



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2009/30

Amendment to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* Regulation 4C – Importation of asbestos.

On 15 August 2009, regulation 4C of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* was amended by the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 4)*.

The amendment to regulation 4C removes the import control that applies to ships and resources installations containing *in-situ* amphibole or chrysotile asbestos, where the ship or resources installation

- is of at least 150 gross tonnage; and
- the asbestos was fixed or installed before 1 January 2005; and
- the asbestos will not be a risk to any person unless it is disturbed.

This amendment complements existing domestic occupational health and safety laws and does not alter industry's obligations and responsibilities in respect of providing a safe workplace. Ships and resources installations no longer subject to the import control are workplaces, and must comply with the relevant Commonwealth, State and/or Territory occupational health and safety laws, including those dealing with the management of asbestos in the workplace.

The import control continues to prohibit the importation of ships or resources installations where the asbestos was fixed or installed after 1 January 2005 including where:

- construction of a ship or resources installation began before 1 January 2005 but was not completed until 1 January 2005 or after; or
- due to repairs, refits or renovations, asbestos fixed or installed before 1 January 2005 is re-fixed, re-installed, or replaced with other asbestos, on or after 1 January 2005.

The gross tonnage threshold will ensure that smaller ships, including recreational vessels, and resources installations, remain subject to the import control.

For queries concerning this ACN, please contact the Manager – Environment and Wildlife, Community Protection, by telephone on 02 6275 6047, by fax on 02 6229 3840 or by sending an e-mail to community.protection@customs.gov.au

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