



Australian Customs Cargo Advice

Number 08/06

Declaration Status Advice (DSA) Message

Customs would like to announce the provision of a new status message within the Integrated Cargo System (ICS). The Declaration Status Advice (DSA) Message has been developed to assist Brokers and Importers by providing earlier document and cargo status information for clients that communicate import declarations. As part of Customs commitment to the concept of “certainty of status”, the DSA will advise Brokers and Importers of earlier or ‘real time’ status, changes in status and AQIS conditions or directions that must be met prior to clearance.

Background

In response to a call from Brokers tabled by the Industry Action Group (IAG) for more timely and accurate information, Customs has developed the Declaration Status Advice (DSA) Message. The DSA will allow Brokers and Importers to determine Import Document and Cargo Status through their own software/systems without using the Customs Interactive providing a real time window into the status of their cargo. The immediacy of DSA messages will assist in identifying when certain events occur in a timely manner. Brokers and Importers will receive a DSA after successful lodgement of an import declaration and cargo status information will be provided in the DSA if the transport details have linked to the Import Declaration.

The DSA will provide additional information that is more relevant to Brokers than the current Cargo Status message. The DSA will also deliver automated advice of late holds and improve notification of AQIS concerns and directions to Customs Brokers. The DSA will assist Brokers in distinguishing the holds as being of Customs, Quarantine or Imported Food concern.

Implementation

The DSA message is designed as a diagnostic vehicle that will provide Brokers and Importers with real time information to assist them in obtaining clearance of their cargo. It is designed primarily as an EDI message that is intended to be processed by the client’s software and presented to them in a usable form in their own system. There will be provision for email delivery of DSA messages for CI clients. The implementation of the DSA will be run as a pilot with interested industry participants. If you wish to be involved please contact your software developer notifying them you wish to be included in this pilot.

It is envisaged that pilot participants will be able to build and test DSA functionality in the Industry Test environment before implementing the DSA into production. As Customs will be able to control which clients receive the DSA messages in ICS industry test and production, interested clients will be able to conduct appropriate testing prior to production delivery. DSA messages will only be sent to those clients who elect to receive them.

The code for the DSA will be delivered in ICS release 8.4.10 scheduled for 25 June 2008.

Message specifications for the DSA are available in the “Implementation & Draft Software Developers Guide for Declaration Status Advice (DSA)” which can be accessed via the following hyperlink <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=5728>

Overview

When a Licensed Broker or Importer lodges an Import Declaration they receive a response message containing relevant information that is available immediately after the document has been processed. However, subsequent events in the ICS mean that additional and more up to date information will become available after the response message has been sent.

In particular these events relate to;

- the linking of the Import Declaration to Cargo Lines;
- changes in the Status of linked Cargo Lines;
- confirm risks which are profiled at less than 100% (eg random IFIP);
- clarify holds being for Customs, Quarantine or Imported Food; and
- the processing of the Document by Customs and AQIS resulting in the placing and lifting of assessments and release conditions on the document.

The DSA will provide clients with a level of transparency into these actions and events. It will contain information about the status of the Import Declaration. While the DSA process is initiated by the Import Declaration it also includes information about the status of the Cargo Lines linked to that Import Declaration. Any change in the status of the Cargo Line linked to the Import Declaration may require the DSA to be transmitted for that Import Declaration. Consequently the DSA process may also be initiated by the Cargo Status process.

It is common that several Import Declaration status triggers happen in quick succession. This occurs particularly with the placing and lifting of assessments via the AQIS interface. In such cases DSA triggers will have an inbuilt delay of five minutes ensuring that identical triggers are not stored. Hence only one DSA will be sent per trigger event.

Industry Benefits

The DSA will;

- provide timely information to brokers about the status of their consignment
- reduce industry reliance on the Customs Interactive (CI) system by passing sufficient information out to brokers in messages; and
- deliver information to the Brokers/Importers that has more of a declaration focus as opposed to the current Cargo Status message which is cargo report focused.

More information

Ongoing updates concerning the DSA and other ICS initiatives will be available on the Cargo Support web site (<http://www.cargosupport.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=5872>), however if you have any queries specific to the DSA or pilot participation please email industryengagement@customs.gov.au.