



ICS User Representative Newsletter

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the best in the
festive season”*

Seasons Greetings

Wishing you all the best in the festive season. I hope 2004 brings you good health, fortune, and of course, several CMR components.

Exports

In mid December, Customs announced that the March implementation would be put back in response to industry requests. An extract from the Customs media release:

“Australian Customs Service will not insist on a 1 March 2004 implementation for the exports component of its new Integrated Cargo System (ICS). Chief Executive Officer Lionel Woodward made the announcement to industry leaders at a meeting of the Customs National Consultative Committee in Sydney today (10 December). It follows strong industry representations to delay the release.

In response to calls from the trading community, and in particular from developers of export business software, Customs executives also agreed to adopt a new approach. Customs will not announce a new changeover date for the ICS export component until Customs and key software developers are confident of the system’s reliability.

‘Customs is determined not to compromise the quality of the ICS package or place unreasonable demands on industry just to meet scheduled dates. While meeting dates is important, our priority must be to develop a reliable system,’ said Customs CMR National Director, Jenny Peachey.”

The new Customs strategy will involve software developers (including in-house developers) working with Customs to thoroughly test the Exports system, and once software developers confirm the new system is reliable

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and stable, Customs will then negotiate a commencement date with the various industry associations.

It is likely that the start date will be about three months after the system is rated as “stable”, though this has not yet been finalised.

At this stage, it is not possible to predict accurately when the Exports system will be ready for roll out. Customs has scheduled a major software upgrade for early January. A more accurate estimate should be available following that upgrade.

Imports

The software upgrade referred to above will also allow software developers to commence testing the cargo reporting (ACA & SCA) components of the ICS Imports module.

The same implementation strategy (outlined above for Exports) will be used for the Imports component of the ICS.

Customs will work closely with software developers and industry associations to ensure a smooth transition is achieved.

Industry Working Group on CMR

After several months’ negotiation, a joint industry/Customs working group on CMR has been established, with two meetings held to date.

The following associations have been invited to attend:

Sector	Representative	Likely nominee
Customs	Senior executive Implementation officer/s	Stephen Goggs (Michelle Kinnane Matthew Corkhill) Dane Cupit (Jim Stewart)
Air transport/cargo terminal operators	AATA Qantas	Allan Johns Darren Martin
Sea transport/container terminal operators	Patricks P&O Ports 1-Stop Shipping Australia	Mary-Jo Huin Patrick Chan Ruth Thompson Ian Dihm
Imports/Exporters	ACCI/AEIA	
Freight Forwarders	AFIF CBFCA AIMA	Brian Lovell Greg McKillop Bob Wallace Jill Reade
Brokers	CBFCA	Bob Wallace Paul Zalai
Express couriers	CAPEC	Geoff Clark Chris Charlton
Bureau service providers	CCA 1-Stop Connect Tradegate Telstra	Zac Zachariah Ruth Thompson Alan Howard Julian Gilbert-Rolfe John Cikoratic
Software developers	EDI BKP	Richard White Geoff Phillips

	SoftwareCraft	Leon Ball
ICS User Representative (Chair)		Grant Allison-Young
AQIS/Industry representative		Hart Krtschil

The focus of the group at this stage is the issues that arise from the implementation of the various components into the testing and production environments.

The group will address business issues as required. For example, a sub-group has been formed to respond to the Customs proposal for a Business Continuity Plan.

It should be noted that this group will not replace existing consultative mechanisms that are already established.

Meetings will be held as required, but roughly every 3-4 weeks.

I will provide an update on significant outcomes through this newsletter.

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