



Australian Customs Cargo Advice

Number 07/08

Sea Cargo Reports – Amending Key Identifiers UPDATE to ACCA 07/01

Important - September 2008 - The CI & SC operating hours have been revised. Refer to ACCA 2008/08 (<http://www.cargosupport.gov.au/webdata/resources/notices/ACCA0808.pdf>) for further information.

As previously documented in ACCA 07/01, a pilot commenced on the 17th of January addressing the issue of overriding screening periods for sea cargo reports where key identifiers were changed, necessitating the lodging of a new sea cargo report.

Following a review of the pilot it has been decided that this function will be retained on a permanent basis however the hours of operation will be extended. It should also be noted that the forms and email address have also been changed. These changes will take effect from 14 May 2007. All requests from this date must be sent to the new email address cargomovementcell@customs.gov.au.

This notice is to advise cargo reporters of the method for requesting an override of the Sea Cargo screening period. The procedure applies **only** to cases where an original report has been withdrawn in order to re-submit the same sea cargo information with changed key field identifiers (Vessel Id, Voyage No, Ocean Bill, House Bill and Container Type).

Background

Sea Cargo Reporters have raised concerns through the Industry Action Group (IAG) regarding amendment of cargo reports within the Integrated Cargo System (ICS). If fields that are critical to the unique identification of a sea cargo report (known as key identifiers) need to be changed, the ICS requires a new cargo report to be submitted to Customs. The ICS does not allow key identifiers to be amended.

The re-submitted cargo report is subject to a full risk assessment and a 24-hour screening period. In some cases, awaiting the expiry of the 24-hour screening period can adversely impact on the delivery of cargo. If the key identifiers (Vessel Id, Voyage No, Ocean Bill, House Bill and Container Type) were amendable on the original cargo report the screening period would be 2 hours.

Note:

For the purpose of this notice, container number is **not** a key identifier. Container Number is amendable on the original cargo report and attracts a 2-hour screening period after the initial 24-hour period has expired. However, there are special procedures to be followed when amending the Container number. Those special procedures differ depending upon whether the amendment is to a single or multiple line cargo report. They are described in **footnote (1)** of this notice.

Procedure

As a result of the successful introduction of the Pilot, Customs has decided to permanently implement a process that allows cargo reporters to advise Customs when this situation has occurred and will allow overriding of the 24-hour screening period if there are no Customs or AQIS risk assessment or compliance concerns.

Cargo reporters must first withdraw the original cargo report and then re-submit the cargo report with the changed key identifier information.

The reporter must then access the Cargo Support website and download the screening period override request form (B1000) at: <http://www.cargosupport.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/B1000.doc>

Email completed requests to: cargomovementcell@customs.gov.au

Customs will take into account the following information when evaluating the request:

- Has the screening period of the original report expired?
- Is delivery of the cargo relatively imminent?
- Are there cargo risk assessment or compliance issues applicable to either the original or re-submitted cargo report?
- Briefly, what are the circumstances that led to the key field identifiers changing late in the cargo clearance process?

Override requests will be actioned between **5.00am and 21.00pm AEST Monday to Sunday** inclusive. Any requests received out of the above hours will not be processed until the next day. Requests received within these timeframes will be actioned between 2 and 4 hours of receipt of the email. The override decision (and any relevant action) will be advised to the reporter by email.

Exclusions

This procedure does not apply to:

- Cargo other than sea cargo;
- Cargo that has not yet arrived at its discharge port;
- Cargo for which the original cargo report screening period has not yet expired.

Procedural Steps

The following procedure is to be followed:

1. Ensure that the sea cargo report is eligible (not included in the exclusions listed above).
2. Withdraw the original sea cargo report.
3. Re-submit the sea cargo report with the correct key identifier information.
4. Obtain and complete the screening period override request form (B1000) from the Cargo Support website at:
<http://www.cargosupport.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/B1000.doc>
5. E-mail completed requests to cargomovementcell@customs.gov.au.
6. Wait for Customs to evaluate your request. Customs will evaluate and action your request based on the information received. You should expect a response during normal business hours between 2 and 4 hours.
7. When a decision has been reached, Customs will reply via email advising of the decision.
8. If the request is approved then Customs will override the screening period for the re-submitted cargo report.

Implementation

These procedures will be implemented from Monday 14 May 2007.
For further information contact cargomovementcell@customs.gov.au

Footnote (1): (amendment of container number)

Amending a container number must be done by way of amendment to the cargo report with insertion and deletion of cargo report lines. The ICS does not allow simple amendment to these fields on an existing cargo report line.

Multi line reports: Insert the new (correct) line with the corrected container number on the cargo report and delete the original (incorrect) line. Submit the amended cargo report to the ICS and a 2-hour screening period will apply if the original 24-hour period has expired.

Single Line reports: Insert the new (correct) line with the corrected container number on the cargo report and submit the report to the ICS. The report now has 2 cargo lines reported. Access the latest (2 line) version of the cargo report, delete the original (incorrect) line and submit that amendment of the cargo report to the ICS. The ICS now holds a correct, single line cargo report and will assign a 2-hour screening period if the original 24-hour period has expired.

Note: It is technically possible to both insert the new and delete the incorrect line in a single transaction however if this is done there is a risk that the transaction will be rejected depending upon the order in which the ICS processes the lines. Best practice is to insert the correct line first and then delete the incorrect line in a separate message.

Footnote (2):

Overriding the screening period or amending a container number to invoke a two-hour screening period does not necessarily mean the cargo will get a clear status. There may be other factors that impact on delivery of the cargo.

If all elements of the cargo clearance process have been completed (including payment of the Import Declaration) and either the screening period has been overridden or a two hour screening period has elapsed, and your cargo still does not have a clear status, please contact the Customs Information and Support Centre (CI&SC) on 1300 558 099 or email cargosupport@customs.gov.au

Australian Customs Service
Industry Engagement and User Services Branch
CANBERRA
May 2007