



STANDARDISED Data Set NEWS

Standardised Data Set Newsletter 2 June 2005

Progress Update

Since the official launch of this whole of government project at the Industry and Agency Forums in March we've been moving full steam ahead. Some of the highlights of the last three months:

- The forming of an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) with members from AQIS, DoTaRS, DIMIA, Customs, ABS, Defence, DFAT, PM&C and DoFA. We've had three meetings and appreciate the support our IDC is providing;
- Contacts have been established within the State Premier's Departments and Chief Minister's Offices as we have a number of State and Territory agency stakeholders;
- Visited all agency stakeholders in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane (sorry Tasmania and NT we haven't made it there yet, but we will!);
- Forty-five agency questionnaires have been completed and returned to the team. Thank you to all who contributed;
- Analysis of the data contained within all of those questionnaires has now commenced;
- Sixteen agency workshops and meetings have been held to develop the Single Window options, benefits and risks;
- Two industry meetings have been conducted to discuss Single Window issues and benefits with four workshops now being planned;
- Visits to Melbourne and Sydney Ports to discuss their IT systems and business flows. IDC members were present to re-enforce this project as a whole of government project;
- The project's legal advice provider has commended working on the issues associated with data harmonisation and the Single Window options, there's a few;
- Visited Singapore and Malaysia to investigate international single window developments; and
- The website is up and running. You can find the SDS Project link on the Customs website www.customs.gov.au

As you can see we've been busy and these are just the highlights!!!!

Agencies Identified

The project team has identified forty-five Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies that request data from traders to undertake their regulatory role in international trade. A substantial number of these are permit-issuing agencies with responsibilities for particular commodities.

Agency Visits

The project team has visited 53 of the 57 agencies identified as stakeholders in the SDS project. Look out Northern Territory and Tasmania here we come. During these visits we provided an overview of the SDS project and we'd discuss how to complete the data questionnaire. Each agency provided us with an outline of their business as it relates to international trade. The small number of agencies we were not able to visit were managed via telephone conference.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed to collect agency international trade data requirements. It included some general questions as well as data collection tables where agencies were asked to provide data names, definitions and formats. Some agencies although having a role in international trade did not directly collect trade data so only completed the general questions.

For many agencies the questionnaire required an enormous amount of work and the SDS project team would like to express their thanks for your participation. The data analysis of these returns began on 1 June and the cooperation from stakeholder agencies has ensured that the harmonisation process can be completed on time.



protecting our borders

Working together for a better future

Interdepartmental Committee (IDC)

An IDC has been established to oversee this whole of government project. The National Manager, Information Management in Customs who is also the Project Sponsor, chairs the committee. The IDC is provided with a project progress report at every meeting with the rest of the session dedicated to explaining “hot topics” in more detail.

They will oversee the SDS project and ensure Single Windows Options are feasible and address all pertinent issues. Meetings to date have been held on 30 March, 27 April and 8 June.

Industry Engagement

In April preliminary meetings were held in Sydney to undertake a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis with industry groups.

Some examples of the benefits in introducing a standardised data set and single window were:

- Streamlining processes by standardising data and processes across government agencies;
- Standardisation of messaging internationally and using the same data more than once;
- Facilitate crew reporting standardised at the international level; and
- Maximise supply chain security and data integrity.

Some of the issues raised during the industry meetings were:

- Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) track and trace issues;
- How the CMR project links to the single window options and what further costs would be incurred to change to a “new system”; and
- Increasing the current set of data requirements, data for data’s sake.

SDS/ Single Window Workshops

In order to establish feasible options for the SDS / single window business case a number of workshops were conducted during April and May. In April two preliminary workshops were held to discuss what options might be possible. In May the workshops concentrated on each one of the options in detail. Participants included a wide cross section of agencies with around half the stakeholder agencies participating in one or more workshops.

These workshops have been invaluable in the articulation the options, which are:

SDS / Single Window Options

Option A

Implementation of the SDS into the Current Environment

Option B

Front-End with Single Window Capabilities

Option C

Fully Functional Domestic Single Window

Option D

International Single Window

We’ve just released a SDS / single window fact sheet if you’d like to read more about the options above.

Malaysia/Singapore Visit

The Project Director and one of the Project Managers attended a two-day conference in Kuala Lumpur on paperless trading and single window developments hosted by Malaysian Customs and run by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). Other meetings were held with Singapore and Malaysian Customs to discuss their single window initiatives.



Brainstorming at the UN/CEFACT conference.

Key Steps to Completion

There are three key steps left to project completion. Remember we have to submit the Australian SDS and options business case to government on 31 October 2005.

- Australian Standardised Data Set sign off;
- Indicative costs on Single Window options;
- Business case final draft for comment.

For more information on the Standardised Data Set (SDS) project

Website: www.customs.gov.au

E-mail: SDS@customs.gov.au

Next Issue September 2005

Industry workshop outcomes

Cost benefit analysis

Standardised data set sign off progress

Working together for a better future