AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2004/61

Exports Implementation Update

This notice provides an update of the current state of Exports implementation under Custom’s Integrated Cargo System (ICS), which occurred on 6 October 2004.

During the transition period for the exports implementation a number of technical and business process issues were identified which affected a small number of reporters, and short term arrangements were put in place to ensure cargo could continue to be exported. The majority of those issues have now been rectified.

A small number of minor issues are still being addressed and some reporting business rules need to be restated. The following is a list of issues that may be currently affecting the reporting and movement of export cargo.

# Technical Issues

The outstanding ICS technical issues still requiring resolution are:

* The correct identification of prescribed warehouse goods. The current version of the ICS makes the identification reporting of prescribed warehouse goods confusing for some exporters, and warehouse and depot operators. This will be rectified in a new version of the ICS, when a new indicator for these goods will be added to the export declaration. This will be available on 9 January 2005.
* Lack of recognition of Sundays and Public Holidays. The ICS does not currently recognise Sundays and Public Holidays when calculating late reporting of Export Manifests. This is expected to be amended on 19 January 2005 so that manifest reporters receive a warning message and manifest do not get an error status under these circumstances.
* Slow processing of large messages. Large messages (that is Export Declarations or Manifests that contain a very high number of lines) may be processed slowly by the ICS. Customs recommends that clients intending to submit large Declarations or Manifests (over 100 lines) consider separating such reports into smaller documents in order to obtain faster freight clearance.
* Missing response messages. On occasion, clients do not receive response message from the ICS. This is due intermittent interruptions within the Customs gateway and is currently being addressed.
* Idle EDN reminder notification. Some clients are not receiving Idle EDN reminder notices due to the way in which their registration is configured within the ICS, particularly in relation to outbound message preferences. Customs is currently looking at options to address this issue for those clients.

# Business Process Issues

Some exporters are experiencing problems with the clearance of their export cargo, when it has been reported to Customs by the receiving cargo terminal. Most of these problems stem from exporters not following the appropriate reporting rules for cargo, and it is timely that they should be restated. The ICS screens export information more extensively than the former EXIT system, and identifies a larger number of reporting errors.

Customs has identified the following scenarios as the most likely reasons for export cargo being impeded at a cargo terminal:



* + Export Declarations attached to Sub manifests (CRNs) are being reported to cargo terminals as the authority for the goods. The ICS recognises that the declaration is attached to a CRN, and impedes clearance until correctly reported.
  + Self-acquitting declarations, which are intended for postal goods, ships spares or the export of private ships and aircraft, are being incorrectly used for general export goods. These type of declarations cannot be attached to a manifest. General cargo should be declared as export type “OT” in the ICS.
  + Goods reported as a consolidation are being delivered to more than one cargo terminal. Consolidated cargo being reported as received at more than one cargo terminal will be impeded, as the reporting rules require that the goods should remain consolidated for screening purposes. For air cargo, the reporting rules also require that only one air waybill be assigned to each consolidation.
  + Manifests are being lodged listing goods that have not yet been received at a cargo terminal. The ICS prevents inappropriate multiple use of declarations, by expiring those that have been fully accounted for on a manifest. Premature lodging of a manifest will impede cargo listed on that manifest if it is subsequently reported as received by a cargo terminal. It is important that manifests should only be lodged when the complete list of cargo actually loaded is verified, and the departure time is confirmed.

Customs would like to draw attention to the large number of declarations that have been identified as not being acquitted. These are referred to as idle declarations. It is important that due care is given to ensuring that sub-manifest and manifest information is completely accurate, and that any errors or omissions are rectified as soon as they are detected. Unacquitted declarations can have a significant impact on trade figures, GST records and permit reconciliation data.

Customs is seeking industry’s assistance in resolving many of the business process issues and will be working with many of you to close these issues off before the introduction of Imports.

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Director Cargo Systems on telephone number (02) 6229 3598 or fax number (02) 6122 5534.

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