AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2008/07

**Control permit for non-commercial foreign craft in Australia**

Customs will be trialling a new permit system for non-commercial foreign craft in Australia. Control Permits will replace Cruising Permits that were previously granted to eligible smallcraft.

Control permits are granted to eligible applicants where Customs is satisfied that the craft is transiting Australia for specified non-commercial purposes such as:

* cruising/touring purposes
* mooring purposes
* recreational use
* repair/refit
* specified racing events

Persons eligible to apply for a control permit must hold a valid passport and visa and must be a tourist or temporary resident. In certain circumstances non-resident Australians, who can demonstrate overseas residency, may be eligible for a control permit.

Where a craft is owned by a corporation and more than 50% of the owners of the corporation are Australian residents, a control permit will not be granted.

Control Permits can be issued for specified period, for example, three months however the maximum length a permit will be granted will not exceed twelve (12) months. At the expiration of the control permit the holder may apply for an extension. Providing the applicant still meets eligibility requirements an extension may be granted however extensions will only be granted for a maximum of three years within a four-year period. The four-year period commences from the date of arrival of the smallcraft in Australia.

When a control permit expires and an extension has not been sought, the craft must either depart Australia or be formally imported and an import declaration lodged. If the craft is imported duty and tax will be payable.

There are a number of conditions attached to the granting of a control permit and if a permit holder is found to be in breach of any of the conditions, for example, action has been taken to sell the craft, Customs may take further action such as revoke the permit and require the craft to be formally imported. In some circumstances a security may be requested.

The trial will be conducted over a twelve-month period and will commence on 1 March 2008.

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Cargo Reporting Policy (Sea) on telephone number (02) 6275 8068 or fax number (02) 6275 5745.

Jaclyne Fisher National Director Cargo Branch CANBERRA ACT

January 2008

