as well as the safekeeping and proper storage of stamps.
Scanning Operator	Responsible for scanning the individual stamped products and/or the parent aggregate codes (for cases, bundles, pallets etc.) and reporting the data/events to VDS system. Only Digitally Enhanced stamps can be scanned and not Transitional stamps.
Enforcement Operator	Responsible for viewing the latest information about orders (current orders, delivered orders, inventory thresholds and packaging unit movements), as well as scanning the stamped product for authentication and traceability in the supply chain.

2.2 Vaping Goods

Vaping products are required to bear vaping duty stamps before they are released into the market. No products with the stamps should be released into the market until 1st of October 2026.

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2.3 Key Dates and Transitional Arrangements

When do the rules come into force?

- **1st October 2026:** Mandatory.
- **1st April 2027:** Full enforcement.

Key Timeline Summary:

- **1st September 2026:** Digitally Enhanced stamps introduced.
- **1st October 2026:** Duty comes into force.
- **1st January 2027:** Only Digitally Enhanced stamps must be affixed to products.
- **1st April 2027:** All vaping products on the UK market must carry a stamp.

2.4 Vaping Duty Stamps

Vaping duty stamps are paper based highly secure labels combining multiple security features and can be either dry or wet.

After ordering and payment of the stamps has been done, the stamps will be delivered. Affixing the stamps to vaping products is the responsibility of the Affixing Operator.

DRY STAMPS:

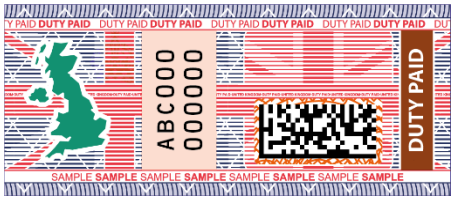

Figure 1: Digitally Enhanced Stamps – DRY

WET STAMPS:

Figure 2: Digitally Enhanced Stamps – WET

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3 System Login

Once your request to validate your credentials have been successful, users can enter their username and password and click “Sign-In” to access the UK VDS portal : https://vds-cartor.co.uk/ (figure below).

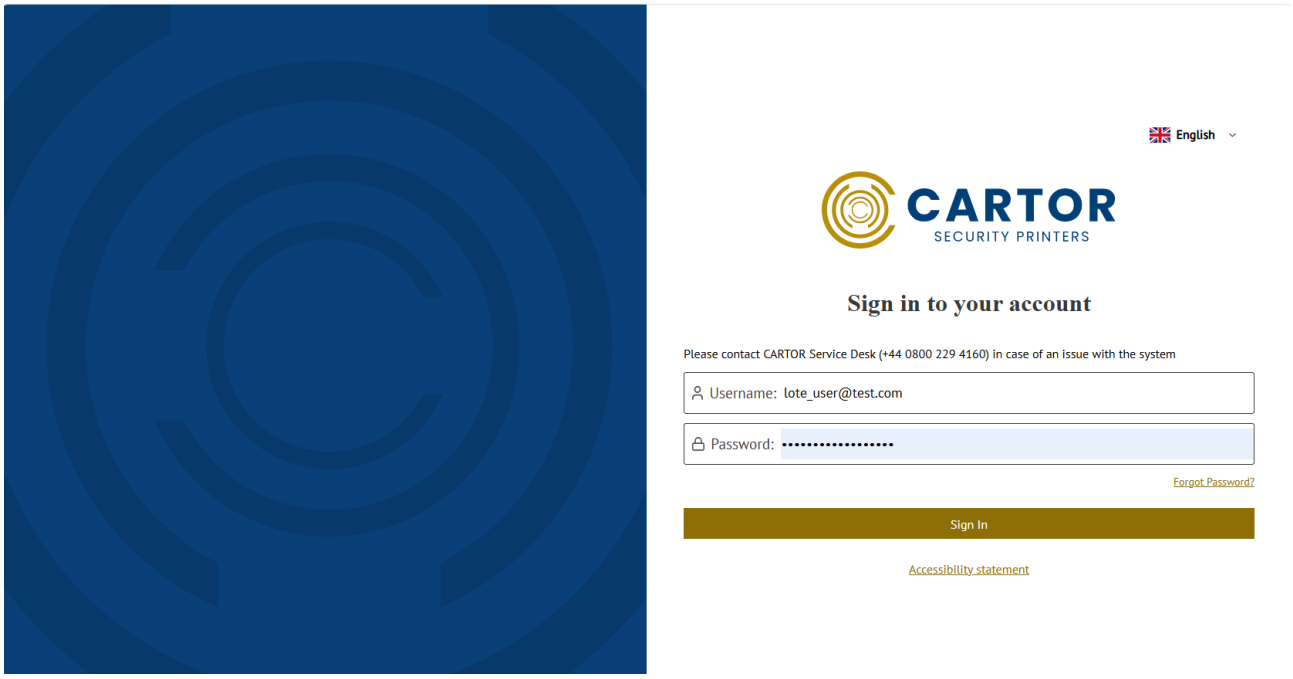

Figure 3 - Login screen of UK VDS Portal

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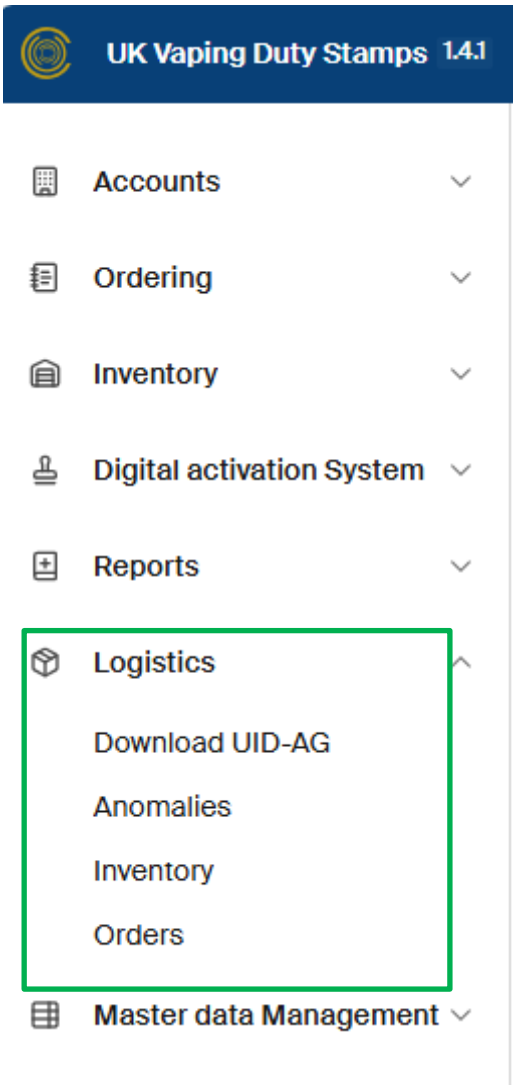

Figure 4 – Access to Logistics interface

Main functional categories of the system are listed on left menu bar which can be opened by clicking the icon.

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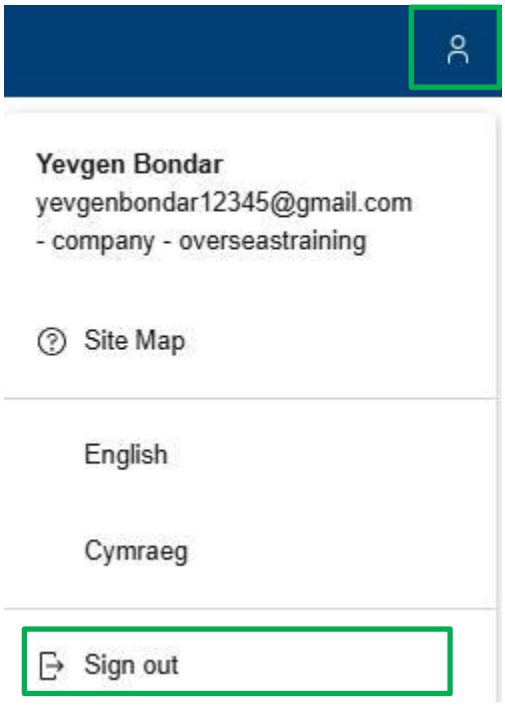

Figure 5 - User Logout Button

Name	Description
Download UID-AG	Enables users to generate and download aggregate codes (e.g., for cases or pallets). Users can place new orders, monitor their status, select export formats (PDF or Text), and download the completed aggregates.
Anomalies	Lists all detected traceability anomalies within the system. Users can filter by severity, review details, and inspect affected events and objects. This is helpful for quality control and compliance audits.
Inventory	Displays current inventory data by product and location. Includes access to inventory change logs and a tool to manually adjust quantities with mandatory justification.
Orders	Displays list of orders, allows users to monitor and filter orders of serial numbers

Table 1 - Main menu functional categories

4 Download UID-AG

The Download UID-AG screen is accessed from the left menu bar by clicking the menu icon and selecting Download UID-AG.

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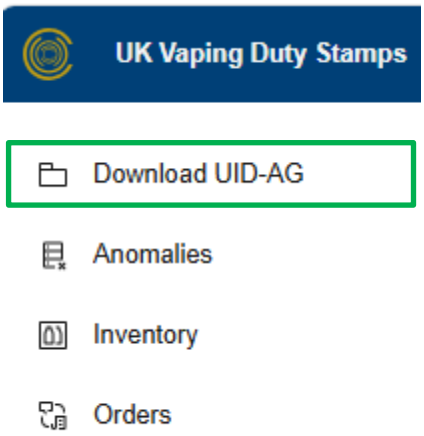

Figure 6 - Download UID-AG Menu Selection

After selection, the corresponding screen will appear.

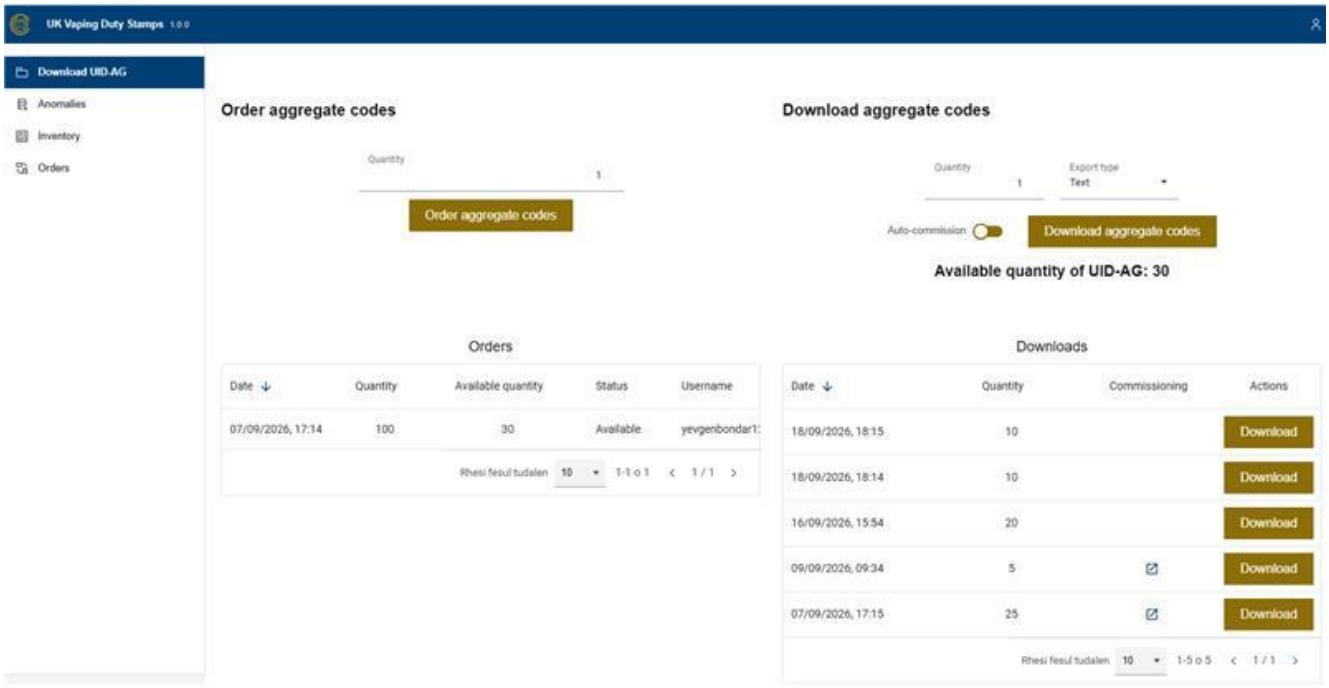

Figure 7 - Download UID-AG Screen

Screen Layout (Top to Bottom):

- **Top Left:**
  - A **menu button** is available for opening the side menu. ○ A **user icon** is located directly below the menu button.
  - The current screen path is displayed (`/ Download UID-AG`), indicating the active menu section.
- **Top Right:**
  - A **language toggle switch** allows the user to switch between available languages.

- **Center of the Screen:**
  - Two primary action elements are displayed:
    - **Order Aggregate Codes** – Input for specifying the quantity of codes to be ordered
- Quantity must be between 1 and 1000
    - **Download Aggregate Codes** – Inputs for specifying quantity and export type
- Quantity must be between 1 and 1000
- Export type can be either Text or PDF
-
- **Below the Action Elements:**
  - Two tables are displayed side by side:
    - **Orders** – Displays recent orders, including the following details:
      - Date
      - Quantity
      - Available quantity
      - Status
      - Username (creator of the order)
    - **Downloads** – Displays recent downloads, including:
      - Date
      - Quantity
      - Download button

Note: Clicking the Download button will initiate the download of the aggregate codes. Depending on the browser settings, the file will either be saved automatically to the default download location or the user will be prompted to choose where to save the file.

5 Anomalies

The **Anomalies** screen allows users to monitor, filter, and review system anomalies based on status and severity. The screen can be accessed from the left menu bar by clicking the menu icon and selecting **Anomalies**.

Figure 8 - Anomalies Menu Selection

After selection, the corresponding screen will appear.

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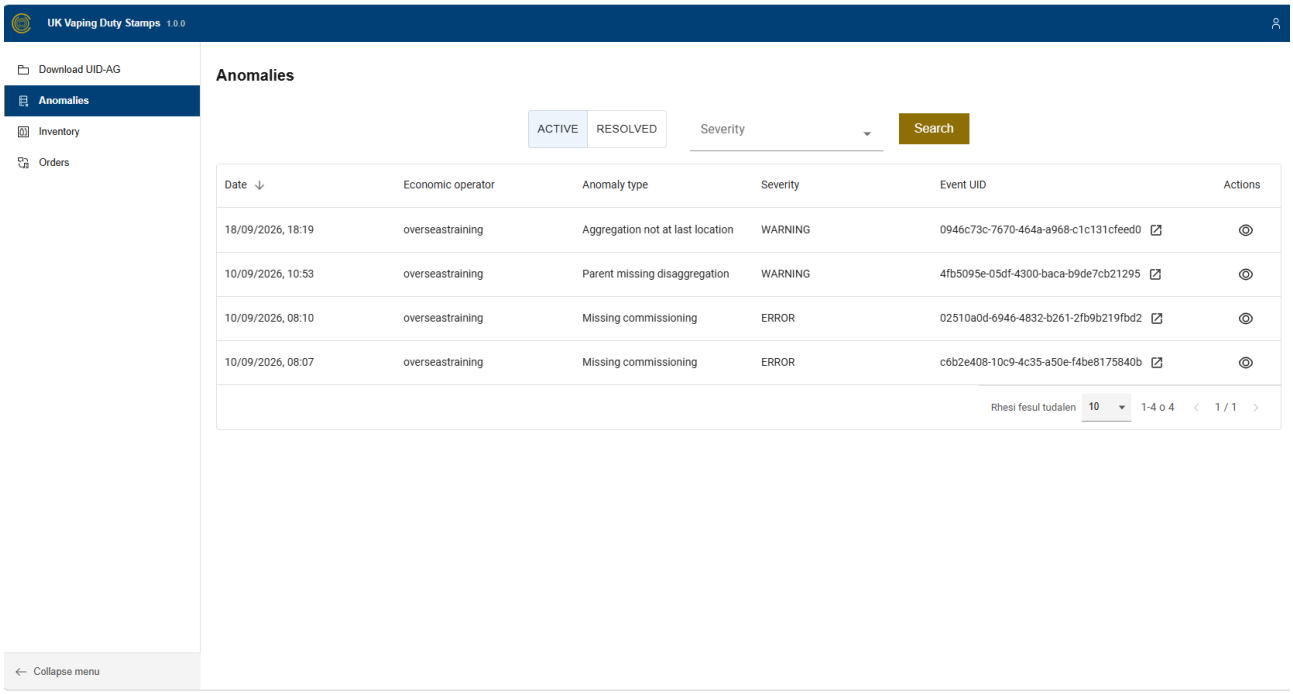

Figure 9 - Anomalies screen

Screen Layout (Top to Bottom):

- Top Center:
  - Two **buttons** are available for switching between **Active** and **Resolved** anomalies. Selecting either updates the table below.
  - A **Severity** dropdown menu allows the user to filter anomalies by severity level.
  - Available severity levels are:
    - FATAL
    - ERROR
    - WARNING
  - Selecting a severity level updates the table accordingly.
- Center of the Screen:
  - A dynamic **Anomalies Table** displays anomalies based on the selected status (Active or Resolved) and severity filter.
    - If only "Active" is selected and no severity is applied, the table shows all active anomalies across all severity levels.
  - **The table includes the following columns:**
    - **Date** – Date of the anomaly
    - **Economic Operator** – The operator related to the anomaly
    - **Anomaly Type** – Type of the anomaly
    - **Severity** – Severity level of the anomaly (FATAL, ERROR, or WARNING)
    - **Event UID** – Includes a **Show Details** button, which opens a detailed view with the following information:

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- Event UID
- Status
- Event Type
- Economic Operator
- Event Time
- Source (in XML format)

Figure 10 - Anomalies -> Event UID Details Window

 Actions – Includes a **View Details** button, which opens a pop-up window with comprehensive information about the anomaly. This includes:

- Description of the anomaly
- Status
- Severity
- Anomaly ID
- Event UID
- Trigger Event UID
- Number of affected objects
- UID of the affected objects

Figure 11 - Anomaly details window

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6 Inventory

The **Inventory** screen allows users to monitor, filter, and manage current inventory stock. It can be accessed from the left menu bar by clicking the menu icon and selecting **Inventory**.

Figure 12 - Inventory Menu Selection

After selection, the corresponding screen will appear.

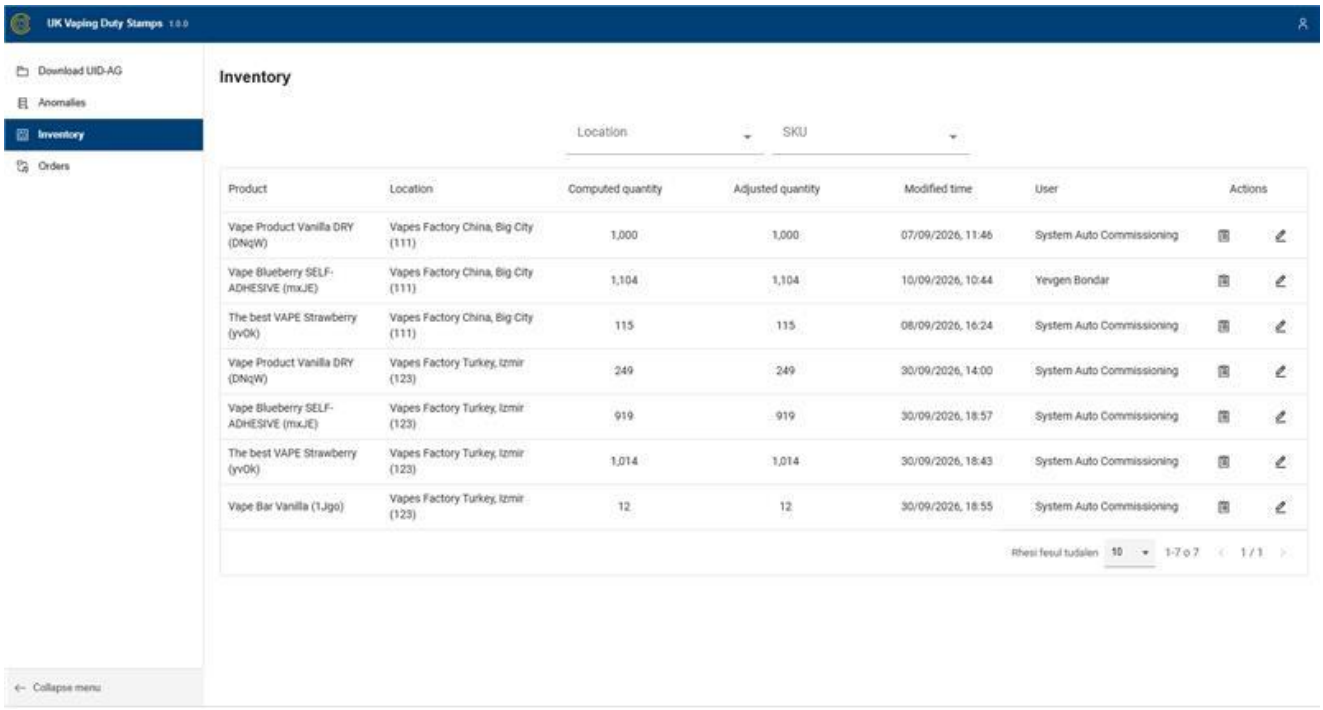

Figure 13 - Inventory screen

Screen Layout (Top to Bottom):

- **Top Center:**
  - Two dropdown menus are available:
    - **Location** – Lists all applicable locations
    - **SKU** – Lists all applicable products
- **Center of the Screen:**

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- A **dynamic inventory table** displays inventory based on the selected Location and SKU. If no filters are applied, the table lists all products across all locations.
- **The inventory table includes the following columns:**
  - **Product** – Name and identifier of the product
  - **Location** – Associated location of the inventory item
  - **Original Quantity** – Initial quantity before any changes
  - **Quantity** – Current available quantity
  - **Modified Time** – Timestamp of the last update **User** – The user responsible for the last modification **Actions** – Includes the following options:

- **View Log** – Opens a window showing the inventory log for the selected product. The log includes:
  - Original Quantity ○ Quantity ○ Modified Time ○ User
  - Manual (indicates whether the change was manual or automatic)
  - Reason for the change
- **Edit** – Opens a window allowing the user to update the inventory for a specific product. The window displays: ○ **Current Quantity** (editable) ○ Field to enter a **Reason** for adjustment
  - **Product** and **Location** (non-editable), indicating which product and location are being updated

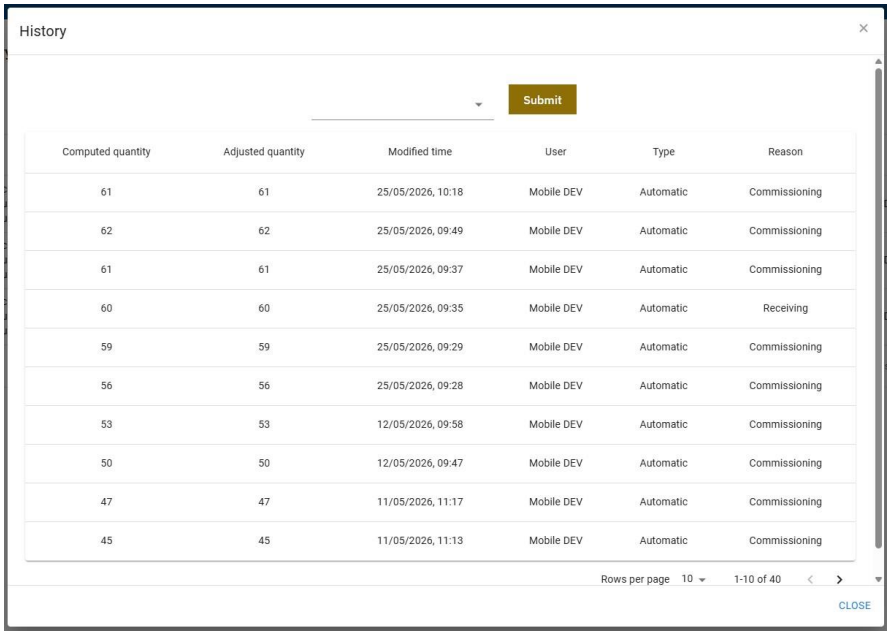

Figure 14 - Inventory log window

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Figure 15 – Edit Inventory window

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7 Orders

The **Orders** screen allows users to monitor and filter orders of serial numbers. It can be accessed from the left menu bar by clicking the menu icon and selecting **Orders**.

Figure 16 - Orders Menu Selection

After selection, the corresponding screen will appear.

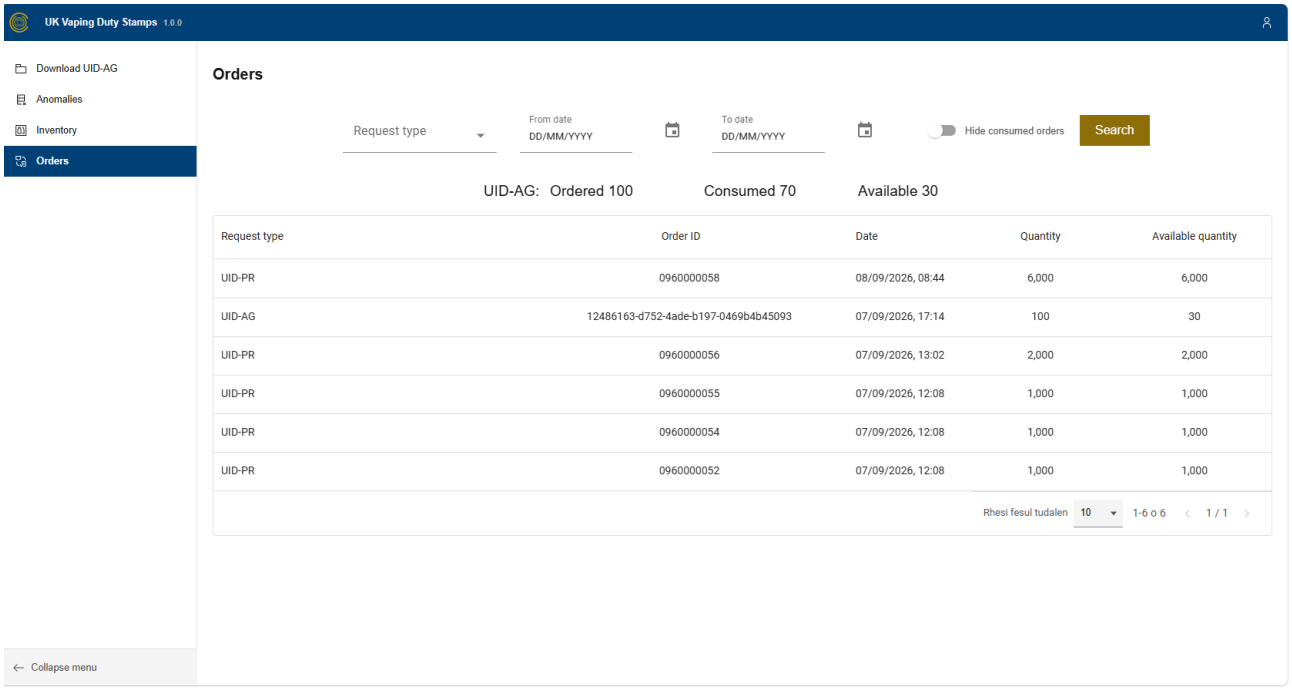

Figure 17 - Orders screen

Screen Layout (Top to Bottom):

- **Top Center:** ○ The following filters are available:
  - **Request type** – Filter orders by request type (UID-PR or UID-AG)
  - **From date** – Lists orders from selected date
  - **To date** – Lists orders until selected date

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- **Hide consumed orders** – filter out orders that are consumed (serial numbers exhausted)

- **Center of the Screen:**
  - A **dynamic orders table** displays orders based on the selected filters. If no filters are applied, the table lists all orders.
  - **The orders table includes the following columns:**
    - **Request type** – UID-PR or UID-AG
    - **Order ID** – order UUID
    - **Date**– date and time order was created
    - **Quantity** – Quantity of serial numbers ordered
    - **Available quantity** – Quantity of serial numbers still available for download from order

Above orders list there is information about available quantities of UID-AG.
In Case stock if low, appropriate alert will be shown:

- If there are less than 20% of UID-AG codes ordered available, warning will be displayed
- If there are less than 10% of UID-AG codes ordered available, critical alert will be displayed
- If there are no more UID-AG codes available, alert informing about stock is depleted will be displayed

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8 Glossary

Term / Abbreviation	Description
Affixing operators	UK manufacturers, overseas manufacturers and UK warehousekeepers who will be affixing duty stamps to vaping products in the manufacturing or packaging process.
Aggregation	Aggregation links individual stamped units to higher packaging levels (for example cartons, pallets). Aggregation must be recorded. Mixed SKUs are permitted. Scanning can be done at group level.
Code group	A code group refers to the group of vaping products to which the code type belongs, for example the code type *Vapes Local Dry 1'000* belongs to the code group *VAPES LOCAL*.
Code type	A code type refers to the vaping product category and tax rate identified by the UK Vaping Duty Stamps scheme. The term "code type", "product classifier" and "classifier" are synonymous and is used interchangeably in the UK VDS Portal. For the sake of simplicity, "code type" will be used as a homogenous term throughout this manual.
Container	See Packaging Unit (PU)
Container ID	See Packaging Unit ID (PU ID)
Duty	A tax levied on vaping products in the UK.
Duty stamps	Duty stamps (synonym for Vaping duty stamps) are paper-based stamps which combine physical security features with digital elements for authentication. Vaping duty stamps are highly secure labels showing that your vaping product is legal. The duty stamps can be either dry or wet.
Enforcement operators	Enforcement authorities (Government bodies such as Trading Standards, Border Force and UK Authorities) who in the course of carrying out compliance activity will need the ability to scan a duty stamp to access or upload certain information.
GLN	The Global Location Number (GLN) is part of the GS1 systems of standards. It is a simple tool used to identify a location and can identify locations uniquely where required. This identifier is compliant with norm ISO/IEC 6523. The GS1 Identification Key is used to identify physical locations or legal entities.
HRC	Human Readable Code (HRC) is an optional unique alphanumeric code providing a visual check that is human readable.
Handling Units (HU)	Handling Units are identifiers applied to grouped items (e.g. reels, stacks, pallets) and is used for bulk scanning and tracking and removes the need for scanning individual stamps.
Packaging unit (PU)	This refers to a reel of stamps or a pack of sheets containing the secure data. Packaging unit is synonymous to "Container".
Packaging Unit ID (PU ID)	A Packaging Unit ID (PU ID) is a unique ID associated with a packaging unit and can be used to trace the movements of a packaging unit. Packaging Unit ID is synonymous to "Container ID".
PCC	Personalization and Coding Centre is the location where the paper-based duty stamps are printed by the supplier.

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Purchasing Operator	Purchasing Operators are defined as UK manufacturers, UK warehousekeepers and UK representatives who are approved by the authorities in the UK to purchase vaping duty stamps from the Supplier.
SCRef	Supply Chain Reference (SCRef) is used to associate a product within a supply chain. Depending on the context there could be several SCRefs.
Scanning Operator	Any business, or any other natural or legal person, in the vaping product supply chain who has an obligation to scan the duty stamp and record data via this scan.
SKU	A Stock Keeping Unit is a custom internal code assigned to a product for internal inventory control and is unique to a specific business.
Supplier	The supplier of the UK's Vaping Products Duty stamp scheme.
TIN (or UTR)	Taxpayer Identity Number (or) Unique Taxpayer Reference number. This is a unique identification number that is used for tax compliance and to identify legal entities in commercial transactions.
UK Representative	A person or business based in the UK representing overseas manufacturers in the purchasing of duty stamps. They will be legally and financially responsible for the duty stamps purchased.
VDS registration number	Provided by the authorities to Purchasing Operators when they are approved to purchase duty stamps from the Supplier.
Vaping Duty Stamps (VDS)	A compliance measure being introduced alongside Vaping Products Duty on 1 October 2026.

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9 Contact

CARTOR offices

Cartor Security Printers Ltd.
Valiant Way,
i54 Business Park,
Wolverhampton,
WV9 5GB,
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 0800 229 4160
Email: VDS-support@cartor.com.
Website: https://vds-cartor.co.uk

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