Australian Customs Notice 1998 90

**Customs Year 2000 IT External Testing**

In September 1998, Customs issued ACN 98/47 indicating that an external testing service would be provided early in 1999 for Year 2000 issues.

It must be emphasised that the testing can only be undertaken when both external users and Customs have achieved their own Year 2000 preparedness. Customs staff will begin contacting users directly in January to advise on prerequisite conditions and to schedule such testing.

There will be no change in EDI message formats - either for input or for output from the Customs systems. Testing is planned to start mid-March, and the schedule is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MONTH** | **DAY/S** | **FUNCTION** |
| March | Saturday | IMPORT (interactive input) |
| April | Saturday | IMPORT (interactive input) |
| May | Saturday | IMPORT (EDI input) |
| June | Monday-Friday | EXPORT (EDI input) |
| July | Monday-Friday | EXPORT &amp; IMPORT |

Users would need to negotiate with Customs if they want to conduct testing on designated Public Holidays.

External testing will give users confidence that their business with Customs will continue to operate on any given date in the Year 2000. Customs will not be in a position to assess user problems if they occur.

This approach will allow an orderly management of the very large number of users who are expected to participate. (J M Drury)

Acting Chief Executive Officer Australian Customs Service

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