



DELIVERING THE FUTURE



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## Accredited Client Program Update

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*We reported in our last bulletin that a recommendation had been made to the Minister seeking to have the time for lodgment of Periodic Declarations extended from the 1st working day of the following month to within seven days of the end of the month.*

The recommendation to the Minister was based on the Pilot Partners concerns that it was not commercially realistic to ensure lodgment of a compliant Periodic Declaration in one day. This timing made no allowance for processing shipments cleared on the last day of the month and for unexpected events such as computer outages.

We have been advised that Treasury has advised the Minister that they will accept the extension and the Minister has therefore directed that a Regulation be made to extend the time for lodgment to 7 days after the end of the month.

This extension of time will significantly reduce the workload pressure on parties lodging Periodic declarations and should result in a greater surety of complaint reporting.

The relevant section of the Trade Modernisation Act is:  
71DF - Periodic declarations by persons who are parties to import information contracts

If a person who is a party to an import information contract makes, during a particular month, one or more RCRs in respect of goods, the person:

(a) may, from time to time during the month, send electronically to Customs declarations (periodic declarations) containing such information in relation to the goods as is set out in an approved statement; but (b) must send electronically to Customs at least one periodic declaration not later than the first day of the following month or such other day of that month as is prescribed.

The new regulation will prescribe the 7th day of the month for the purposes of 71DF(b).

### BACKGROUND - ACCREDITED CLIENT PROGRAM

The Accredited Client Program is a new program developed by Customs that provides a range of benefits for traders that have a demonstrable history of providing accurate and timely information to Customs. The benefits include Periodic rather than transactional customs entries, the provision of minimum data at the time of import or export, an alternate cost recovery model for imports and duty deferral for importers.

The Accredited Client Program for Exporters is due to be introduced in November 2003 and for Importers, March 2004.

### TCF TRADE MANAGEMENT

TCF is participating in the "pilot" program that is operating in advance of the formal establishment of the ACP. We are already familiar with the Government's requirements and intent, and have identified a range of solutions for those companies willing to stand up to the new Customs environment for business.

The boundaries of ACP are sufficiently flexible that they can be tailored to the needs of each participant. TCF staff know, through their participation in the 'pilot' program, that each company's needs will be unique and will require considerable analysis and synthesis to ascertain how to re-engineer international trade processes to maximize the savings on offer.

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