Australian BORDER FORCE

Trade & Goods Compliance Advisory Group

Communique

Meeting 16 March 2026

The Australian Border Force (ABF) convened the first Trade and Goods Compliance Advisory Group (CAG) meeting of the year at the ABF Headquarters in Canberra, ACT. The meeting was chaired by, Ms Sarah Marshall, Commander, Customs and Trade Compliance. Minutes from the previous meetings held on 17 September 2025 were endorsed by all members.

Members were briefed on the role and functions of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), its legislative authority under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 a*nd responsibility for compliance and enforcement activities, including the assessment of potential unlawful imports. Members considered matters related to TGA referral response timeframes and how it proactively monitors and identifies unlawful products. Members identified opportunities for industry to support the TGA's compliance activities through enhanced collaboration.

Members considered an industry paper on the use of temperature controlled container units (TCCU), its control and importer responsibility in the border context. Industry members highlighted that the use of TCCU's can create compliance and reporting challenges and emphasised the need for clearer, updated ABF guidance to support consistent reporting and compliance.

Members were briefed on an industry paper prepared by the International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia (IFCBAA) outlining concerns arising from recent changes to BorderWatch. Discussions focussed on suggested enhancements to improve system functionality and the user experience which were endorsed by industry members. The ABF acknowledged feedback provided and undertook to consider industries' suggestions. Members acknowledged the value of constructive collaboration between the ABF and industry through the BorderWatch program to strengthen supply chain integrity.

The meeting concluded with an acknowledgement from the Chair on the valuable input and considered advice provided by members to the meeting.