Australian Customs Notice 2003 12

**Amendments to *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. Transitional arrangements relating to changes to the controls on handguns for sports shooters and international sports shooters**

Regulation amendments of 20 December 2002 (outlined in Australian Customs Notice 2003/08) made importations of handguns by sports shooters, and sales of imported handguns by dealers to sports shooters, subject to restrictions on barrel length, calibre and capacity. The regulation amendment was in response to the COAG resolutions to restrict high calibre and concealable handguns able to be imported into and possessed in Australia.

Additional amending regulations with effect from 21 February 2003 ensure that, prior to implementation of the complementary State and Territory legislation, Australian and international sports shooters competing in national and international events are not disadvantaged.

The amending regulations enable Australian sports shooters to import handguns which they take overseas for the purposes of competing in an international sports shooting event. The amendments also enable international sports shooters who come to Australia to compete in sports shooting events to import certain handguns that they might otherwise not be permitted to bring into Australia and which Australian sports shooter are currently permitted to possess. International sports shooters would be required to export those handguns as soon as practicable after the completion of the competition.

The amendments only apply in respect of international or Australian sports or target shooting events intended to be held on or before 30 June 2003.

Further information regarding the amended Regulations may be obtained from: Weapons & Strategic Goods Policy Section

Cargo Branch

Customs House

5 Constitution Avenue

Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: 02 6275 8040

Fax: 02 6275 6699

**Mr Phil Burns National Director**

**Cargo and Trade Division 21 February 2003**