Australian Customs Notice 1997 71

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

All Customs Agents Licences and Corporate Customs Agents Licences on issue expire on 31 December 1997. ss183J(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 - Nominee and Form B260 - Corporate and Sole Trader) will be distributed to all Customs Agents and Corporate Customs Agents currently licensed with 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 B259 or B260 to the Regional Director (the RD) on or before c.o.b. 31 December 1997. Payment of the renewal fee must accompany the renewal application.

It should be noted that failure to renew a licence by c.o.b. 31 December 1997 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) which will be required to report to the RD as to whether the applicant should be licensed or not.

Fees in respect of the renewal of a Customs agents 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). The fee payable (Customs Regulation 158) in respect of the grant or renewal of a Customs agents licence is:

1. where the Customs agent is a natural person who does not intend to act, at any time when the licence is in force in his/her own right - $20; or
2. in any other case $200.

In order to facilitate the processing of the Forms B259 and B260 by Customs, licence holders intending to renew their licences, are requested to complete either their Form B259 or B260 and lodge it, together with the respective fee, with the RD well before 31 December 1997.

Corporate Customs Agents are also requested to include with their application form:

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

In relation to this request Corporate Customs 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.

**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 application 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.

# NOTE: As mentioned in ACN N0.96/49 the Australian Customs Service in concert with the Customs Brokers Council of Australia Inc has been conducting a review of the Customs brokers licensing system which is nearing completion. One of the recommendations arising from the review is that Customs brokers licences will be renewed by c.o.b. 30 June every three years in lieu of once yearly by c.o.b. 31 December.

The principle reason for doing so being that it will be more economical and cause less inconvenience for all concerned. It will also avoid the present confusion caused by renewing the licences by c.o. b. 31 December every year when the majority of people are on holiday and industry is not in full swing.

Should the recommendation be accepted this is the last time licences will be issued on an annual basis. An Australian Customs Notice notifying the overall findings of the review will be issued at a later date.

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 (ph) 026-2755870 (fax) 026-2756699

A Paterson

A/g National Manager Cargo Facilitation Branch For

Chief Executive Officer October 1997

(Cargo Facilitation C92/08058)