



DELIVERING THE FUTURE



## Accredited Client Program – Open for Business

Customs will, from 1 October 2003, accept applications to participate in the Accredited Client Program.

The completion and lodgement of the Expression of Interest application form is the first stage in the process of achieving Accredited Client status.

Customs have finalised the complete Accreditation process, details of which are expected to be published on Customs website shortly.

The accreditation process incorporates changes to the Accredited Client program that result from the Ministerial review conducted earlier this year and subsequently approved by Customs management.

The Ministerial review has resulted in the removal of the need for an audit by a registered Corporations Law auditor to evidence that the required compliance accuracy standards are met. Evidence that the compliance accuracy standards are met can now be demonstrated by a self assessment audit based on an assessment plan previously agreed between the applicant and Customs. Customs reserves the right to undertake a review to verify the results of the self assessment. This is expected to considerably reduce the cost of gaining Accreditation.

Customs have added a security component to the program as a result of the potential use of commercial supply chains for terrorist activities. Accredited Clients will now be required to have processes in place that detail premise, IT & personnel security controls.

All other aspects of the Program remain essentially unchanged.

The principal benefits of the Accredited Client program remain:

- The release of cargo without the need for a Customs entry
- Reduced Customs intervention

- The lodgement of a single monthly Customs entry
- Duty deferral until 7 days after the end of a month
- Significantly reduced government customs entry charges
- Removal from the strict liability penalty regime.

The important eligibility criteria for Accreditation will be:

- Documented import and export processes
- Documented compliance procedures
- Defined responsibilities for staff & service providers
- Auditable records
- Demonstrated ability to meet specified accuracy standards

While Accredited Clients will not be able to commence operating under the Program until the implementation of Customs new Integrated Cargo System scheduled for March 2004 for exports and July 2004 for imports, the opening of applications for accreditation provides potential ACP clients with the necessary time to proceed through the application process and prepare the necessary documentation to demonstrate compliance with the ACP Business rules. This will ensure these clients gain a competitive advantage as soon as the new ICS commences.

### The TCF Way

TCF can work with you now to achieve the eligibility criteria, gain Accreditation and gain the competitive advantage that ACP provides.

TCF are 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 environment for business being demanded.



### TCF Services Pty Ltd

#### Sydney

Phone +61 2 8219 4900  
Fax +61 2 8219 4999

#### Melbourne

Phone +61 3 9379 0022  
Fax +61 3 9379 0991

website [www.tcf.net.au](http://www.tcf.net.au)

email [info@tcf.net.au](mailto:info@tcf.net.au)

PO Box 141, Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010