



Australian Customs Cargo Advice

Number 08/11

IMPROVING CERTAINTY OF CONSOLIDATED STATUS IN THE INTEGRATED CARGO SYSTEM

Customs is aware of industry concerns, raised by the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia Inc (CBFCA), regarding changes to cargo status in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) where the original status is 'Clear' or where payment is the only remaining requirement for clearance.

In response to these concerns, Customs is implementing modifications to the ICS to process all facets of risk assessment on import declarations in real time, which in turn increases the certainty of the original status issued. It is expected these new arrangements will considerably minimise late changes to status unless exceptional circumstances exist.

In November 2008 when these changes are introduced, Customs anticipates that there will be an increase in the number of declarations held for evaluation. In the majority of cases these holds will not require the production of documents. If documents are to be produced brokers/importers will be advised through ICS messaging and diagnostic functionality.

As per the current process, if documents are required users will be notified electronically through a 'notice to produce documents' message or an information advice on the import declaration. While the number of declarations being held will increase the number of containers attracting a "border processing hold" will remain constant.

Customs anticipates that there will be an increase in the number of declarations held for evaluation.

..... in the majority of cases these holds will not require the production of documents.

..... the number of containers attracting a "border processing hold" will remain constant.

It is expected that the majority of these holds against the import declaration, will be assessed within the current service level agreement (24 hours) that exists for sea cargo reports. This service level is conditional however upon the presence of related cargo reporting information linked to that declaration. To minimise the impact on the timely clearance of cargo, Industry are encouraged to lodge import declarations as early as possible.

HOW WILL IT WORK IN THE ICS?

From November 2008, there will be an increase in the number of declarations held for evaluation for goods consigned in containerised sea cargo however many of these will not require documents to be submitted to Customs. Brokers and Importers MUST check your import declaration advice to determine when to produce documents to Customs.

The advice, to produce documents, is as follows:

SUBJECT TO RED LINE PROCESSING. DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO S71DA OF THE CUSTOMS ACT.

If this advice is not received documents are not required to be presented to Customs unless a separate "Notice to Produce Documents", generally requesting specific details, is received.

When there is no advice to produce documents your declaration status may still be held. Within 24 hours of receipt of all related reports (import declaration, cargo report and impending arrival report) the status of your import declaration should change to "clear" or "finalised" however the evaluation may move to the related cargo report, hence the consolidate cargo status will remain "held".

In simple terms if the declaration is lodged after the cargo report (assessed as "clear") **and is selected** the consolidated status will indicate as:

Consolidated Status	Held		
<i>ACS Cargo Report</i>	Y	<i>AQIS Cargo Report</i>	Y
<i>ACS Declaration</i>	N	<i>AQIS Declaration</i>	Y

Once the declaration is assessed (within 24 hours), and if further evaluation is required (i.e. a "border processing hold"), the consolidated status will indicate as:

Consolidated Status	Held		
<i>ACS Cargo Report</i>	N	<i>AQIS Cargo Report</i>	Y
<i>ACS Declaration</i>	\$	<i>AQIS Declaration</i>	Y

HOW DOES THIS PROVIDE IMPROVED CERTAINTY OF STATUS?

This process now means that importers and brokers will be aware of potential "border processing holds" immediately after declaration lodgement. Where the declaration has a "clear" status and the consolidated status is indicated as below, users can be confident (apart from exceptional circumstances) that there will be no further impediment to delivery:

Consolidated Status	Held		
<i>ACS Cargo Report</i>	Y	<i>AQIS Cargo Report</i>	Y
<i>ACS Declaration</i>	\$	<i>AQIS Declaration</i>	Y

FURTHER INFORMATION

Customs will be conducting a number of ICS information sessions around the country from 20 October 2008 where this process will be covered in further detail.

To find out more about the sessions refer to Australian Customs Cargo Advice 08/10.

(<http://www.cargosupport.gov.au/webdata/resources/notices/ACCA0810.pdf>)

Australian Customs Service
Industry Engagement & User Services
Cargo Division
24 September 2008