Industry assistance through
exporter package

An initiative to assist Australian businesses to become more compliant in providing accurate export entry information to Customs was introduced at the end of 2001 with the launch of the *Information for Exporters* Package.

At the launch, the NSW Regional Director of Australian Customs, Trevor Van Dam, said accurate export entry data was important, not only for Australia's economy, but also for the safety of the Australian community.

"The September 11 attack on New York, and Australia's involvement in the fight against terrorism, further demonstrates the urgent need for Customs to increase both import and export controls and to ensure that these controls are sound," Mr Van Dam said.

Information for >> EXPORTERS

Accurate export entry information is vital in Customs work. It assists with assessing cargo to ensure compliance with border controls. Customs legislation requires goods to have appropriate approval before export from Australia. The submission of accurate information to Customs can help reduce or even eliminate Customs involvement in reporting activities, and in that way reduce costs for government and industry.

The *Information for Exporters* package contains an exports brochure, fact sheets and a Project 8 pamphlet. The 'Project 8' pamphlet illustrates the following eight fields as the most critical on an export entry as identified by Australian Bureau of Statistics, permit-issuing agencies and Customs:

Owner's name or ABN:

(ABN and CAC to be given if a company or business, for example ABN=25489878979001)

Consignee name:

(Person/company taking final delivery of the goods)

Country of destination:

(FINAL destination country)

Total FOB value:

(All costs to the vessel/aircraft excluding international freight and insurance)

AHECC code:

8-digit classification code, found within the AHECC, used to classify goods for export (Refer to the AHECC)

Origin code:

Australian State where goods are made or F (for foreign) (refer to the AHECC manual)

Net quantity:

For example, KG = kilograms; T = tonnes; NO = number etc (refer to the AHECC manual)

Permit number:

Permit prefix and number where required.

Other developing projects relating to the *Information for Exporters* package includes a focus on AHECC classification. Being developed is a self-paced *AHECC Classification Guide,* which will be provided to industry clients free of charge. Customs is also looking at implementing an AHECC Classification hotline for clients who require assistance with the classification of goods for export.

The *AHECC Classification Guide* is directly linked to Project 8 as the AHECC code is one of the eight most critical fields. The *AHECC Classification Guide* is a CD that will be provided to industry as a computer-based learning tool for use by industry personnel who have no knowledge of goods classification. The CD will be launched by mid 2002 and will be distributed to industry via the *Information for Exporters* package.

To date, the *Information for Exporters* package has been well received by industry groups, the Project 8 pamphlets proving especially popular. There have been repeated requests to pass the pamphlets on to exporters overseas. More than 4000 packs have been distributed so far.

Provision by Customs of an easy-to-understand export information guide gives industry and exporters assistance to complete export advice more accurately than previously.

The *Information for Exporters* package will continue to assist industry to understand the reporting obligations and requirements for exports. Customs believes this will further assist with work to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the movement of legitimate cargo into and out of Australia.

Working together, past deficiencies can be corrected to develop quality information.