



Australian Government
Australian Customs Service



Australian Government
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



**Minutes of the Meeting between Customs Brokers and Forwarders
 Council of Australia (Inc), Australian Customs Service, Australian
 Quarantine and Inspection Service and Australian Federation of
 International Forwarders**

**Minutes of Meeting Held 18 April 2007
 Customs House Fremantle**

Meeting commenced 16:05hrs.

Present:

Customs

- Paul O'Connor - Regional Director WA
- Mike Soding - Director Enforcement Operations
- Jan Hill - Director Cargo Operations (WA)
- Chris Roberts - Manager Compliance Assurance (Industry)
- Con Greenwood - Supervisor Shopfront – Fremantle
- Kim Schier - Manager Industry Compliance
- Ian Thompson - Manager Owner Compliance & Trade
- Ray Goodson - Manager CEF
- Paul Grant - L3 Industry Engagement WA

AQIS

- Neil Dwyer - Asst R Mgr - Border Operations
- Barbara Marks - Manager Import Clearance

CBFCA

- Wayne Birrell - President CBFCA WA
- John Park - Regional Manager CBFCWA

AFIF

- Tim Anderson - President AFIF

Apologies:

- Peter Cook - Regional Manager AQIS WA
- John Davies - Director Compliance & Trade (Customs WA)
- Greg Colgan - Mgr Air Cargo & Exams (CHAP)
- Les Preedy - Supervisor Shopfront & Post (CHAP)

Agenda Items:

Matters arising from previous meeting.

Nil

Standing Items

Nil (format to be discussed at next meeting)

General Business.

Jan Hill – ACS

As Chairperson - opened meeting, first meeting since March 2006.

Discussed Customs Re-Structure and new directions (focus on Cargo Operations and Compliance). Main changes are to Cargo Compliance, Client Services, etc.

Announced current director positions that now report to National Managers:

- John Eldridge - Director Air Operations Perth
- Wayne Mitchell - Director Intelligence
- Bob Martin - Director Investigations
- Mike Soding - Director Enforcement Operations
- Jan Hill - Ag Director Cargo Operations
- John Davies - Ag Director Compliance & Trade

(John Park – requested an updated phone matrix to reflect the new positions)

Discussed the creation of the “Cargo Movement Cell” (CMC) as part of the CI&SC [Late Sea Cargo Status changes – see Australian Customs Cargo Advice - #07/05] – Jan Hill stated that so far the cell has not been inundated with calls.

Paul Grant – ACS

Discussed the creation and role of the new “Client Managers” within Industry Engagement & User Services Branch and how that will affect the role of the CMR Liaison position in WA.

Jo Corcoran (National Manager Industry Engagement & User Services) will comment further at the upcoming CBFCA Conference.

Mentioned the request from Customs for “top 10” issues from each of the Industry Sectors – CBFCA have already compiled their top 10 issues regarding issues affecting Import Declaration & Cargo Reporting processes.

Some examples of the type of issues that could be raised include recent issues regarding the clearance of Sea & Air cargo to the District Offices in the North West. The issues centre around the lack of 77G approved premises providing a release point and examination area for Customs and Quarantine clearances. Also, recent importations have highlighted that there is lack of knowledge by Customs & Industry in dealing with the reporting & clearance of these scenarios in both the ICS and appropriate business process to make sure that legislative requirements are met.

Mike Soding added that with the rise of these types of scenarios coming into District Offices, this will become an increasing risk.

The issues regarding cargo arriving on itinerant aircraft at S15 designated airports only as well as the reporting & clearance of Oil Rigs and other vessels & equipment for the Mining & Oil Exploration Industry in the NW (especially to S58 approved places), have been documented and forwarded to David Cecil in Import Policy to come up with appropriate guidelines.

Action: WA District Managers will provide Director Border Enforcement with briefs on port operations covering cargo growth, cargo types and highlighting any control issues.

Chris Roberts – ACS

There are inconsistencies for dealing with personal effects within motor vehicles, brokers are sometimes forgetting to add a line to the declaration for the personal effects under tariff classification “99994015” (which then alerts the UPE workgroup for actioning the personal effects). They do lodge the appropriate B534 UPE statements, with exams group, but without that line appearing on the Import Dec the consignments can get a “clear” status without the personal effects being processed.

Barbara Marks – AQIS

AQIS has raised concerns over imports and the clearance of cargo into some of the remote northwest ports. There are currently no Quarantine Approved Premises in any of the ports in the north-west which means it is difficult to handle some imported cargo, especially when a quarantine inspection or treatment is required.

Additionally some of the ports are not proclaimed under the Quarantine

Act to receive imported cargo, this includes Broome for sea freight, which is currently experiencing an increase in interest in import activity. Imports into non proclaimed ports must have AQIS approval to land, prior to vessel arrival.

AQIS has recently amended the Import Permit conditions for “used Machinery”, advising importers to ascertain the discharge port they are intending to use has a suitable quarantine approved facility commensurate with the size of the cargo being imported and that if cargo does arrive in a port that does not have suitable quarantine facilities, the cargo may be redirected to another port where suitable facilities exist for inspection or treatment.

AQIS are keen to ensure all imports in the northwest comply with import conditions and are cleared in a safe environment, with the capacity to deal with quarantine risk material.

Action: Customs and AQIS to further discuss feasibility of jointly investigating/actioning control facilities in district ports.

Wayne Birrell – CBFCA

CBFCA participated in a meeting of the Port Operations Task Force, involving the forming of a “Container Logistics Efficiencies” sub-group, to look at efficiencies/inefficiencies for the release & general flow of containerised cargo, moving on & off the wharf. Identified major stakeholders and wish to elevate to State Government level to recognise the problem & move towards a solution.

Commercial decisions need to be made to address the physical delivery of cargo. Key groups need to talk to each other for short term & long term solutions. Efficiencies are being developed via the Port Operations Task force, for example, Rail link initiative & extending operating hours at container parks.

Stated that Customs and Quarantine were not identified as major stakeholders, but did have a role to play and should be involved.

Jan Hill stated that CEF is a stevedore client and Customs are affected by the availability of cargo. Jan suggested that we nominate Customs & Quarantine contacts from within this forum.

Customs contact – Ray Goodson (Ag Manager CEF – 9430 1900)

AQIS contacts – Neil Dwyer (Assistant Regional Manager Border – 9334 1570) & Barbara Marks (Imports Clearance Manager – 9334 1520).

Tim Anderson added, from his experience this is one of the most frustrating times to get cargo off the wharf, not from any Customs or Quarantine impediments, but from an Industry perspective.

Tim Anderson – AFIF

No issues raised.

Jan Hill

Frequency of meetings discussed. Industry has more levels of access to progress issues, eg Industry Engagement, IAG, etc. CBFCA have been meeting with AQIS on operational issues.

John Park stated that Customs & Quarantine issues may be addressed at the time, but suggests that quarterly meetings are relevant to go over what has transpired.

Paul O'Connor suggested opening up the forum to local CAPEC delegate.

Action: Jan Hill/Paul Grant - to follow up.

Additionally, from time to time, invite representatives from Industry to discuss relevant issues, eg, QANTAS.

In summary –

- Quarterly meetings
- Consider inviting CAPEC to subsequent meetings.
- Meetings to have a strategic focus on the broader issues – subsequent meetings to develop “Standing items”

Paul Grant nominated as secretariat.

Meeting closed - 17:15.

Next meeting to be held in the Conference Room, Customs House, Fremantle - quarterly (TBA).

Paul Grant
Ag L3 Industry Engagement WA,
Client Services
27 Apr 2007.