

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/52

Amendment to the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956

The following amendment to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* was notified in Special Gazette No. 257 dated 2 July 2003. The amendment commenced on 7 July 2003.

**United Nations Security Council – Round logs and timber products from Liberia.**

On 6 May 2003 the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 1478 (2003) that calls for all States to take the necessary measures to prevent, for a period of 10 months, the import into their territories of all round logs and timber products originating in Liberia. Customs has implemented Australia’s obligations to enforce this sanction through regulation 4Q of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

Resolution 1478 (2003) came into force on 7 July 2003. At the end of the 10 month period, the UNSC will decide whether the measures should continue.

The UNSC will also consider by 7 September 2003 how best to minimise any humanitarian or socio-economic impact of these measures, including the possibility of allowing timber exports from Liberia to resume in order to fund humanitarian programmes.

Resolution 1478 (2003) builds on earlier sanctions imposed by the UNSC, namely an arms embargo, a ban on provision of military technical training or assistance, a ban on the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia and travel restrictions on individuals including senior members of the Government of Liberia.

Any enquiries on the policy supporting this change may be directed to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on (02) 6261 2365. Any administrative questions on import issues may be directed to the Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263.

Philomena Carnell National Manager Cargo Branch

for

the Chief Executive Officer July 2003