



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO. 2011/50

Release of the new Customs Tariff Working Pages for the HS2012 Harmonized System Changes

Australian Customs and Border Protection Notice No. [2011/12](#) advised that the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, introduced the Customs Tariff Amendment (2012 Harmonized System Changes) Bill 2011 into Parliament on 23 March 2011. This Bill received Royal Assent on 26 July 2011 as the *Customs Tariff Amendment (2012 Harmonized System Changes) Act 2011* (Act No. 85 of 2011).

The Act contains approximately 800 amendments to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* (the Customs Tariff) that will implement the changes resulting from the World Customs Organization fourth review of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, commonly referred to as the Harmonized System or HS. These changes are due to take effect on **1 January 2012** (HS2012).

Customs Tariff Working Pages

Customs and Border Protection has finalised the amendments to its publication titled "Combined Australian Customs Tariff Nomenclature and Statistical Classification" (commonly referred to as the Tariff Working Pages) to reflect the changes to the Customs Tariff to apply from 1 January 2012. A complete set of these Working Pages accompanies this ACN. Please note the following:

- For Schedules 5, 6, 7 and 8, that provide rates of duty for goods covered by Australia's Free Trade Agreements, only those pages that contain HS2012 related changes have been reprinted.
- For a number of items in Schedules 5, 7 and 8, it has been necessary to prescribe certain goods for duty purposes. These prescribed goods will be set out in the *Customs Tariff Regulations 2004*. Customs and Border Protection will arrange for the amendment of these Regulations and will issue further reprint pages to incorporate the text of the Regulations, as required.

The Tariff Working Pages for the HS2012 changes will be available on the Customs and Border Protection website, from 31 October 2011, at:

www.customs.gov.au then select working tariff 2012.

Please note that the changes in these pages will not commence until 1 January 2012. The working tariff 2007 contains the current (until 31 December 2011) Tariff Working Pages.

Explanatory documents, including a concordance of tariff items affected by the changes to the Customs Tariff by the HS2012 legislation and an Explanatory Memorandum are available on the Customs and Border Protection web page under Quick links. The concordance should be read in conjunction with the HS2012 Act and the Explanatory memorandum.

Integrated Cargo System (ICS)

Customs and Border Protection will commence the input of HS2012 tariff and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistical code amendments to the ICS Reference Files (tariff classifications, statistical codes and related information) from mid-November 2011. These changes will apply from 1 January 2012.

Tariff Advices, Tariff Precedents and Tariff Concession Orders

Customs and Border Protection will issue a further Customs Notice in the near future to cover arrangements for Tariff Advices, Tariff Precedents, Tariff Concession Orders and Origin Advices affected by the HS2012 changes.

HS2012 Guide

A guide to the significant HS2012 changes will be available on the HS2012 page on the Customs website from 3 November 2011.

Statistical Codes

Australian Customs and Border Protection Notice No. [2011/20](#) advised of changes to statistical codes by the ABS in connection with the HS2012 tariff changes.

This Notice also advised of a review of statistical codes by the ABS to ensure that the codes remain relevant to the needs of a wide range of users. This review is now finalised. Importers should note that statistical code changes will affect areas of the Customs Tariff that are not otherwise affected by the HS2012 changes. The revised statistical codes will also take effect on **1 January 2012**.

The new Customs Tariff Working pages contain the changes to the statistical codes.

On 8 December 2011 the ABS will release an information paper on the statistical code changes to the Customs Tariff (cat. No. 5368.0.55.017). The paper will also provide Free Standing Descriptors and concordances to other classifications including the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4 (SITC r4). The paper can be accessed on the internet at:

www.abs.gov.au, then select Topics @ a glance, Economy, Foreign Trade, Noticeboard.

AHECC Codes

Australian Customs and Border Protection Notice No. [2011/34](#) advised that the ABS had completed its update of the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) to incorporate the HS2012 changes and the results of the general review of the statistical codes.

This publication can be accessed on the internet:

at www.abs.gov.au, then select Topics @ a glance, Economy, Foreign Trade, Noticeboard.

Note that minor corrections to the AHECC publication will be published on the ABS website in mid-November 2011.

Enquiries

In the first instance, those seeking information on the HS2012 changes and their consequential amendments should refer to the HS2012 page on the Customs and Border Protection website.

If you require any further information about the proposed changes to the Customs Tariff or the statistical codes, please direct any inquiries to the following contacts:

for changes to the Customs Tariff Working Pages

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for changes to the statistical codes

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(signed)
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