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**WHOLESALE LIST PRICES FOR TOBACCO AND CIGARETTES**

Following on from the safety net arrangements put in place to compensate the State and Territory governments for the loss of revenue resulting from the High Court decision on business franchise fees, the new arrangements for calculation of excise and customs duty on tobacco and cigarettes require wholesale list prices for these products to be published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*.

The duty rate is a hybrid of a weight based component plus a percentage of a wholesale list price. Should a wholesale list price not be declared for a particular product a solely weight based rate will apply to that product.

These wholesale list prices were published in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazettes* Nos. S359 of 17 September 1997, S395 of 7 October 1997 and S413 of 15 October 1997. It is anticipated that future revised wholesale list prices will be gazetted on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Excise Tariff working ("blue") pages to be issued in connection with these changes are: COVER (15 October 1997); E1 (R22); E91 (R3); E93 (R3); E95 (R3); E97 (R3); and E99 (R3).

Any enquiries concerning these changes should be directed to:-

Assistant Director, Tobacco Excise Branch

Australian Customs Service CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ph: (02) 6275 6103

(Excise - C97/08967) (R J Hunt)

a/g National Manager,

Excise Branch

for Chief Executive Officer CANBERRA

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