AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2005/50

Amendments to the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations - protective jackets, vests, suits and body armour

The *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* have been amended to clarify controls on protective jackets, vests, suits and body armour. The amendment to Item 29A of Schedule 2 of the Regulations was registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments on 11 November 2005.

Item 29A of Schedule 2 of the Regulations previously imposed import controls on protective jackets and vests, body armour, and other articles of apparel, that were designed to resist the penetration of a projectile discharged from a firearm.

The amended Item 29A now controls the importation of body armour, protective jackets, protective vests, protective suits, anti-ballistic articles or any other similar articles that are able to be worn, either independently or as part of something else, on the human body and that are designed or adapted to protect the human body from the effects of a weapon. Anti-ballistic articles used for eye or hearing protection are excluded from the new restrictions.

The new Item 29A includes articles that are designed to protect against non-deforming fragments emitted from explosive devices as well as projectiles discharged by firearms. The amendment also captures articles that are designed to protect the body from the effects of a weapon, including knives, so it covers stab-proof vests. Parts for these protective articles are also restricted, for example, the anti-ballistic plates designed to fit in protective jackets.

Reference to the amendments to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* may be found at [http://www.comlaw.gov.au/.](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/)

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to the Manager, Weapons & Strategic Goods, Cargo Branch, on telephone number (02) 6275 6189 or fax number (02) 6275 6699.

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