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**Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification - 2002 Edition**

The 2002 edition of the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) becomes operative on 1 January 2002.

The AHECC is compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and is designed for use by exporters, customs brokers and freight forwarders for the classification of goods when providing export declarations to the Australian Customs Service, and to assist users in the interpretation of export statistics published by the ABS.

This edition of the AHECC reflects changes arising from the second review, by the World Customs Organization, of the international Harmonized System 6-digit categories, as outlined in ACNs 2001/13 and 53. It also reflects changes due to:

the creation of new statistical codes to reflect changes in technology and user requests; the rationalisation of units of quantity used in reporting trade;

the creation of more meaningful descriptors for existing categories; and the amalgamation of categories for which there are low volumes of trade.

[The AHECC will be available on 13 December 2001, free of charge from the ABS web site (www.abs.gov.au,](http://www.abs.gov.au/) see Themes, International Trade, Publications, Australian Harmonized Commodity Classification (Cat no. 1233.0)).

Printed copies will also be distributed free of charge to existing subscribers at the same time. Any users without internet access, and not on the ABS Subscription List, are able to receive a copy of the AHECC by contacting ABS Subscription Services on 1300 366 323. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

Users of the AHECC should note that this is expected to be the final issue distributed in printed form. Future replacement pages to update the classification and explanatory notes, normally issued six monthly, and subsequent new editions, are expected to be released electronically. Replacement pages will be available from the ABS web site starting in mid 2002. Users are encouraged to stay up to date with changes to the AHECC by monitoring the ABS web site.

Queries regarding this ACN should be directed to Sharyn Sturgeon on (02) 6252 5310 or Marion Hall (02) 6252 6379 or by email to [hsreview@abs.gov.au](mailto:hsreview@abs.gov.au).

TOM MARSHALL

National Manager Tariff

For Chief Executive Office