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**Updates to the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) 1 July 2002**

The 2002 edition of the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) became operative on 1 January 2002. This edition incorporated extensive changes arising from the review, by the World Customs Organization, of the international Harmonized System 6-digit categories.

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 entries to the Australian Customs Service, and to assist users in the interpretation of export statistics published by the ABS.

Details of the changes were outlined in Australian Customs Notice No. 2001/71. In that Notice, users were advised that the 1 January 2002 edition of the AHECC would be the final version issued in printed form. Future replacement pages to update the classification and explanatory notes, normally issued six monthly, and subsequent new editions would be released electronically.

The ABS has finalised the changes required for the 1 July 2002 AHECC updates. These changes affect the Introduction, Explanatory Notes, Abbreviations, AHECC Summary, and some codes in Chapters 17, 27, 28, 29 and 48.

The 1 July 2002 updates of the AHECC classification are now available from the ABS website free of charge. Current copies of the AHECC manual can be updated by printing the replacement pages and including them in the manual. In addition, a completely updated electronic version of the AHECC is available on the ABS website.

To access these documents, go to the ABS website [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au/) then select Themes, International Trade, AHECC. To download the AHECC replacement pages, select AHECC replacement pages - 1 July 2002. From the AHECC page users can also access the complete manual by selecting AHECC.

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for

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