

OVERVIEW

The AHECC search function in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) can be used to find and Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics maintains the *Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC)* (ABS cat. No. 1233.0). The AHECC is designed for use by exporters and brokers to classify goods when providing export declarations to Customs.

The AHECC is based on the 6-digit items of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). The HS is used to classify internationally traded goods as they enter or leave a country. It was developed and is maintained by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

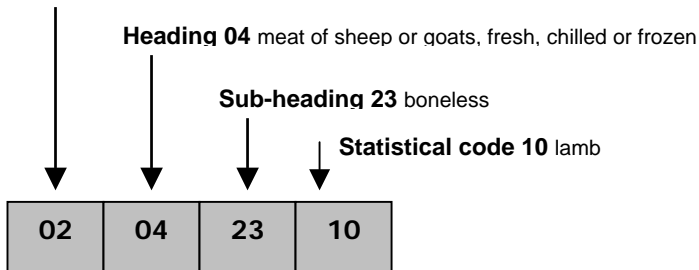
CLASSIFYING GOODS TO THE AHECC

Goods are classified according to the general rules for the interpretation of the HS. The following notes are provided to assist in understanding the HS classification and in determining the correct AHECC items to be used in making Customs export declarations. The notes are not exhaustive, but try to cover the most important aspects of goods classification.

CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE

The AHECC code consists of 8 digits. This structure is shown below using the AHECC code 02042310.

Chapter 02 meat and edible meat offal



CLASSIFICATION PRINCIPLES

The following general principals should be followed when classifying goods:

- Determine the broad category to which the goods fall. E.g. raw materials or semi-manufactured and finished goods
- Select the appropriate section and chapter
- Review the section and chapter notes, as these notes can affect your classification decision
- Examine the 4-digit headings in the chosen chapter to determine the most appropriate 6-digit heading
- Consider all the detailed 8-digit classifications under the selected 6-digit item to select the most appropriate code.

For full details, the AHECC (ABS) cat. No. 1233.0) is available free from the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au. See Themes, International Trade, AHECC.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE

If further assistance in classifying goods for export is required, contact the Customs AHEC Advisory Service.

Customs can give formal AHECC exports advice if required.

To download an Application for AHECC-Exports Advice form:

1. Go to the Customs website: www.customs.gov.au
2. From the main menu, click on **media, publications and forms**, and then click on **forms**.

The **customs forms** page displays.

3. Select the B318 hyperlink.

Form B318 displays as a portable document format (pdf) file in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

4. Complete the form and mail or fax it to:

Tariff and Valuation Section

GPO Box 8
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Fax (02) 9213 4049

aheccadvice@customs.gov.au

Any samples and/or supporting information relating to the application should be included.

SEARCHING FOR AN AHECC CODE

1. From the main menu, click on **Reference**, then click on **AHECC**.
2. In the **Select a Search Combination** field, click on the drop down button and select one of the options on which to base the search.
3. Enter the relevant details in the mandatory fields based on the search combination selected (refer to Table 1 for field descriptions).
4. Click on the **Search** button.

If more than one record is found, the **AHECC List** screen displays.

5. Click on a hyperlink in the AHECC Code column.

If one record is found, or you selected a hyperlink in the AHECC Code column on the AHECC List screen, the **AHECC View** screen displays. The AHECC View screen displays full details of an AHECC code with related permit and assay details.

AHECCs – A Quick Guide

Table 1 – Screen fields

Field	Action/input required
AHECC Code From	Enter the AHECC code to display or the first AHECC code in a range. #
AHECC Code To	Enter the last AHECC code in a range. #
AHECC Description	Enter all or part of the ABS description of the goods classified to the AHECC. #
AHECC Effect Date	Enter the date on which the AHECC code was/is in effect.
PIA Prefix	Enter the three alpha character permit type prefix (e.g. PIL, DED).
Assay Requirement	Enter Y (Yes) to display AHECCs that require assay details or N (No) to display AHECCs that do not have an assay requirement.

wildcard character can be used to assist in searching.

USING THE WILDCARD CHARACTER (*)

A wildcard search is performed by entering the wildcard character (*) after a partial value in a field.

For example, to search for 'Boneless lamb, fresh or chilled', the following could be entered in the AHECC Description field:

- BON *
- BONELESS*
- BONELESS LAMB*