



CMR implementation strategy and milestones

Introduction

Customs clients will find it necessary to amend their computer systems and business processes to align with new cargo management requirements over the next two years.

In summary, these changes are being introduced in five phases:

- phase 1 - amendments to legislation that do not involve Customs new Integrated Cargo System (ICS). Examples of this are new monitoring powers and export-examination powers (**this legislation took effect on 1 July 2002**). Additional information on the 1 July changes is available at www.customs.gov.au
- phase 2 - commencing late 2002 and rolling out in early 2003, trial of the ICS infrastructure involving High Volume Low Value document special reporters only
- phase 3 - mid 2003, ability for users to register for access to the export functions of the ICS
- phase 4 - November 2003, shutdown of EXIT and introduction of ICS for exporters (relevant legislation takes effect on cutover date)
- phase 5 - March 2004, after a client registration period, introduction of ICS for importers and shutdown of COMPILE, Air Cargo Automation (ACA) and Sea Cargo Automation (SCA) (relevant legislation takes effect on cutover date).

Important note

There will be no parallel operation of legacy computer systems and the ICS.

Customs will take an active role in preparing clients for Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) providing:

- user support during industry software development, testing and rollout
- a software developers guide to support phases 2, 4 and 5
- a software test environment
- information and learning and development programs to support each phase.

Phased introduction

Phase 2 - Integrated Cargo System (ICS) infrastructure

On the basis of the current ICS design and build schedule, Customs expects to trial the ICS infrastructure and limited import cargo reporting functionality with a single special reporter commencing late 2002.

Following evaluation of the trial, arrangements will be made for industry testing of EDI messaging software with other special reporters and rollout during 2003.

This trial phase puts in place Customs IT infrastructure and deploys some business functionality not available currently - Impending Arrival Report and Air Cargo Report (Consignment Notes).

Special reporters will continue to use the current cargo systems (ACA and SCA) until they are replaced by the ICS in phase five.

Phase 3 - client registration

This is the first phase that will be available generally to clients.

Exporting clients will need to register in order to access the new system. A similar registration stage will be adopted for the imports phase.

Phase 4 - exports

The new system will replace EXIT to handle export cargo reporting and export declarations. Clients will be able to use EDI messaging or the Customs Interactive (Internet-based access to the ICS) to comply with the *Customs Act* requirements. The Customs Interactive will provide a facility to determine the status of export transactions.

This phase will introduce the IT function to allow the export arrangements of the Accredited Client Program.

The relevant provisions of the Trade Modernisation Legislation relating to exports will commence at this phase.

Phase 5 - imports

The new system will replace COMPILE, ACA and SCA to handle import cargo reporting and import declarations. Clients will be able to use EDI messaging or the Customs Interactive (Internet-based access to the ICS) to comply with the requirements of the *Customs Act*. The Customs Interactive will provide a facility to determine the status of import transactions.

The import arrangements of the Accredited Client Program will commence with this phase.

The relevant provisions of the Trade Modernisation Legislation relating to imports will commence on the cutover date.

A clean cutover to the ICS

Phases four and five (exports and imports) will each involve a 'clean cutover' from current IT systems to the ICS. That is, the legacy systems will no longer operate from a nominated date and there will be no parallel processing or 'bridge' between the two systems.

Customs will advertise the cutover date well in advance of its introduction.

The implementation strategy and target milestones are designed to allow developers of EDI messaging software adequate opportunity to develop, test and rollout that software at user sites. The broad strategy is shown in Figure 1. (Please note the figure is not drawn to scale and is intended only to illustrate the broad strategy.)

The opportunity for users to familiarise themselves with the system will occur during the lead up to the cutover. Clients will continue to use their legacy system to do their day-to-day work but will also have access to the ICS computer environment.

Customs expects EDI software developers to provide software training and ongoing support to their users.

Customs will consult with industry on how to deal with:

- incomplete transactions that bridge the cutover date (for example, entries lodged but not finalised before the cutover date)
- transactions completed before the cutover date that require further processing on or after the cutover date (for example, amendment or withdrawal of entries or reports).

Preparing EDI users

Customs is adopting a number of strategies to prepare users of EDI messaging software for CMR.

Software Developers Guide

Customs is progressively publishing a software developers guide (SDG) to assist commercial and in-house software developers create new software or adapt existing EDI messaging software to communicate with the ICS. This guide is available on the Internet.

The guide includes an overview of the ICS, descriptions of its various functions, EDI message specifications, global business rules, business rules for each message, code lists, data dictionaries and links to other useful websites.

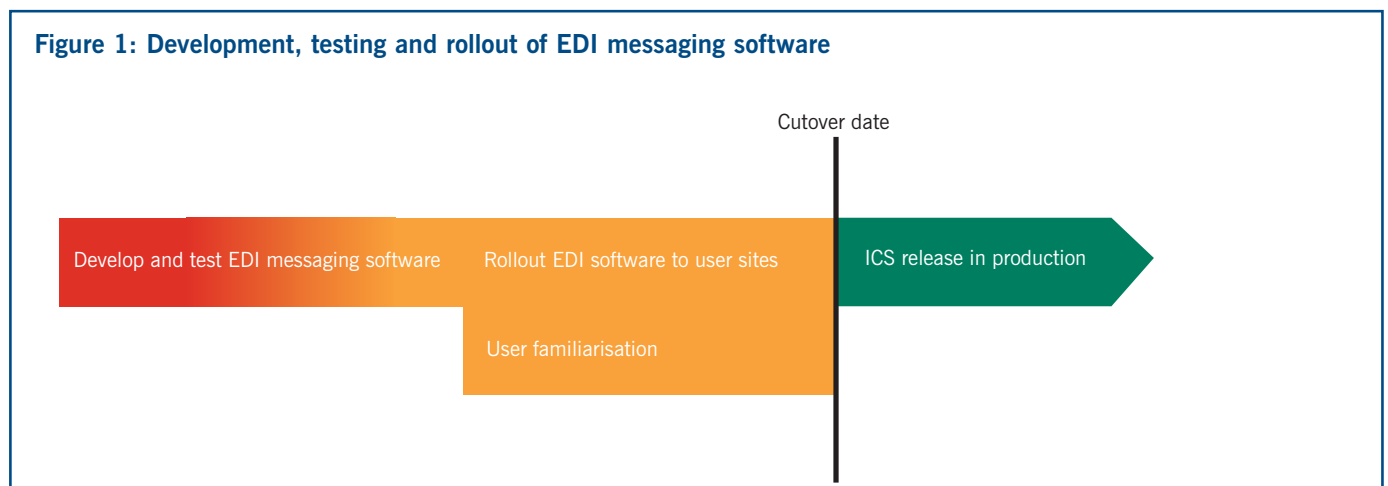
Developers Test Facility

Customs intends to make available to software developers a computer environment to transmit test transactions to the ICS to check software and environment set-up to ensure compatibility with Customs requirements.

Details of the environment and access will be made available as soon as they are finalised.

Developer and User Support

Customs intends to provide technical support to software developers as they develop, test and rollout their EDI messaging software as well as provide long-term technical and business support for system users. Details of the support arrangements and access arrangements will be made available a soon as they are finalised.



Information and learning and development

Customs will provide information and learning and development programs at three levels to support the introduction of CMR:

- general awareness - helps to answer the question 'do I need to know more?'
- targeted awareness - specific information targeted to function or industry sector
- active learning.

Customs has established a learning and development forum which covers a broad cross-section of industry interests. The forum is the focus for consultation between industry and Customs on CMR information and learning and development issues.

Customs will provide targeted awareness raising and learning and development programs in the lead-up to each phase.

Implementation milestones

Customs has drawn up the CMR implementation timetable on the basis of:

- the ICS design and build schedule
- the estimated time needed:
 - by industry to develop, test and rollout EDI messaging software
 - to inform and train Customs staff and clients
 - to migrate data to the ICS computer environment
 - to introduce legislative and administrative changes.

Exports and imports phases

In March 2002 Customs surveyed the software developers who had expressed an interest in ICS development. This covered both commercial and in-house software developers. The survey was aimed at establishing industry requirements for developing EDI messaging software.

The majority of responses show that software developers estimated they would require approximately six months to develop, test and implement EDI software at user sites for each of the exports and imports phases of CMR. Customs has factored this feedback into the timetable. (Note: This is not end-to-end and involves some overlap between the phases.)

The key milestones are shown in the following table.

	Exports	Imports
Software developers guide available	By end December 2002	By end February 2003
Commence development and rollout EDI test environment	By end February 2003	By end June 2003
Industry software rollout	By end October 2003	By end January 2004
Cutover to ICS	By end November 2003	By end March 2004

More information

Questions about the CMR implementation strategy and milestones can be directed to cmr@customs.gov.au. More information on CMR is available at www.customs.gov.au.



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the Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263
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website www.customs.gov.au