



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2009/03

Introduction of the Post Import Permission Scheme

On 12 July 2008, the *Customs Amendment (Strengthening Border Controls) Bill 2008* received Royal Assent. The amendments to the Act introduced a number of changes, including the establishment of a post import permission scheme: see Subdivision GC of Division I of Part XII of the Act. This scheme allows a permission to be granted after importation in respect of certain classes of goods, as specified in the PI Regulations, so long as the goods were not concealed when imported. The *Customs Regulations 1926* were amended to include a list of goods that are subject to the new post import permission scheme: Regulation 170AA applies.

Upon identification of imported goods eligible for inclusion in the post import permission scheme, Customs will detain the goods for 30 days, or other prescribed period, while the importer/owner seeks appropriate import permission. Within this period, the importer will be required to provide to Customs written evidence that s/he has sought permission to import the goods. If that does not occur, then Customs will seize the goods in accordance with the Act.

If permission to import the goods is refused, then Customs will seize the goods in accordance with the Act. If permission is granted, then it will be deemed that the permission was granted prior to the import and Customs will release the goods.

The post import permission option is available regardless of whether the goods were imported by sea, air, post or passengers. It only applies to certain controlled items and it does not weaken the border controls on prohibited items. Importantly, the post import permission scheme does not replace the existing requirement to obtain import permission from the relevant permit issuing authority prior to importation; rather, it allows flexibility to Customs in dealing with importers who genuinely were not aware, or were unable to obtain import permission prior to importation.

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to community.protection@customs.gov.au or to the Manager, Community Protection Section on telephone number (02) 6275 5963 or fax number (02) 6229 3840.

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CANBERRA ACT

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