



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/69

CEO determination No 1 of 2003 - communication standards

The *Customs Legislation Amendment and Repeal (International Trade Modernisation) Act 2001* inserts Part VIA into the *Customs Act 1901* which relates to electronic communications with Customs. Section 126D of the Customs Act requires the Customs CEO to establish and maintain information systems that enable persons to communicate electronically with Customs.

Section 126DA requires the CEO to determine, and publish in the Commonwealth Gazette, certain information technology requirements that a person must meet to communicate electronically with Customs. CEO determination No 1 of 2003 was gazetted on 8 October 2003 and is in three parts.

Part A Requirements relating to communicating electronically with Customs

A person may communicate by either using an electronic data interchange (EDI) message sent by email or by directly accessing the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) via the Customs website using the Customs Connect Facility (CCF). To provide secure communications, the person must register in the CCF and the ICS before the person can access the ICS. The EDI messages must meet a specific standard and they must be communicated to Customs using a specific type of email. The determination specifies the minimum Internet browser standard that a person must use to communicate with the ICS online.

Part B Requirements relating to electronic signatures

If a person is required to sign an electronic communication with Customs, the person must do so using a digital certificate. A digital certificate must be issued by a Gatekeeper-accredited Certification Authority and be approved by Customs. Customs will accept four types of digital certificates that will accommodate the various types of persons who need to communicate with Customs – an individual, an organisation (with or without an Australian Business Number) and a special certificate that enables a device to sign EDI messages. EDI messages must be signed and encrypted using a digital certificate. Persons using the Customs Connect Facility must use a digital certificate to authenticate themselves when entering the CCF.

Communications under section 119AA of the Customs Act 1901

Persons making application under section 119AA by way of an email message will be required to provide certain details about themselves and any organisation they represent to enable Customs to establish the authenticity of the message.

Part C Requirements relating to producing documents to Customs electronically

This part sets out the requirements that have to be met if a document, required to be produced to Customs, is produced electronically.

At this stage, CEO determination No 1 of 2003 will be limited to cover those persons communicating with Customs electronically for the purposes of Division 2 of Part VI of the Act (ie exports). The determination will come into effect with the proclamation of the new exports measures currently expected to be mid February 2004. The determination will be remade in due course to cater for the IT requirements necessary to support the import process. Interested persons may view [CEO determination No 1 of 2003](#) (2.8Mb PDF).

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

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