



# Australian Customs Service Supply Chain Security Update

October 2007

Welcome to the latest edition of the Australian Customs Supply Chain Security update.

As most would be aware, the Supply Chain Security Pilot, testing the application of an Authorised Economic Operator program in Australia is heading into its final stage, with the completion of the pilot scheduled for December 2007.

Australian Customs would like to record its appreciation for all those people who have contributed and provided feedback on the concept, processes and policies that have been developed to date. Customs hopes to continue building on the good work and positive relationships that have been formed as part of this process.

## **A brief snapshot of the pilot**

The pilot Australia Customs has included:

- 5** pilot partners and a number of third parties;
- 17** international engagements;
- 49** validation visits;
- 50** presentations or industry engagements.

## **Update**

Since the last edition many important developments have occurred in the project. All applications, validations and assessments have been completed and the team is currently in the process of reporting back to pilot partners.

Customs has received significant feedback from its partners on the application, assessment and proposed certification process, which has allowed the forms and processes to be refined and become more user friendly to fit in with industry practices.

Other major milestones in the period have included:

## **AEO and APEC**

Supply Chain Security and Authorised Economic Operator received significant attention and focus at the Fifth Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR V) Conference and the APEC Customs to Business Dialogue held in Sydney in late June.

Both conferences provided an excellent opportunity for government and industry to come together to discuss issues particularly as it relates to supply chain and greater trade security.

Over three days, over 30 speakers presented the perspectives of importers, exporters, freight forwarders, associations, port operators, government, technology developers, law and academia – both domestically and internationally on supply chain and trade security issues being faced now and into the future.

Deputy CEO, Mr Neil Mann, presented the Australian Customs AEO pilot to the conference. The concept was well received and generated a considerable amount of interest.

The Deputy Comptroller from New Zealand Customs, Mr John Secker, presented on the development and implementation of the NZ AEO program known as the Secure Exports Scheme including benefits, lessons learnt and discussion on mutual recognition.

These addresses were complemented by presentations by IBM and the World Customs Organisation giving the conference insight into impacts on industry and work being done on the international stage on AEO and supply chain security.

A number of presentations from the conference can be viewed by visiting [www.apec2007star.org](http://www.apec2007star.org).

## **Overseas Collaboration**

Australian Customs has been working closely with overseas administrations (particularly in the APEC region) to progress discussions and work towards mutual recognition.

A number of validation visits involving other Customs administrations have been conducted both in Australia and overseas to assist in developing a joint understanding and appreciation of each others programs, and to set a foundation for mutual recognition in the future.

The project team is currently working through the identification and assessment of business process impacts, and are moving into the evaluation stage of the project for completion by December 2007.

## **Contact details**

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