

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO. 2015/10

Cheese and Curd Quota Scheme – Allocations for 2015-2016

In early June 2015, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service will contact cheese and curd quota holders to discuss quota allocations for 2015-2016.

The calculation of an importer’s forthcoming allocation is based on the actual use of quota by that importer in the 23-month period ending 31 May 2015, as shown in Customs’ records of Import Declarations lodged between **01 July 2013 and 31 May 2015**.

We remind importers that quotas are allocated for a particular financial year. To use the quota allocated, importers are required to ‘enter for home consumption’ their imported cheese or curd by the end of the financial year to which the allocation relates, that is, by 30 June of that year. Where cheese or curd importations are of Australian origin (returned Australian goods), or a free rate of duty is provided under Schedule 3 of the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*, then quota cannot be used. Similarly, if preference circumstances or Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) apply, then quota is not available.

The cheese or curd is ‘entered for home consumption’ if:

1. an entry for home consumption for the goods is lodged with Customs; **and**
2. the vessel or aircraft carrying the cheese or curd has arrived at the first Australian port or airport at which any cargo is intended to be discharged.

Please note that:

* The quota calculation excludes any part of the quota transferred to another importer during the 23-month period or that remains unused at **31 May 2015**.
* Quota used during the month of June 2014 will be taken into consideration for allocation 2015-2016, but will NOT count in computations for 2016-2017. This June ‘factor’ is repetitive for every annual allocation because of the 31 May import performance cut-off for calculation of following year’s allocations.

At this time of the year, quota users and their brokers should take stock of quota balances with a view to maximising usage and consequently maximising their next allocation.

We will publish the final allocation in the *Commonwealth of Australia: Tariff Concessions Gazette* in July 2015.

Where you anticipate quota usage shortfalls, there is an option to transfer allocations between importers. You can apply for a transfer by completing a Transfer of Base Quota (Cheese and Curd) form (form B235) and submitting it to:

Director Industry Assistance

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Customs House

5 Constitution Avenue CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Alternatively, customers may send an email to Industry Assistance at [tarcon@customs.gov.au](mailto:tarcon@customs.gov.au)

We deal with transfer requests in order of receipt and each request may take up to four working days to process. The transfer form is available on the Customs website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au/) under Customs and Border Protection Forms.

To facilitate efficient administration of the annual allocation, we urge importers and brokers to notify Customs and Border Protection of any changes to company details such as addresses, phone, email, fax and principal contact person.

You may direct any enquiries concerning this notice to Industry Assistance on telephone

(02) 6122 5540, or email [tarcon@customs.gov.au](mailto:tarcon@customs.gov.au)

(signed)

Anita Langford

A/g Assistant Secretary, Trade Branch CANBERRA ACT

02 March 2015