



Australian Government
**Australian Customs and
Border Protection Service**

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2010/12

New United Nations sanctions on trade in arms and related matériel to and from Eritrea

On 23 December 2009, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted resolution 1907, banning trade in arms and related matériel to and from Eritrea. The resolution was adopted in response to ongoing border disputes between Djibouti and Eritrea, and Eritrea's support of armed groups in Somalia which constitute a threat to international peace and security.

Resolution 1907 obliges Member States to take steps to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to and from, Eritrea of arms or related matériel, including paramilitary goods. Australia complies with UNSC Sanctions through a range of measures, including administration and enforcement of the Customs Regulations.

Accordingly, as of 2 March 2010, the importation from Eritrea of arms and related matériel (including paramilitary equipment) is prohibited under Regulation 4ZA of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* unless permission has been granted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Also as of 2 March 2010, the exportation of arms and related matériel whose immediate or final destination is, or is intended to be, Eritrea is prohibited under Regulation 13CR of the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* unless permission has been granted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Regulation 13CR does not include goods listed in the *Defence and Strategic Goods List*, which are covered under Regulation 13E.

The import or export of goods in contravention of these regulations is an offence under the *Customs Act 1901*. Penalties for individuals can include imprisonment for up to 10 years, or a fine of up to three times the value of the goods or \$275 000, whichever is the greater. Penalties for bodies corporate can include fines of up to three times the value of the goods or \$1 100 000 whichever is the greater.

Public enquiries on permit requirements and application processes under these regulations should be directed to:

Director
Sanctions and Transnational Crime
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Email: sanctions@dfat.gov.au
Facsimile: 61-2-6261 2144

For further information regarding this notice, please contact the Manager, Counter Proliferation on (02) 6275 6189 or fax (02) 6275 6699.

Sue Pitman
National Director
Trade and Compliance Division

2 March 2010