Australian Customs Notice 1996 62

**CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION - IMPORT STATISTICAL CODES**

In May 1994, Australia ratified a new international treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The CWC prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It sets up requirements for reporting by contracting parties of activities relevant to the objects of the Convention, and for verification of these activities by an international inspectorate. The CWC will enter into force on 29 April 1997 and preparations are currently being made for its implementation in Australia.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) has been requested to prepare changes to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HCDCS), so that CWC scheduled chemicals are more clearly identifiable. It appears that the changes to the HCDCS will not take place before 2000. At the WCO 87/88 session in June 1996, member administrations and contracting parties to the HCDCS agreed to a recommended to take all appropriate action to insert additional subdivisions in their statistical nomenclatures.

On 1 January 1997, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will introduce a number of new statistical codes to capture data on the imports of certain chemicals. This is being done at the request of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to meet Australia's international obligations under the CWC.

The normal ABS response to commercial and legislative requests for new statistical codes is to survey importers, exporters, their Customs brokers and agents to ensure proposals are workable. This course of action has been followed with the more complex proposals stemming from the CWC.

However, bearing in mind Australia's international obligations, and to a lesser extent, the cost associated with surveys, the ABS did not canvas the more straightforward proposals, eg.

Customs Tariff Item/Statistical Code 2811.19.00/03 is currently used to record imports of sundry inorganic acids, amongst which is hydrocycanic acid. It is proposed to replace this TI/SC with 2811.19.00/38 (to collect solely hydrocycanic acid, which is scheduled) and 2811.19.00/39 (to collect other acids which are not scheduled).

A list of the affected statistical codes and their survey status appears on the attachment. The Australian Customs Service will dispatch appropriate Tariff Reprint pages from Canberra on 18 December 1996.

Queries can be directed as follows:

On the statistical structures and the surveys - **Chris Lumb**

**Australian Bureau of Statistics Telephone - 06 252 5409**

**Facsimile - 06 252 7438.**

On the CWC **- Malcolm Coxhead**

**Chemical Weapons Convention Office Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade Telephone - 06 272 5777**

**Facsimile - 06 272 4904.**

R. Janeczko

for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CANBERRA ACT 2601

5 December 1996

(Tariff Legislation - C95/3508) **Attachment to ACN 96/62**

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| **Customs Tariff Item Statistical Code** | **Brief Description** | **Whether ABS surveyed** |
| 2811.19.00/03 | Inorganic acids excl. hydrofluoric | No |
| 2812.10.00/09 | Chlorides and chloride oxides | Yes |
| 2851.00.00/21 | Other inorganic compounds | No |
| 2903.30.00/01 | Fluorinated, brominated or iodinated derivatives of acyclic hydrocarbons | No |
| 2904.90.00/48 | Other sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives of hydrocarbons | No |
| 2905.19.90/40 | Saturated monohydric alcohols other than methanol, propyl alcohol, n-butyl alcohol, etc. | No |
| 2918.19.00/34 | Carboxylic acids excl. lactic, tartaric, citric, etc. | No |
| 2920.90.00/11 | Esters of other inorganic acids excl. thiophosphoric | No |
| 2921.19.00/15 | Acyclic monoamines other than methylamine,dimethylamine, tremethylamine and diethylamine | Yes |
| 2922.13.00/31 | Triethanolamine and its salts | No |
| 2922.19.00/32 | Amino alcohols other than monoethanolamine, diethanolamine and triethanolamine | Yes |
| 2929.90.00/36 | Compounds with other nitrogen functions, excl. isocyanates | Yes |
| 2930.90.00/35 | Organo-sulphur compounds other than dimethoate | Yes |
| 2931.00.90/02 | Other organo-inorganic compounds excl. glycine derivatives containing phosphono groups | Yes |
| 2933.39.00/44 | Compounds containing an unfused pyridine ring, other than pyridine and piperidine | No |
| 3002.90.00/08 | Saxitoxin, ricin and similar | No |