



Australian Government
Australian Customs Service

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2006/48

Amendments to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* – Rough Diamonds from Sierra Leone and Côte d’Ivoire.

Regulations amending the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the PI Regulations) were signed by the Governor-General on 19 October 2006, and take effect from 21 October 2006.

The previous ban on the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone has been removed, whilst a new, absolute prohibition has been imposed upon the importation of rough diamonds from Côte d’Ivoire.

Sierra Leone

Regulation 4N of the PI Regulations prohibited the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone unless the permission of the Foreign Minister or an authorised person had been granted. Regulation 4N was introduced to implement the ban upon the importation of such diamonds pursuant to *United Nations Security Council Resolution 1306 (2000)*, and renewed by subsequent Security Council Resolutions.

On 5 June 2003 the President of the Security Council announced that this import ban would not be renewed. Australia however maintained the control due to the proximity of Liberia and other countries involved in diamond smuggling. The ban is no longer considered necessary by Australia.

Whilst this prohibition has been removed, the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone is still subject to the requirement that the relevant Kimberley Process Certificate is provided under regulation 4MA of the PI Regulations.

Côte d’Ivoire

On 15 December 2005, the Security Council imposed a binding obligation on all member States, including Australia, to prohibit absolutely the importation of rough diamonds from Côte d’Ivoire under *United Nations Security Council Resolution 1643 (2005)*. Accordingly, new regulation 4N of the PI Regulations prohibits the importation of rough diamonds from Côte d’Ivoire, even if the importer has a Kimberley Process Certificate.

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