Australian Customs Notice 1996 49

**RENEWAL OF CUSTOMS AGENT'S AND CORPORATE CUSTOMS AGENTS' LICENCES**

All Customs Agent's Licences and Corporate Customs Agents' Licences on issue expire on 31 December 1996. Sub-section 183J(1) of the Customs Act 1901, (the Act), provides for the renewal of licences.

As in previous years "Application for Renewal of Customs Agents' Licence" (Form B259 - Corporate and Sole Trader and Form B260 - Nominee) will be distributed to all Customs Agents and Corporate Customs Agents currently licensed with the Australian Customs Service (Customs). Licence holders will be permitted to renew their licences in any State or Territory. Current licence holders wishing to renew their licences should make written application on their Form B260 or B259 to the Regional Director (the RD) on or before 31 December 1996.

It should be noted that failure to renew a licence by c.o.b. 31 December 1996 will render the licence invalid. This will mean that individuals or corporate bodies who have not renewed their licences by that date, but who still wish to be licensed, will be required to make a new application to the relevant RD. Following receipt of the new application the RD, pursuant to Section 183CB of the Act, will forward the Application to the National Customs Agents' Licensing Advisory Committee (NCALAC) for report to him/her as to whether the applicant should be licensed or not.

In order to facilitate the processing of the Forms B260 and B259 by Customs, licence holders intending to renew their licences, are requested to complete either their Form B260 or B259 and lodge it with the RD well before 31 December 1996.

**NOTE: Customs, in concert with the Customs Brokers' Councilof Australia Inc. (the CBCA) and the NCALAC, is currently conducting a review of the Customs Brokers' Licensing System. As part of the review, the review team is considering the possibility of renewing licences by c.o.b. 30 June every three or five years. The reason being to avoid the present confusion caused by renewing them by 31 December every year when the majority of people are on holiday and the industry is not in full swing.**

**An Australian Customs Notice regarding the overall findings of the review will be issued at a later date.** Corporate Customs Agents are also requested to include with their application form:

1. a list of all nominees currently employed with their Agency;
2. a list of all persons currently having authority to directthe nominees of the Agency for the purposes of the Act.

In relation to this request Corporate Agents are reminded that, in accordance with Sub-section 183CG(3) of the Act, it is a condition of their licence that the Chief Executive Officer be advised within thirty (30) days of a change of nominees, persons authorised to direct nominees or composition of a partnership.

# Payment of Fees

Fees in respect of the renewal of an Agent's licence are to be paid not later than the day on which the renewal of the licence is to come into force (Customs Regulation No. 160).

In order to facilitate the renewal process further, payment of fees should be made at the same time the completed "Application for Renewal of Agent's Licence " (Forms B259 and B260 ) are lodged with the relevant RD.

**Fees Payable** (Customs Regulation 158)The fee payable in respect of the grant or renewal of an Agent's Licence is:

1. where the Customs Agent is a natural person who does notintend to act, at any time when the licence is in force in his/herown right - $20; or
2. in any other case - $200.

# Distribution of Renewal Notices

The "Application for Renewal of the Licence" segment of the Renewal Notice will be forwarded directly to the last known address of the licensee. The licensee will then be responsible for presenting that segment of the Renewal Notice to the Customs cashier for payment of the licence fee.

When accepting the "Application for Renewal of the Licence" segment of the Renewal Notice and the renewal payment from the licensee, the cashier will input the Customs Brokers' Licence number into the "Revenue Collection System", which in turn will record the transaction and issue two copies of a receipt.

The original of the receipt will be given to the licensee with the " Licence" segment of the Renewal Notice.

The "Application for Renewal of the Licence" segment of the Renewal Notice which will have been given to the cashier by the licensee, will then be given by the cashier to the Customs Brokers' Licensing Officer together with the copy of the Revenue Collection System receipt for his/her records.

Enquiries regarding this Notice may be directed to the Customs Brokers' Licensing Officer in each Region or to Alf Meier, Secretary, National Customs Agents' Licensing Advisory Committee in Canberra (Telephone) 06- 2755870 (Facsimile) 06-2756699

R J Mitchell National Manager

Cargo Facilitation Branch For

(L. B. WOODWARD)

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