



ICS User Representative Newsletter

March 13 2003

Volume 1,
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**New Fact Sheets
available from the
CMR Website**

ICS Update: **STOP PRESS!**

This newsletter provides an update on the three CMR Releases, some information on PKI, Client Registration and high level details on the Export cutover process.

This week sees the release by Customs of detailed information for the first time in several areas:

- Communicating with Customs
- Cutover to the ICS
- Import Declarations update
- New Rules for Exporters
- Registering for Exports

The fact sheets will be sent out at the same time as this newsletter, but are also available from the new CMR Website:
http://www.customs.gov.au/site/area.cfm?area_id=7&site_mode=graphic

Also, new dates have been announced for the various Releases of CMR. Nicole Cottrell, Director ICS Training and Communication advised the following dates for the CMR Project:

29 MAY – ICS EXPORTS available for industry testing

18 AUGUST – Commencement of Client Registration for Exporters

1 OCTOBER – Target for ICS Cargo Reporting to be available for industry testing

17 NOVEMBER – ICS Exports system open to receive data for departures after 1 December

1 DECEMBER – ICS Exports system fully operational

MID JANUARY – Commencement of Client Registration for Importers

1 MARCH – Target for ICS Import Declarations to be available for industry testing

JUNE 2004 – Target for ICS Release 3 (Imports) to go live

Hands up who will be ready to start testing for Exports in May!!!

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

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Release 1 Update

As noted in my last newsletter, a five week trial period is in progress between DHL and Customs which is designed to test all aspects of both the Release 1 and CCF functionality. Dane Cupit (Director ICS Transition and Testing) told me recently that despite “a few glitches” the trial was going well and messages had been sent and received both to and from Customs successfully.

Tim Scadden, Customs & Regulatory Affairs Manager for DHL, confirmed that the trial was progressing to his satisfaction. In the next few weeks, DHL will begin trialing larger document flights and then expanding the trial to other ports to ensure the communication link is operational nationally.

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

Release 2 Update (Exports)

Nic Arthur, Release 2 Manager in Customs told me this morning that Exports unit testing is “on track” and on target to commence user acceptance testing in early May. Further updates on Exports can be found in the accompanying fact sheets.

Watch this space for further updates.

Release 3 Update (Imports)

The big news on the Release 3 front is that for testing purposes, Release 3 has been split into two components 3(a) and 3(b). This **does not** mean that cargo reporting will commence in production before import declarations – they are both targeted to begin in June 2004.

What it does mean though is that the cargo reporting component - 3(a) should be available to test for industry and software developers in October this year.

There has been speculation in the press about the apparent “slippage” of Release 3 from March to June. In my view, industry should welcome as much time as possible for both Customs and industry to take testing the Release 3 system. Having previously been up to my neck in the complexities of Release 3 I can tell you the design and build will be as friendly as a shark attack.

Of course, before testing can begin, the systems need to be built and that in turn depends on when the Release 3 MIGs will be available. At this stage, that is looking like mid to late April according to Customs sources. I am trying to get this date firmed up at the moment.

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

PKI progress

An industry briefing by Customs on PKI will be held in Melbourne on 27 March. This briefing will provide industry with the opportunity to listen to technical presentations outlining in detail how the process of securing electronic communications with Customs will work. Topics to be covered

“Come on software dudes...there are buyers out there!”

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include PKI, Secure EDI, Digital Certificates and Customs business registration process. Testing arrangements for developers including training and information product support will also be discussed.

This will be similar to the PKI briefing held in Sydney last December. Further information and bookings can be made by contacting Ms Janet Force at Customs by COB 21 March 2003. Ms Force can be contacted by phone 02 6275 3590 or by e-mail janet.force@customs.gov.au

A further update on PKI can be found in the accompanying fact sheet.

Software Developers Workshops

I had a mixed response to my call for expressions of interest in holding technical workshops on the business rules for Exports. Overall, several software developers thought the idea useful and the suggestion is to run them with only those people who have expressed interest, with the results of the workshop going to all software developers. This will allow a much smaller group to deal with a wider range of issues.

I must say that I was disappointed with the response I got to my call for details on products and target markets from software developers. Industry associations have asked me to compile a list of vendors and products for their members so they can prepare for all Releases of the ICS.

To make it easier for you all I will create a template that you simply need to 'tick boxes' on that allows me to give associations a matrix of vendors and products. Come on software dudes...there are buyers out there!