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**Updates to the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC), 1 January 2003**

The 2002 edition of the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) became 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.

Details of the 1 January 2002 release of the AHECC were outlined in Australian Customs Notice (ACN) 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 and that future replacement pages and subsequent new editions would be released electronically.

The first electronic AHECC updates were made on 1 July 2002 as advised in ACN No. 2002/34. The ABS has now finalised the changes required for the 1 January 2003 AHECC updates. These changes affect the Introduction, Key of Changes, and some codes in Chapters 01, 51, 84, 85 and 98.

The 1 January 2003 updates will be available from the ABS website from 13 December 2002, free of charge. Copies of the AHECC manual can be updated by printing the replacement pages and substituting them for the relevant pages in the manual. In addition, a completely updated website version of the AHECC will be available for online reference.

To access these documents, go to the ABS website [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au/) then select Themes, International Trade. To download the AHECC replacement pages, select AHECC. This page provides links to the 1 July 2002 and 1 January 2003 replacement pages, the manual as at 1 January 2002, and the updated website version as at 1 January 2003.

Queries about this ACN should be directed to Andrew Gibbs on 02 6252 5409 or by email to the ABS at [international.trade@abs.gov.au](mailto:international.trade@abs.gov.au)

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**For Chief Executive Officer December 2002**