



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/76

Exports cutover to be postponed - Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) update

Customs has agreed for a second time to change the date that exporters must switch over to the new Integrated Cargo System. Customs Chief Executive Officer Lionel Woodward agreed with industry leaders at the December 2003 meeting of the Customs National Consultative Committee that the ICS is not yet sufficiently stable for Customs and industry to be ready for implementation by 1 March 2004.

Instead of simply announcing a replacement for the planned 1 March cutover date, Customs will adopt a new approach. In response to calls from the trading community, and in particular from developers of export business software, Customs will not announce a new date until it and key stakeholders are confident of the system's reliability. Once a stable product has been achieved further advice will be provided to users about cutover to the new exports system. Customs objective is to ensure all stakeholders have around three months from that time to finish preparations.

While setting and meeting dates is an important part of planning for the transition from the old systems to the new, Customs will not compromise the quality of the ICS package or place unreasonable demands on industry, just to meet scheduled dates. Our priority must be to develop a reliable system. Once it is confirmed that the systems are robust and stable and a cutover date is set, further advice will be posted on the Customs website www.customs.gov.au (follow the links to Cargo Management Re-engineering) and emailed to anyone who has registered through the website for CMR information.

In the meantime, the planned December 2003 rollout of the latest version of the ICS (V3) for industry testing will now take place very early next year. Customs will then liaise closely with software developers to fine tune system reliability. Customs will still be rolling out the larger imports system for testing in the first half of 2004, and will then apply the same approach of consolidating the release before fixing a cutover date.

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Customs by telephoning 1800 022 267 or emailing cmr@customs.gov.au

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