



Australian Customs Notice No. 2025/11

Proposed Customs (Information Technology Requirements) Amendment (API Project and Other Measures) Determination 2025

The draft Customs (Information Technology Requirements) Amendment (API Project and Other Measures) Determination 2025 (2025 Amendment Determination) would amend the *Customs (Information Technology Requirements) Determination 2021* (2021 Determination). The 2025 Amendment Determination will be made under section 126DA of the *Customs Act 1901* (the Customs Act).

The 2025 Amendment Determination does not make any changes to the existing communication arrangements set out in the 2021 Determination. Schedule 1 of the 2025 Amendment Determination proposes to make the following additions:

- Add a definition for the Australian Trusted Trader (ATT) Portal, which refers to the existing website used by entities to nominate to join the ATT program. The 2021 Determination already provides for nominations to be made through the ATT Portal.
- Various amendments to the 2021 Determination to facilitate the use of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) when communicating with the Department electronically inserting new definitions for 'Endpoint', 'API', and 'API Developer Portal':
 - amending section 11 to include API as a method for persons to electronically communicate with Department. This also includes requirements for the person to be registered in the Home Affairs Access Manager and use an authenticated and authorised digital machine certificate linked to the organisation's ABN;
 - inserting new section 12A relating to the standards and specifications for APIs;
 - inserting new subsection 13(3) establishing the standard for digital authentication through a machine credential registered in the Home Affairs Access Manager; and
 - inserting new section 14A establishing a requirement that a person communicating by API must establish their digital identity in myID and link it with the ABN of the organisation in accordance with the Trusted Digital Identity Framework.
- Set out the method to make electronic claims for return of goods seized under section 205B of the Customs Act:
 - Inserting new subsection 8B, to provide an electronic alternative to the existing method of making a documentary claim using the approved *Form B144 Claim for return of seized goods*. This electronic method will be through completing a web form to be known as the Claim for the Return of Seized Goods web form which will be hosted on a website operated by the Department. There will also be amendments to insert an associated definition for this web form. These amendments would facilitate the implementation of changes made by the *Customs Amendment (Strengthening and Modernising Licensing and Other Measures) Act 2024*, to allow for the making of electronic applications for seized goods.

The 2025 Amendment Determination (draft below) is proposed to take effect from 16 May 2025.

Please provide any feedback or raise concerns with the Department, by 5:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on 2 May 2025 by email to trade.technology@abf.gov.au.

[signed]

Aaron O'Neill
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Strategy and Policy Division
Strategy and Capability Group

22 April 2025

Attachment A



LIN 25/047

Customs (Information Technology Requirements) Amendment (API Project and Other Measures) Determination 2025

I, Gavan Reynolds AO, Comptroller-General of Customs, make the following determination.

Dated 2025

Gavan Reynolds AO **DRAFT ONLY—NOT FOR SIGNATURE**
Comptroller-General of Customs

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Customs (Information Technology Requirements) Amendment (API Project and Other Measures) Determination 2025*.

2 Commencement

Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. Items 1-5	The day after this instrument is registered.	
2. Items 6-9	The later of: (a) day after this instrument is registered; and (b) 16 May 2025.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 126DA of the *Customs Act 1901*.

4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Amendments

Customs (Information Technology Requirements) Determination 2021

1 Section 4 (after the definition “Act”)

Add:

API means Application Programming Interface (API), which acts as an intermediary that enables software applications to communicate with a server to access data and functions.

ATT Portal means the Australian Trusted Trader Portal, which is the website operated by the Department to receive nominations by entities to join the Australian Trusted Trader Programme.

2 Section 4 (after the definition “Australia Travel Declaration”)

Add:

Claim for the Return of Seized Goods web form means the website operated by the Department to process electronic applications for return of seized goods.

3 Section 4 (after the definition “EDI”)

Add:

Endpoint means a digital location where an API receives API calls, also known as API requests, for resources on its server.

Home Affairs Access Manager means the website that is used to manage access and permissions for external organisations to Departmental systems at <https://am.homeaffairs.gov.au>.

4 After section 8A

Insert:

8B Claim for return of goods seized under section 205B of the Customs Act

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if a person wishes to electronically make a claim for the return of goods seized under section 205B(2A) of the Act.
- (2) The claim must be made using the web form, known as the Claim for the Return of Seized Goods web form, administered by the Department.

5 Section 9A

Omit “myGovID”, substitute “myID”.

6 Section 9B

Repeal the definition “Home Affairs Access Manager”.

7 Section 9E

Omit “myGovID”, substitute “myID”.

8 Section 11

Repeal section 11, substitute:

11 General requirements for electronic communications

- (1) A person who communicates electronically with the Department must communicate by:
 - (a) an EDI message attached to an S/MIME SMTP email to an email address specified by the Department; or
 - (b) an EDI message delivered by MQ over an MQ channel preconfigured by agreement with the Department; or
 - (c) the Cargo Interactive Facility using HTTPS to a Departmental website using a version of an internet browser that is supported by the Department for such transactions; or
 - (d) an API to a nominated Departmental Endpoint.
- (2) For the purposes of subparagraphs 11(1)(a)-(c), a person who communicates electronically with the department must:
 - (a) be registered in:
 - (i) the Customs Connect Facility; and
 - (ii) the ICS; and
 - (b) communicate with the Department using Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) in accordance with the Commonwealth’s Gatekeeper® strategy administered by the Digital Transformation Agency; and
 - (c) configure the person’s email software with the appropriate digital certificate to be able to decrypt encrypted emails sent to the person by the Department.

Note: The Commonwealth Gatekeeper® strategy could in 2025 be viewed on the Australian Government Digital Transformation Agency’s website (<https://www.dta.gov.au>).
- (3) For the purposes of subparagraph 11(1)(d), a person who communicates electronically with the Department by an API to a Departmental endpoint must:
 - (a) be registered in Home Affairs Access Manager; and
 - (b) use an authenticated and authorised digital machine certificate linked to the organisation’s ABN.

9 After section 12

Insert:

12A Standards and Specifications for APIs

A person who communicates electronically with the Department by an API must comply with the API specifications outlined in the API Developer Portal Guidelines.

Note: The Department’s API Developer Portal Guidelines could in 2025 be viewed on the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs website (<https://homeaffairs.gov.au>).

10 At the end of subsection 13(2)

Add:

- (3) A communication by an API must be digitally authenticated with a machine credential that is registered in Home Affairs Access Manager in accordance with the Commonwealth's Gatekeeper® Strategy.

11 After section 14

Insert:

14A Authentication to Home Affairs Access Manager

A person using Home Affairs Access Manager for the purposes of communicating with the Department via an API must:

- (a) establish their Digital Identity in myID; and
- (b) link their myID with the ABN of the organisation in accordance with the Trusted Digital Identity Framework.

Note: The Trusted Digital Identity Framework could in 2025 be viewed on the Digital ID website <https://www.digitalidentity.gov.au/>.