

# CMR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

I export (or import) small quantities of one commodity - I fax/mail my entries to Customs. Will the changes affect me?

No one will be able to report to Customs by either mail or fax once Customs new IT system is introduced. Documentary declarations may still be made at a Customs counter, with evidence of identity (proof of who you are) produced on every occasion. If you live some distance from a Customs office and are unable to present at a Customs counter, you will be able to lodge your declaration at an Australia Post outlet. When you present your declaration at Australia Post you will also need to present evidence of identity. Australia Post will charge a fee each time you present with a declaration to cover the cost of processing your evidence of identity materials.

An alternative to documentary reporting may be to try the Customs Interactive service. Customs Interactive will be accessed over the Internet through the Customs website. The information required to complete a declaration over the Internet is the same as that contained on the documentary form.

To assist clients prepare to use Customs Interactive, a free simulation of the service is available by emailing [cmr@customs.gov.au](mailto:cmr@customs.gov.au).

In order to communicate with Customs electronically, you will need to obtain a digital certificate.

A variety of fact sheets on issues relating to the ICS are available on the Customs website at [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au) under cargo management, then follow the links to products and services.

For more information about digital certificates, please read the *Communicating with Customs* fact sheet.

When will I need to get my digital certificate?

Customs has now set an implementation date for the exports component of the Integrated Cargo System (ICS). The exports component of the ICS will 'go live' on 22 September and, after a two-week transition period, the existing EXIT system will be turned off. All export reporting will have to be conducted through the ICS from 6 October.

For the exports release of the ICS, Customs will provide industry with a four-month window to prepare for the transition period. Customs advises that you should have your digital certificate ready in time to conduct business electronically from 22 September.

Customs has not set an implementation date for the imports component of the ICS. Businesses that operate solely in the importing chain should not purchase a digital certificate until that implementation date is announced.

Do I have to register in the CCF and ICS, or will Customs do it for me?

Changes have recently been announced to these processes and it is important that any individual or business planning to register themselves in the ICS read the *Digital certificate and client registrations - revised processes* fact sheet, which is available on the Customs website.

Individuals and businesses that will be communicating directly with Customs will have their digital certificate registered in the Customs Connect Facility (CCF) by Customs.

Customs will also register those exporters in the ICS that have quoted their Australian Business Number (ABN) on an export entry, more than twice, during the 2002-03 financial year.

Individuals and businesses that do not have an ABN, or do not fall into the above category, must register themselves in the ICS, or have an agent do so on their behalf. This is subject to confirmation.



Even if Customs is registering you in the ICS you should verify your details within the system and, where appropriate, add additional details. The list of clients that Customs will register will be listed on the Cargo Management Re-engineering website. Go to [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au) and follow the links to Cargo Management Re-engineering.

For imports, Customs will register some existing COMPILE owners and suppliers. The rules surrounding the exact population of those to be registered by Customs will be available shortly.

We are a small business (we have an ABN) and usually arrange our exports by ourselves. Can we use the new system? Can we apply for an Individual (type 1) digital certificate and still report exports?

The Customs Interactive service is an inexpensive way for small businesses to clear their export cargo by reporting over the Internet. Customs Interactive uses web-based functionality and is easy to use. It allows you to complete your statutory obligations - you just complete your export declaration using the system, rather than completing a documentary form.

If you have an Australian Business Number (ABN), your business will need a Type ABN-DSC certificate. This certificate identifies your business when you communicate with the Customs Interactive. A Type 1 Individual certificate is for individuals who do not have an ABN.

Your business will need to be registered in Customs secure gateway, the Customs Connect Facility (CCF), and in the ICS prior to lodging your export declarations.

Registration for the first time in the CCF will only occur when you use your digital certificate. Further information about registering to use the Customs Interactive can be found at [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).

Once you have your ABN-DSC certificate, are registered, and are connected to the Internet, you will be able to lodge your export declarations.

To assist you learn more about the system before actually using it to lodge your documents you can obtain a simulation of the Customs Interactive by emailing [cmr@customs.gov.au](mailto:cmr@customs.gov.au)

# Q&A

