



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/55

Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003 – preferential tariffs for Singapore and changed entry procedures for goods from Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province

Australian Customs Notice No. 2003/50 advised that *Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003* received the Royal Assent on 30 June 2003.

That Notice advised that *Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003* contained amendments to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* to provide for the duty-free entry of goods from Singapore, in accordance with the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). Those amendments will come into effect when SAFTA enters into force.

Reference should be made to ACN No. 2003/49, which sets out the rules for determining whether goods originate in Singapore for the purposes of SAFTA.

It is anticipated that SAFTA will enter into force in the near future. A COMPILE message will be issued to advise of the exact date.

The introduction of SAFTA will affect entry procedures for Singapore, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province. In particular, different preference codes for these countries will apply when SAFTA enters into force.

Entry procedures for goods from Singapore

Where goods meet the SAFTA rules of origin, the preference code "P" should be used on Customs entries to access the free rate of duty.

Where goods are manufactured in Singapore, but do not meet the SAFTA rules of origin, the preference code "R" should be used where a Developing Country (DCS or DCT) rate of duty applies.

The preference indicator "X" should be used where the general rate of duty applies.

Entry procedures for goods from Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province

Where a Developing Country (DCS or DCT) rate of duty applies to goods from Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea or Taiwan Province, the preference code "R" should also be used to access this rate.

Where the general rate of duty applies to goods from Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea or Taiwan Province, the preference indicator "X" should be used.

A Developing Country rate of duty applies only to goods that are the produce or manufacture of a Developing Country in accordance with section 153M of the *Customs Act 1901*.

Please note that the existing preference indicator "S" that currently allows access to the Developing Country (DCS or DCT) rate of duty for goods from Singapore, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province will not operate from the day that SAFTA enters into force. In each case, the preference code "R" must be used.

Tariff reprint pages

Tariff reprint pages relevant to the above amendments will be issued progressively as other changes are made. Those pages containing the *Customs Tariff Act 1995* and Schedule 1 (countries eligible for preferential rates of duty) will be issued as soon as possible.

Any queries regarding these changes should be directed to:

for rules of origin:	Manager Origin Australian Customs Service 5 Constitution Avenue CANBERRA ACT 2601 Ph: 02 6275 6551
for customs tariff duty rates:	Manager Tariff Legislation & External Review Australian Customs Service 5 Constitution Avenue CANBERRA ACT 2601 Ph: 02 6275 6486.

John Arndell
Acting National Manager
Trade
for
Chief Executive Officer
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