



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Customs Service**

# Media Release

---

**For immediate release**

**10 December 2003**

## **Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) update**

Australian Customs Service will not insist on a 1 March 2004 implementation for the exports component of its new Integrated Cargo System (ICS).

Chief Executive Officer Lionel Woodward made the announcement to industry leaders at a meeting of the Customs National Consultative Committee in Sydney today. It follows strong industry representations to delay the release.

In response to calls from the trading community, and in particular from developers of export business software, Customs executives also agreed to adopt a new approach. Customs will not announce a new changeover date for the ICS export component until Customs and key software developers are confident of the system's reliability.

"Customs is determined not to compromise the quality of the ICS package or place unreasonable demands on industry just to meet scheduled dates. While meeting dates is important, our priority must be to develop a reliable system," said Customs CMR National Director, Jenny Peachey.

Ms Peachey said the planned December rollout of the ICS latest version (V3) for industry testing would now take place very early next year. Customs will then liaise closely with software developers to fine tune the reliability of the system. Once a stable state has been achieved further advice will be provided to users about cutover to the new exports system.

"We will ensure all stakeholders have at least three months from that time to finish preparations," Ms Peachey said.

Today's announcement follows the passage of a Bill through the Parliament last week to allow for a maximum of 12 extra months to ensure that Customs new cargo management system is robust and reliable prior to implementation.

"We will still be rolling out our imports system for testing in the first half of 2004, but this decision by the Parliament will allow for a collaborative approach with industry. That's the best way to facilitate import trade and protect our borders effectively from day one."

**Media contact: Louise Patroni      02 6275 8046/0418 740 980**

### **Customs National Consultative Committee**

Customs National Consultative Committee (CNCC) was established in 1991. The committee meets quarterly to discuss Customs policies, practices and procedures relevant to the trading community and to work in partnership to resolve any difficulties.

The CNCC includes representatives of the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Air Transport Association, Shipping Australia, Australian Federation of International Forwarders, Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia, Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, International Air Couriers

Association of Australia, Law Council of Australia, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Australian Exporters and Importers Association.