



ICS User Representative Newsletter

February 26 2003

Volume 1,
Number 2

*“to be effective, I
need your help!”*

*“The Release 1 trial
is an important
milestone for the
CMR system ...”*

2nd Newsletter

This newsletter provides an update on the three CMR Releases, some information on the legacy systems and answers to some questions I have received from different sectors of industry.

Remember, I am here to help, but in order to be effective, **I** need **your** help! I need you to provide me with problems, solutions, and suggestions even if you just want to have a chat about CMR in general.

Please pass this newsletter on to any colleagues who are involved in importing or exporting

Release 1 Update

The build and test of the CMR Release 1, which relates to air cargo reporting by High Volume Low Value (HVLV) document special reporters, was completed late in 2002. In the CMR environment, industry will be able to connect to Customs via a new front end gateway, known as the Customs Connect Facility (CCF). The CCF functionality required for Release 1 has been built and tested, and currently integration testing of Release 1 and the CCF is underway, and is due for completion by 28 February.

A five week trial period will then commence between DHL and Customs which is designed to test all aspects of both the Release 1 and CCF functionality. This trial is an important milestone for the CMR system for several reasons. Firstly, it is the first public deliverable for of the CMR system for Customs, secondly the trial will be an important test of much of the unseen “infrastructure” of CMR that will be the foundation for later releases and finally, it will be a litmus test for Customs ability to process messages to and from industry without the support of a community network.

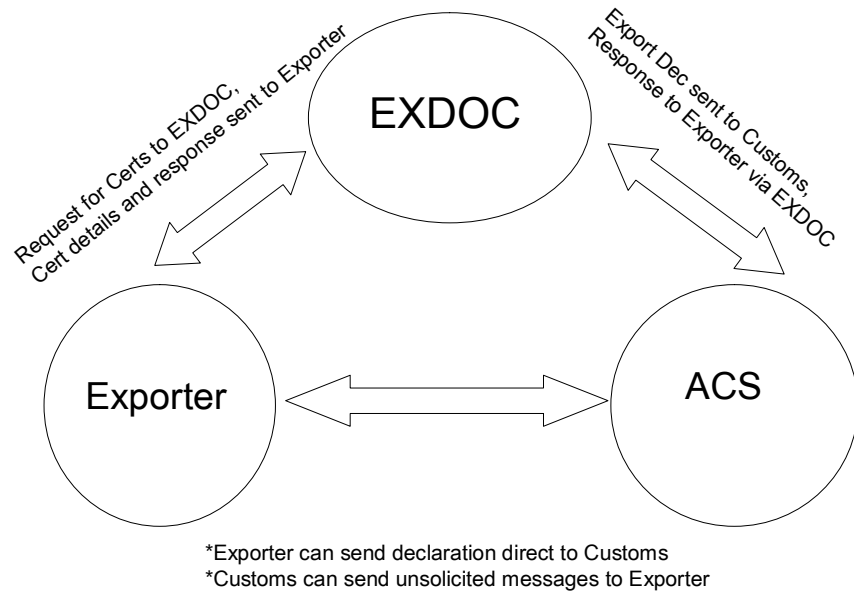
Watch this space for progress reports on the Release 1 trial.

Release 2 Update (Exports)

I recently attended an export meeting in NSW and was surprised that many of the organization represented there had little awareness of the impact that CMR is going to have on their business. In fairness, some sectors will not be as affected as others, but one clear area of concern was EXDOC and the communication of export declarations to Customs under CMR.

“My commitment to all industry sectors is to represent your views impartially, and to add value to your business with regards to CMR.”

Earlier this week I met and discussed this issue with Norm Scott who is the Development Manager within AQIS responsible for EXDOC. The following summary outlines my understanding of how a meat, fish, dairy, grain, horticulture or a skin/hide exporter can communicate with Customs via EXDOC:



The main issues with the move from EXIT to CMR is that there **will** be some changes to the data that Customs requires, and the changes mainly consist of changing free text fields to codes.

The issue of whether exporters will need to upgrade their software is not a straight forward one.

- Firstly, any exporter or service provider sending information to Customs direct (not through EXDOC) will need new software, as all the message types will change
- Exporters or service providers sending information to Customs via EXDOC will not necessarily need to upgrade *that* software component, but may need to upgrade software that sends or accepts messages direct from Customs

I suggest you contact your software provider to obtain information that is specific to your own situation.

The issue is further complicated when the issue of PKI (or digital certificates) is considered. At this stage, it is clear that anyone sending information to Customs directly (not via EXDOC) or who need to use the Customs system interactively for diagnostic purposes *will* require PKI. Discussions with AQIS lead me to believe that an exporter or service provider will not require PKI to communicate with Customs via EXDOC, but they will need PKI on their systems to register with Customs.

Watch this space for further updates.

“I suggest you contact your software provider to obtain information that is specific to your own situation”

“Completion of the analysis phase for the whole of imports was completed on schedule on 14 February”

“ the short answer is there is no news to reveal on key aspects of PKI at this stage”

Release 3 Update (Imports)

Completion of the analysis phase for the whole of imports was completed on schedule on 14 February. This augurs well for the tight design and development that has been set down for release 3. At this stage, there is not much more that can be described about the imports module, though an announcement on the strategy for industry testing and transition to the new system is expected from Customs shortly.

Once again, I will make details available as soon as they come to hand.

PKI progress

Well, the short answer is there is no news to reveal on key aspects of PKI at this stage. What we all want to know is “How many are needed, particularly by brokers who will use the ICS interactively”??? Key sources in Customs tell me that an announcement is imminent though.

On the good news front, all software developers should by now have a copy of the SEDI (Secure Electronic Data Interchange) software. The following slide is taken from the ACS briefing to industry on 18 December in Sydney (available from the ACS -CMR website)



Who will use SEDI?

- SEDI is only relevant for **EDI users**
- SEDI has been developed as a **Java** Application
- It has been developed and tested using:
 - Win2000
 - Windows NT
- Other options include:
 - Acquisition of a compliant box that supports SEDI
 - Provision of SEDI Source for incorporation into companies own platforms
 - Development of SEDI from Design Specifications

PROTECTING OUR BORDERS

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Legacy Systems Status

I recently attended the quarterly meeting with Customs, Tradegate and Connect.com that ensures the legacy systems service levels are meeting agreed targets. As you will all know, the communications service performance is usually well within 99.9% of availability, and has been very reliable of the past few years. We can expect to see this continued reliability until the end of Customs contract with Tradegate, and hopefully well beyond.

Two questions I posed however were: “How does Customs intend to

engage industry in a similar forum when the CCF is operational?" and "What service level agreements will exist for the CCF?" Answers to these questions will be provided in the next newsletter.

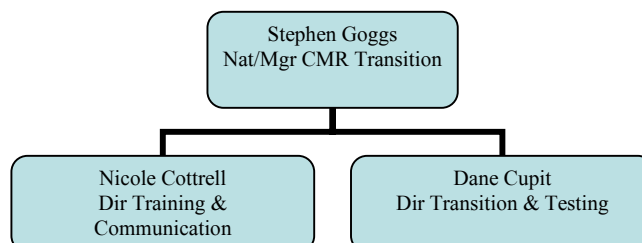
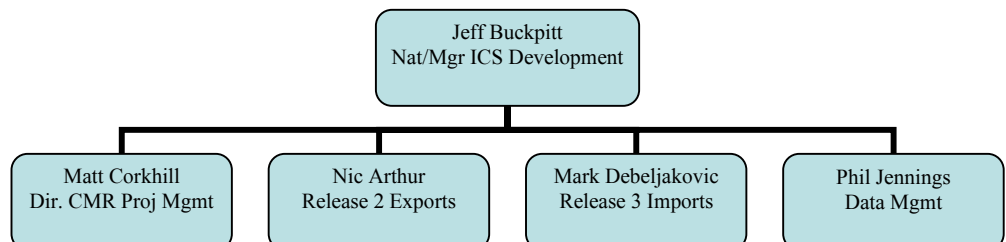
February 1 saw implementation of changes to EDIFICE as a result of new AQIS questions. Unfortunately, the changes were not notified in detail until February 1 which made for a rather hectic time in most software houses. The late notice was caused by some confusion in Customs, and Commercial Applications within Customs Canberra have agreed to ensure more timely notification in future.

Software Developers Workshops

In the past, Customs have held Technical workshops that centered around Message Implementation Guidelines (MIGs) and in the whole have been considered quite useful. I have been approached by some developers to see whether it would be possible to hold a Software Developers Workshop that focused on Business Rules, and process logic. I have discussed this with Customs and if there is sufficient interest from developers, a workshop can be organized with CMR Exports business analysts to go through the issues. Please let me know what you think and I can organize an appropriate session with Customs.

FAQs

This week I will answer a question I have been asked a few times since taking on the role of ICS User Representative; just who is who in the management of CMR??? Let me fill you in: There are two teams working to Jenny Peachey, who is the National Director, Office of Business Systems. There is the development team, and a Transition team:



• Here to help with the 3 T's:

- TESTING
- TRAINING
- TRANSITION

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