Australian Customs Notice 1999 16

**Customs Data Harmonisation - the G7 and WCO Models Uniform Customs Documentation and Electronic Messaging**

Comment is invited from Australian Industry on these G7 and World Customs Organisation initiatives to simplify customs data requirements and reduce compliance costs for industry across the G7 countries and European Union. These broad trade facilitation measures will have wider application, with beneficial effects for world trade and economic growth. They are likely to be the basis for future Australian Customs data requirements and well as those in APEC Customs administrations.

This is the first chance for international public consultation and Australian industry is encouraged to make a direct contribution. Time frame is short and comments are

requested as soon as possible - if possible by the end of February 1999 - and be passed to Mr Garry Grant, Director Electronic Commerce, who will relay them to the WCO.

A copy of both documents can be obtained directly by contacting Mr Grant.

G7 Heads of State directed their Customs administrations to standardise and simplify procedures, reduce data requirements to the minimum consistent with effective administration of Customs responsibilities, evaluate potential for uniform documentation and the form in which data is reported electronically to Customs. Such measures will reduce costs to both business and government and complement efforts by the World Trade Organisation to eliminate barriers to trade and development.

The task is to be finalised by the G7 Summit in mid-2000 and will be a **maximum**

set of data - the final version to have less than 100 data elements. Across G7 countries over 800 Customs data elements are in use, requiring traders to maintain different systems for Customs declarations in each country.

The WCO is working closely with the G7 and will map the data to the international UN standard for international electronic data interchange - UN/EDIFACT, and possibly Web-EDI.

International industry groups - such as the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Express Carriers Council, International Air Travel Association, the International Association of Ports and Harbours and the Universal Postal Union - have already been informed.

G7 work has been frozen pending industry consultation - and Australian Customs is pleased to be able to act as a co-ordination point. To assist this, Director Data Management, Ms Barbara Toohey, will discuss the G7 model and Australian Customs present/future data needs at roundtables planned for State capitals in the last week of February.

Further information can be obtained from Mr Grant on 02 6275 6186 or

at [href="mailto:garry.grant@customs.gov.au](mailto:garry.grant@customs.gov.au)"[&gt;garry.grant@customs.gov.au.](mailto:%26gt%3Bgarry.grant@customs.gov.au)

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