



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS DUMPING NOTICE NO. 2006/55

THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME) OFFICER

On 24 November 2006 the Minister for Justice and Customs and the Minister for Industry Tourism and Resources announced a number of changes to the administration of the anti-dumping system. The announcement follows the acceptance by the Ministers of the Joint Study Report on the Administration of Australia's Anti-Dumping System (the Report). The Ministers' Joint Press Release may be found at www.customs.gov.au.

The Report recommended (Recommendation 5) "that, Customs appoint an 'SME officer' to deal with anti-dumping enquiries from SMEs."

The Report stated that businesses both large and small are entitled to seek appropriate relief under the anti-dumping system. SMEs face a relatively more onerous burden than larger companies in the preparation of an application. They often do not have the resources to develop familiarity with the complexities of anti-dumping action, and face disproportionately large costs in pursuing an action because of the nature of the processes involved. The additional demands placed on small business could be alleviated by the designation of an SME officer within the Trade Measures Branch to provide a general facilitation role.

SMEs are defined as firms with less than 200 full time equivalent employees and/or less than \$10 million turnover (ABS). SMEs can be industry, importer or exporter firms.

In response to the Joint Study Recommendation, Customs has now appointed an SME officer who is available to advise SMEs on all anti-dumping/countervailing matters, including advice on lodging applications for new measures; reviews of existing anti-dumping measures; continuation of measures; duty assessments; and, on responding to anti-dumping enquiries.

The SME Officer may be contacted as follows:

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