



Australian Customs Cargo Advice

ACCA 2012/13

Customs Connect Facility Remediation Project Delayed

Background

The Customs Connect Facility (CCF) provides a corporate gateway for external clients to connect to, and use Customs and Border Protection Service applications. The CCF itself comprises a significant amount of hardware and software. Collectively this platform provides:

- Messaging services (via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)), e-mail or direct message queues);
- Authorisation, authentication and auditing services;
- Application hosting services; and
- Report distribution services.

Most of these CCF services are essential for Customs and Border Protection Service operations. The smooth movement of cargo depends on industry organisations connecting to the Integrated Cargo System (ICS), via the CCF, to complete approximately 450,000 electronic transactions per day. The purpose of this project is to mitigate a number of CCF security and operational risks, and reduce ongoing operating costs, through a significant program of maintenance.

Production Date delayed

The Industry Test window for the new Customs Connect Facility (CCF) has now been available for four weeks. Whilst overall testing has been successful, some clients have identified issues that have been unique to their own specific software packages. Customs and Border Protection have successfully rectified these issues. That said, the number of developers and organisations performing EDI message tests has been inadequate and hence the advertised production date of 25 August has been deferred.

To ensure there will be no impacts to industry with the implementation of the new CCF Customs and Border Protection has extended the window for industry to raise issues from Industry Test to **Friday 24 August 2012**.

We strongly recommend that all software developers or organisations that have developed their own systems conduct some EDI testing with your system by this date. Customs and Border Protection require enough time to investigate and rectify any issues you may experience during your testing.

This will also provide you with a level of confidence that no problems will be encountered after Production cutover.

The Industry test period to raise incidents concludes on Friday 24 August 2012. Industry testing can continue after this date. Once all issues are notified to Customs and Border Protection, and fixes developed and implemented a production cut-over date will be advised.

This means that the certificate maintenance shutdown period advertised in ACCA 2012/10 scheduled to occur from Monday 20 August to Thursday 30 August will not go ahead but will be rescheduled at a later date.

Summary

In summary,

- CCF Industry testing period is now extended to 24 August 2012
- If you haven't tested your software yet with the new CCF, please test now and report any issues you encounter prior to 24 August 2012
- Certificate Maintenance shutdown period has been cancelled until further notice

Contacts

If you have any questions please email: industryengagement@customs.gov.au

For more information on the CCF Remediation project please go to:
<http://www.cargosupport.gov.au/site/ccfremediation.asp>

The test email address for EDI transactions is: cargo@ccfindtest.customs.gov.au

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
Client Engagement and Cargo Services
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