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## **AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2007/36**

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### **Importation of asbestos or goods containing asbestos**

This Notice has been issued to remind importers and their agents of the import control that applies to asbestos, or goods containing asbestos.

Asbestos (chrysotile and amphibole) and goods containing asbestos are controlled under Regulation 4C and Schedule 3B of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. Permission can only be granted to import such products in limited circumstances.

Recently, Customs has made detections of goods found to contain asbestos. These goods are prohibited imports as they do not meet the requirements of Regulation 4C and Schedule 3B. The importation of a prohibited import is an offence under the *Customs Act 1901*.

Importers are reminded that they bear responsibility to ensure that imported goods comply with Commonwealth, State and Territory legislative requirements. Care should be taken when sourcing imported products that the goods comply with Australian law.

Any certification issued by overseas suppliers is not, of itself, a guarantee that the goods comply to Australian standards or laws. Australian law does not allow any tolerance for asbestos and therefore any imports containing items of this nature are considered prohibited imports.

Customs has recently increased its monitoring of goods that may pose a risk of having asbestos components, particularly those containing brake and/or clutch parts, and gaskets. We have also been working closely with State and Territory regulatory authorities in relation to this issue.

The importer of any goods found to be in contravention of Australian law will be liable for any costs incurred with regard to their testing, storage, replacement of parts or disposal.

Importing agents are encouraged to alert clients, who may be importing goods at risk of containing asbestos, of their obligations.

For any additional information regarding Customs import requirements, please refer to the Customs website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au) or contact the Customs Information & Support Centre on 1300 363 263.

Inquiries concerning this Notice may be directed to the Manager, Community Protection on telephone number (02) 6275 6129 or fax number (02) 6229 3840.

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