Australian Customs Notice 2002 33

**Trade modernisation changes for importers and exporters**

On 1 July 2002 new Customs legislation to modernise trade will come into effect.

The legislation underpins Customs Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) program.

Importers and exporters may need to adjust their business practices, however several of the 1 July changes will specifically affect exporters.

Industry will need to be aware of the requirements relating to commercial document/record retention and the new infringement notice scheme.

Changes for exporters will include:

All goods for export will now be subject to Customs control from the time they arrive at the wharf, airport or Customs depot.

Export entries will be required for consignments valued over $2000 and for all goods requiring a permit regardless of value.

It will be mandatory to report three fields of data on a sub manifest or outward manifest for all goods that are exempt from export entry requirements; exporter's name, country of destination and goods description.

With the consent of the occupier of the premises Customs can examine export goods and related documents before they reach a Customs controlled place.

All those in the trading community should also note that:

Any person who causes goods to be exported or imported such as importers, exporters, cargo handlers and cargo carriers must keep commercial documents for five years.

Communicators of information to Customs, such as Customs brokers and bureaus must keep records verifying the information communicated to Customs for one year.

An infringement notice scheme will be introduced on 1 July for dealing with non-compliance.

Under the new scheme Customs has the option of issuing an infringement notice but is under no obligation to do so for every offence. Before issuing a notice Customs will look at a person's overall compliance performance to determine the best way to deal with a matter.

Notices could be issued from 1 July 2002 for the following offences:

Moving, altering or interfering with goods subject to Customs control without authority; and Making false or misleading statements resulting in loss of duty.

Notices could be issued from 1 January 2003 for the following offences:

Making false or misleading statements not resulting in loss of duty; and

Owners failing to enter goods for export or allowing goods to be loaded on to an exporting ship or aircraft without an authority to deal.

Further changes will occur as the new Customs computer system, the Integrated Cargo System (ICS), replaces the existing reporting systems over the next two years - exports in November 2003, imports in March 2004.

Information packs containing fact sheets on all the changes have been sent out to all Australian Customs Notice subscribers. If you have not received your pack you may wish to check your ACN mailing and contact details are correct.

Stephen Goggs National Manager

Commercial Compliance For

Chief Executive Officer June 2002