Australian Customs Notice 1997 32

**CHANGES TO AIR CARGO REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS**

This notice is to advise air cargo terminal operators (CTOs), air cargo depots, air freight forwarders and interested brokers of changes to the air cargo reporting arrangements.

From 7 April 1997, the post arrival three hour "revert to manual" mechanism will be removed from the air cargo automation (ACA) system. To complement this change CTOs will be authorised to release consolidation documentation directly to the appropriate freight forwarder.

The changes to current practice outlined are a further step toward full electronic air cargo reporting and will be implemented in conjunction with a number of nationally agreed operating principles, listed below. These principles have been endorsed by the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, the Australian Air Transport Association, independent CTOs, the Australian Federation of International Forwarders, the International Air Courier Association of Australian and the Customs Brokers Council of Australia.

all master air waybills will be reported electronically by CTOs;

all electronically capable depots will report cargo via the ACA system;

all consolidations consigned to non depot freight forwarders will be reported by the deconsolidating depot or by the freight forwarder through an electronic alternative.

The current changes, when combined with some minor ACA enhancements and the new depot licensing provisions of Section 77, are designed to realise an entirely electronic reporting and screening air cargo environment by 30 June, 1997.

It should be noted that the above change in practice does not alter the cargo reporter's responsibility under Section 64 to provide timely cargo details to Customs. Should these changes result in a reduction in the timeliness of cargo reporting, consideration will need to be given to appropriate remedial measures.

Any questions in relation to this notice should be directed to

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for (L B WOODWARD)

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