Australian Customs Notice 1997 17

**MANUAL REPORTING CHARGE AND SCREENING CHARGE FOR AIR CARGO NOT REQUIRING AN IMPORT ENTRY - AIR CARGO PROCEDURES**

This notice is to advise Customs' clients of the procedures for assessment and payment of air cargo manual reporting charges and screening charges for air cargo not requiring an import entry. These charges will commence on **1 April 1997.**

This notice will be of interest to cargo terminal operators (CTOs), cargo reporters, cargo depots and Customs Brokers who report air cargo manually to Customs.

# APPLICATION OF CHARGES

The relevant charges are:

$3.00 for each single air waybill reported manually; and

$2.40 for each single air waybill, for air cargo not requiring an import entry (screened free); and will be paid by the lowest level depot at the destination airport.

These charges do not apply to:

electronic reports reverted to manual by Customs Officers;

master air waybill and sub-master air waybill consolidations with no house air waybills reported; transhipment cargo; and

diplomatic consignments.

For electronic air cargo reporters, submitting cargo reports in Air Cargo Automation (ACA), the screening charge will be automatically counted and settled by invoice on a monthly basis. The manual reporting charge does not apply to finalised electronic cargo reports.

Customs is encouraging manual air cargo reporters to enter into a periodic settlement agreement whereby both charges will be paid monthly. Otherwise, charges must be paid by manual air cargo reporters prior to the release of documents. These agreements will be made available in Customs Information Centres by early March.

# CHARGE COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be adopted nationally from 1 April 1997. To facilitate the introduction of the new procedures, a trial will be conducted from 3 March 1997 until 14 March, 1997. Customs will introduce manual cargo reporters to the new forms and procedures during this period.

# Procedures for Manual Air Cargo Reporting

The cargo terminal operator (CTO) will deliver all manual master consolidations to Customs on flight arrival. Customs will wait three hours after flight arrival at the destination airport allowing an opportunity for all ACA reports to be captured.

Customs will then assess air waybill details and air waybills will be perforated and counted for each cargo reporter/depot.

A Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice will then be prepared by Customs incorporating the number of single air waybills reported manually and the number of air cargo reports not requiring an import entry (screened free) for that cargo reporter/depot.

The original and two duplicates of the Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice will be attached to the cargo reporter's/depot's master or sub-master air waybill as applicable.

Where a monthly settlement agreement has been provided by the cargo reporter/depot the air waybills will be collected by the cargo reporter/depot from Customs (returned to the CTO in the case of Australian Air Express clients). Where periodic settlement has not been arranged, the charges set out on the Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice must be paid to the Cashier prior to the release of documents. A receipt will be issued.

The original and one copy of the Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice will be retained by Customs.

# Procedures for Secondary Screening of Cargo Reports

Where Customs has determined from the initial air cargo report that an import entry is required and on secondary screening subsequent evidence indicates that a *delivery without entry* status was appropriate, the screening charge will apply. The procedures in this instance are as follows:

## Electronic cargo reports

Where cargo report details are found to be incorrect, the electronic cargo report must be adjusted in ACA by the cargo reporter. In this case the screening charge applies and will be recorded in ACA for monthly settlement.

Where cargo report details were correct but the initial determination was incorrect as a result of interpretation, for instance, the electronic report is to be amended by Customs to *delivery without entry* status and the screening charge will apply. In this case the screening charge will be recorded in ACA for monthly settlement.

## Manual cargo reports

Where a secondary screening of a manual air waybill results in a *delivery without entry* status Customs will complete a Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice.

The client will pay the appropriate charge to the Cashier and a receipt will be issued.

The Cashier's receipt and a copy of the Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice will then be produced to the Customs Officer.

The air waybill will be given *delivery without entry* status and released.

The original and one copy of the Documentary Air Cargo Report Charge Assessment Notice will be retained by Customs.

M.J. Roche

Deputy Chief Executive Officer 20 February 1997