



# ICS User Representative Newsletter

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Number 8

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## In This Edition

In this newsletter, I will be giving updates on the progress with Digital Certificates, Message specifications and the Exports release of the ICS. I will also expand on some issues raised by different industry sectors.

Firstly, however, importers exporters and their service providers in the trade and transport community must be watching Customs progress towards CMR implementation with keen interest.

While several key dates have been missed – availability of Exports testing, obtaining digital certificates and full delivery of Import Cargo Reporting messages – the overall advice from Customs on CMR progress continues to be positive.

You will find below quotes from Customs on the progress different ICS components and industry should continue to plan based on this information. I will keep you posted on the latest information as it comes to hand.

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### Release 2 (Exports)

Testing of the ICS Exports component is not yet available. Nicole Cottrell, Director CMR Training and Communications advised me that: *"Customs is working towards release 2 testing commencing by the months end (July). If there is any change to this expectation, I will contact software developers, CBFC and AFIF directly"*.

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### Release 3a & 3b (Imports)

At the recent Software Developers meeting held in Sydney, questions were raised about the delivery of Release 3a and b specifications. Once again Nicole Cottrell advises *"Release 3a inbound message specifications were released prior to 30 June. Release 3a outbound message specifications will be released prior to 31 July"*

Also raised at that we meeting was a request for Customs to provide access to a draft version of the data elements and data model for Release 3b. Customs has agreed to provide a copy of both in advance of a meeting on that topic in Sydney on 22 August from 1pm – 5 pm. Please contact me if you would like reserve a spot at this meeting.

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## Digital Certificate (PKI) Update

Nicole Cottrell provides the following information on the availability of digital certificates: *"Customs and VeriSign are waiting for the National Office of Information Economy (NOIE) to verify the digital certificate documentation. Customs and VeriSign are finalising a service level agreement that is expected to be completed by the weeks end. Customs has agreed with Verisign that on completion of that negotiation VeriSign can open its website for enrolment"*.

*"It is expected that client registration will be available on 18 August as originally advised".*

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## Client Registration System

Those of you who attended the recent CBFCA and AFIF sessions will be aware that Customs announced the first exposure industry would have to the Customs Interactive facility would be the Client Registration system. Customs today advised: *"It is expected that client registration will be available on 18 August as originally advised"*.

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## Legacy Corner

At a recent CBFCA forum, a question was asked about user agreements. Currently users of Customs systems sign a user agreement for the respective system that they operate. Customs has advised me that CMR users will not need to sign a user agreement to utilise the ICS systems.

However, Brokers can continue to opt to pay duty taxes and charges on behalf of their clients. Customs have provided the following information regarding their position on COMPILE user agreements and direct debit arrangements in future:

*"There won't be a COMPILE agreement per se as there will be a 'click through' agreement. However, in regards to EFT Customs will still need DDR forms (Direct Debit Request) and associated forms to tie importers to their respective broker. This issue is topical and is being pursued as we speak. The question is whether the forms Customs has at the moment can translate to the ICS or whether we will have to start again."*

I can confirm the 'click through' agreement is a once only exercise that takes place upon registration.

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