



## Accredited Client Program Bulletin

### *Customs Announce Review of Accredited Client Program*

The Australian Customs Service has formally announced the convening an industry and government working party to discuss issues relating to the Accredited Client Program (ACP).

The working party will meet in Canberra on 6 May 2003.

Issues for discussion include:

- A review of the commencement audit costs to clients
- A review of the data accuracy standards required by clients to join and remain in the program
- The addition of a security component to the current program
- An extension of the ACP to formally recognise the role of service providers such as customs brokers and freight forwarders.

Interested parties are invited to make a submission by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April.



*Please feel free to contact Paul Angel or Greg McKillop from our Trade Management team on (02) 8219 4900 if you need any further clarification or assistance.*

**COMMENT:**

*The announcement of the establishment of a working party to review of the administration of the Accredited Client program will be a severe frustration to those importers who have followed the development of the program from its inception in 1998 and are eagerly awaiting its commencement to reap the costs savings and efficiency benefits the ACP promises to deliver.*

*Delays in getting legislation for the program through Parliament have been followed by delayed implementation as we wait for the introduction of the new Integrated Cargo System, now scheduled for March-May 2004.*

*It appears that the impetus for this review has resulted from the National security need for physical supply chain security as an anti terrorism measure. Customs want to review how Accredited Clients can be rewarded for high levels of physical supply chain security.*

*The other driver appears to be a perception that there are not enough benefits to attract importers & exporters to join the program. This perception provides a huge opportunity for importers & exporters to seek additional benefits from Customs under the program.*

*There are a range of benefits that could be added that would extend again the efficiency and costs savings that this program will deliver.*

*Having been involved in the development of the ACP since inception through our involvement in Customs' Pilot project, we have a significant interest in the program and will be taking an active role in the review to obtain the optimal outcomes for importers and exporters.*

*We will through our ACP bulletin provide you with feedback on the review. More importantly we intend to provide suggestions on benefits that Customs could deliver to importers and exporters that could provide additional cost savings and efficiency gains.*

*We would welcome any feedback you may have in this regard and would be pleased to incorporate and deliver your views to the working party for their consideration.*

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