



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

**AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE
NO. 2011/24**

Amendment to the Customs Act 1901

Last week Parliament passed the Customs Amendment (Serious Drugs Detection) Bill 2011, which is now awaiting Royal Assent.

Customs Amendment (Serious Drugs Detection) Bill 2011

Commences on a date to be fixed by Proclamation or within 6 months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent.

The amendments will allow, with the consent of the detainee, an initial non-medical internal scan of a person to be carried out by a Customs and Border Protection officer using body scan technology that is to be prescribed in the regulations. This technology produces a computer image of a person's internal cavities within a skeletal structure, as opposed to images of external body parts.

Such images may serve to allay an officer's suspicion that a passenger is internally concealing a suspicious substance, in which case the detainee would be released immediately from detention for internal search. Where, however, a body scan image supports a suspicion of an internal concealment, the existing regime governing internal searches by a medical practitioner will apply.

The Bill's primary focus is to enable the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to exercise its border responsibilities more efficiently and effectively.

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The Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum are available on the Australian Parliament House website on the Bills page - <http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>

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