



ICS User Representative Newsletter

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CBFCA/AFIF Conferences

The conference season is rapidly approaching, so please bookmark these important dates:

VIC CBFCA Conference 12-14 March

http://www.cbfga.com.au/cbfga_site/site/page.asp?s=1&state=9

NSW CBFCA Conference 26 March

http://www.cbfga.com.au/cbfga_site/site/page.asp?s=1&state=2

QLD CBFCA Conference 15 May

http://www.cbfga.com.au/cbfga_site/site/page.asp?s=1&state=6

AFIF Conference 19-21 May

http://www.afif.asn.au/events_afif2004.asp

I will be attending and presenting at these conferences so I look forward to catching up with you, discussing CMR issues you may have and addressing any concerns, you may have regarding your preparation for CMR.

Exports

Since my last report to you, Customs has installed several upgrades to the system, (now known as Version 3) and allowed software developers to continue their testing. While the upgrades addressed some of the issues that arose during the late part of last year and address performance issues, critical issues still need to be resolved before Version 3 can be considered stable.

Currently, it is still too soon in the testing cycle to predict accurately possible rollout dates for the Exports system. Meetings with key software developers are held every few weeks to monitor the system's performance and target key issues for resolution.

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“industry participants agreed the session was very worthwhile”

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An important offer for the export community!

Apart from the batch EDI systems that software developers use to communicate with Customs, the Customs Interactive Facility (CIF) provides a mechanism to allow exporters and cargo reporters to connect to the Customs system through the internet.

In the past few weeks, I have obtained access to this system and have an important offer for exporters, customs brokers and freight forwarders.

In order to test the CIF I would like to organise a series of demonstrations to small focus groups of interested parties to provide an early 'heads up' on what the CIF looks like and how it works.

These demonstrations would use 'real' data that can be input into the system in real time so all parties can see total picture.

At this stage, I plan to offer sessions in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. If there is sufficient interest, I will consider other cities as well. Please contact me at grantay@icsrep.com.au or on my number below to register your interest.

Imports

Late in February, Customs presented an overview of the Customs Interactive version of Import Declaration create/lodge/pay facilities to a small group of brokers in Brisbane. All industry participants agreed the session was very worthwhile and I have asked Customs to present the session in Sydney and Melbourne.

Industry Working Group on CMR

After several months' negotiation, a joint industry/Customs working group on CMR has been established, with three meetings held to date. Two sub-groups have been formed, the first to oversight the progress of Version 3 (exports) testing, the second sub-group is meeting to develop strategies for contingency releases and to address business disaster recovery both on the Customs and industry sides.

If you have any suggestions you want included in these meetings, or would like to see minutes from these sub-groups please contact me.
