



protecting our borders

Australian Customs Notice - 2000/66 - Wednesday, 1st November 2000

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GRANT AND RENEWAL OF CUSTOMS BROKERS' LICENCES

Legislation has been passed to increase the duration of customs brokers' licences from one to three years: see section 183CH of the *Customs Act 1901* (the Act). All current customs brokers' licences and corporate customs brokers' licences expire on 31 December 2000. Licences that are to come into effect after 31 December 2000 (whether by reason of grant or renewal of the licence) remain in force until 30 June 2003. Section 183CJ(1) of the Act provides for the renewal of licences.

As in previous years, "Application for Renewal of Customs Brokers' Licence" forms will be distributed to all customs brokers and corporate customs brokers who hold current licences. Current customs brokers wishing to renew should apply in writing by completing the "Application for Renewal of Customs Brokers' Licence" form and forwarding it to the Chief Executive Officer (the CEO) or relevant Regional Director before COB 31 December 2000. Payment of the renewal fee should accompany the application.

Current licences that are not renewed by COB 31 December 2000 will expire on that date and may not be used. Individuals or corporate bodies that have not renewed their licences by that date, but who still wish to be licensed, will be required to make a new application to the CEO. Following receipt of the new application, the CEO, pursuant to section 183CB of the Act, will forward the application to the National Customs Brokers' Licensing Advisory Committee (NCBLAC) which will be required to report to the CEO as to whether the applicant should be licensed.

Fees for the grant or the renewal of a customs brokers' licence must be paid by the day on which the renewal of the licence, or the new licence, is to come into force, (Customs Regulation 160). The new fee payable (Customs Regulation 158) in respect of a licence that comes into force after 31 December 2000 (whether by reason of grant or renewal of the licence) is:

1. where the customs broker is a natural person who does not intend to act, at any time when the licence is in force in his/her own right - \$120; or
2. in any other case - \$1200.

In order to facilitate processing of the "Application for Renewal of Customs Brokers' Licence" forms by Customs, licence holders intending to renew their licences are requested to complete their renewal form and lodge it, together with the respective fee, well before 31 December 2000.

Corporate customs brokers are also requested to include with their application form:

1. a list of all nominees currently employed by their agency; and
2. a list of all persons currently having authority to direct the nominees of the agency for the purposes of the Act.

In relation to this request corporate customs brokers are reminded that, in accordance with section 183CG(3) of the Act, and amongst other requirements, it is a condition of the licence that the CEO should be advised within thirty (30) days of a change of nominees, of persons authorised to direct nominees, or of the composition of a partnership.

Distribution of Renewal Notices

The application for renewal of licence will be forwarded directly to the last known address of the licensee. The licensee will then be responsible for presenting the completed renewal application and the payment of the licence fee to the CEO or a Regional Director.

Payment of Licence Fee

The licence fees can be paid by either:

1. presenting the completed renewal form and payment to the cashier at your local Customs House.
2. mailing the completed renewal form and a cheque payable to the "Australian Customs Service" to:

Australian Customs Service
Broker Licensing Group
Customs House
5 Constitution Avenue
CANBERRA ACT 2601; or

If the payment is made via mail, the licence will be forwarded to the licensee as soon as possible after the processing of the payment through the "Revenue Collection System".

If payment is made via the cashier at the local Customs House the cashier will input the customs brokers licence number into the "Revenue Collection System", which in turn will record the transaction and issue two copies of a receipt.

The original receipt will be given to the licensee and the licence will be forwarded via mail as soon as possible after processing of the payment.

The application for renewal of licence will be held in Brokers Licensing Group records.

Enquiries regarding this Notice or notification of a change of address may be directed to:

Ms Julia Taylor
Broker Licensing Group
CANBERRA
Phone: (02) 6275-6643
Fax: (02) 6275-6601.

Enquiries relating to licensing policy or which have national implications may be directed to:

Mr Mark Jarratt
Manager
Temporary Imports and Broker Licensing
CANBERRA
Phone: (02) 6275-6670
Fax: (02) 6275-6601.

Jeff Buckpitt
National Manager
Import/Export Management Branch
For
Chief Executive Officer

November 2000

(Import/Export Management Branch C99/08979)
