

Main Customs contact will be through [REDACTED] (Manager, Tariff HS 2012 Project) and her team [REDACTED]

External - Customs have identified and contacted a number of key stakeholders both within and outside Customs. Contact with these will be largely co-ordinated through Customs with ABS involvement where necessary.

Government agencies with monitoring codes are being identified and will be contacted by the ABS. The Customs area that co-ordinates this work for imports in Customs [REDACTED] will be kept informed of these meetings.

Key agencies significantly affected and those that can be identified as requesting statistical codes affected by HS 2012 changes or low value closures will be contacted directly.

Other ABS sections impacted will be identified and contacted.

Customs will be invited to these meetings and keep informed as required.

Communication for the broad proposal to all parties will be by publishing draft before and after versions of the AHECC (April 2011) Notes Link and HTISC (June 2011) on the ABS website. These will be advertised by sending out ACNs to all on imports/exports mailing lists, announced on the ABS website and with information provided by Client Services to purchasers of ABS trade data.

Draft versions of AHECC and HTISC have already been produced but checking will take some time. A final 8-digit correspondence from Customs is required to finally check the HTISC. Customs have started this work and it will be required by the end of February 2011 to ensure that checking can be completed in time to publish the draft HTISC.

Amendments can be made to the classifications as a result of any information provided to the ABS as a result of any of these contacts.

The AHECC needs to be finalised by the end of September 2011 to ensure appropriate changes can be made to ABS and Customs systems and publication by the ABS.

The HTISC needs to be finalised by the end of October to ensure changes can be made to ABS and Customs systems and publication by the Customs.

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the prompt additional information. Could we please discuss tomorrow after [REDACTED] returns from the lock-up. My initial reaction is that a [REDACTED] cut-off will make a significant difference so maybe stop there but I also wonder if going to [REDACTED] gives us an opportunity to greatly reduce maintenance in the future.

Do you know yet how many monitoring codes there are? If we use your assumption that most are under [REDACTED] we will get a better feel for the reduction.

Of course the total reduction may be greater than indicated eg an AHECC 6 digit or Traiff 8 digit category may have two state codes, one over the cut-off ([REDACTED] or [REDACTED]) and one under in which case both would be closed-up

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS  
To: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: [REDACTED] WDB@ABS, [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 06/01/2010 04:58 PM  
Subject: Re: Fw: Notification: Review of minimum value for statistical code

Hello all

An increase in the threshold from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] would bring an almost doubling of the extra codes to be considered for closing. However most statistical/monitoring codes are already under [REDACTED]

Data for exports for 2009 is as follows:

[REDACTED] codes  
[REDACTED] are statistical codes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Data for imports for 2009 is as follows:

[REDACTED] codes  
[REDACTED] with no tariff or stat code split  
[REDACTED] with tariff split but no stat code split

[REDACTED] stat/monitoring codes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Classification and Confidentiality Manager  
02 6252 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS  
To: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Cc: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS, [REDACTED] WDB@ABS  
Date: 06/01/2010 08:03 AM  
Subject: Re: Fw: Notification: Review of minimum value for statistical code

[REDACTED]

The analysis conducted is a reasonable basis for determining an increase. However the decision should take into account a number of other factors including:

- since 1988 there is increased awareness about provider load (both ABS and total government red-tape) and therefore effort should be made to reduce reporting burden
- in discussion with Customs industry has raised the possibility of having no statistical codes in the Tariff and therefore it would be strategically worthwhile that we minimise the number of statistical codes
- [REDACTED]
- resources available for editing are a lot less than in 1988
- there are on-going costs for maintaining statistical codes (eg confidentiality application, when HS, ANZSIC or other classifications are updated)
- codes with small monthly trade may be more likely to be subject to confidentiality claims.

I think these points should be added into the note.

Based on the analysis already in the note and the above points I think it is reasonable to state that [REDACTED] pa is a minimum level but there is a case for a higher cut-off. Any higher cut-off would be a bit arbitrary but maybe [REDACTED] is defensible.

It would assist if we had some sensitivity analysis if this is possible eg:

of the current xxxx stat codes in the Tariff

- xxx have annual value less than [REDACTED]
- xxx have annual value between [REDACTED]
- xxx have annual value betwe [REDACTED]
- xxx have annual value above [REDACTED]

Ideally the above would exclude monitoring codes but it is not essential. This would help us determine if we are arguing over a substantial change.

If the above is not easy to do please discuss as I don't want to create unnecessary work.

I have copied in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I am happy to discuss.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS  
To: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 05/01/2010 02:38 PM  
Subject: Fw: Notification: Review of minimum value for statistical code

[REDACTED]

Pls refer to [REDACTED]'s email. To determine the right threshold, I am not 100% sure due to lack of my experience with Trade. However, I would prefer to set value at [REDACTED] than [REDACTED] given staff constraint and tight timeframe for processing. I will discuss with [REDACTED] the benefits on setting [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] not clear at this stage.

In the meantime, you please advise if you have thoughts on this matter.

Thanks.  
Regards,

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] Staff/ABS on 05/01/2010 02:19 PM -----

From: [REDACTED] WDB  
To: [REDACTED] Staff/ABS@ABS  
Date: 05/01/2010 01:59 PM  
Subject: Notification: Review of minimum value for statistical code  
Sent by: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As part of the preliminary work leading up to the HS2012 review, a review of open codes with low values was proposed. To progress this, the classification team has made progress on identifying codes required for monitoring purposes which cannot be closed. The next step is to identify codes which have low values. It is proposed to set this value at [REDACTED] of trade in a year with some leeway given to look at trends over time, effects of drought etc. The previous minimum value was [REDACTED] - which we believe has been used for about 20 years. Can you give some thought to this value as we would like to start this work in late January after December has been finalised.



Notes Link (Subject: Review of minimum value for statistical code; Database: [REDACTED] WDB; Author:  
[REDACTED]; Created: 30/10/2009; Doc Ref: AGIS-7XB25Q)

thanks

[REDACTED]

Balance of Payments and International Trade  
02 6252 [REDACTED]

Since the introduction of the HS system in 1988 there has been a minimum value expected before a statistical code can be introduced. This has been [REDACTED] per years expected trade in both the newly opened code/s and the other statistical split/s created. For example if one new statistical code is to be created under a HS 6 code with no current split then the new code and the 'Other' statistical code created would each need [REDACTED] trade per year. This value was also used in the major review of statistical codes conducted in 1999. The main exception to this rule is monitoring codes which need to be kept open regardless of value.

Given the increase in import and export prices and values traded, [REDACTED] per year seems very low and should be reviewed. Because it is unclear at this stage how unusual 2008-09 financial year is in terms of value and prices, 2007-08 will be used to measure increases from 1988. Four methods will be used to get an idea of scaling up this value:

1. Percentage increase in export value from 1988 to 2007-08 based on merchandise trade data

[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]

Percentage increase: [REDACTED]

2. Percentage increase in import value from 1988 to 2007-08 based on merchandise trade data

[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]

Percentage increase: [REDACTED]

3. Percentage increase in export prices from 1988 to 2007-08 based on export price index

[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]

Percentage increase: [REDACTED]

4. Percentage increase in import prices from 1988 to 2007-08 based on import price index

[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]      [REDACTED]

Percentage increase: [REDACTED]

The price rises are clearly well below the increase in value. Based on value rounded down an increase from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] would appear to be justified. This would mean that for an HS 6 code to be split into a new statistical code plus the 'Other' code it would require at least [REDACTED] which is still not a huge amount - around [REDACTED] of total trade.

## Foreign Trade\Noticeboard

### Other - Topics @ a Glance

Status: **Received by Publishing**

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#### Document content:

##### Changes to the Foreign Trade Topics @ a Glance

Some of the links from the **Foreign Trade Releases** and **Using Foreign Trade Statistics** pages now include explanations to better direct and assist users in retrieving the needed information.

##### Changes to Australian Customs Tariff Codes for 1 July 2012

On 1 July 2012 there were changes to statistical codes under subheadings 0406.40.10, 8443.31.00, 8443.32.00, 8471.30.00, 8471.60.00, 8528.72.00 in the Customs Tariff. Revised Customs Tariff Working Pages can be accessed on this link <http://www.customs.gov.au/tariff/tariff2012.asp>.

A list of the new codes and correspondences to their previous codes can be found on the Australian Customs and Border Protection Notice No. 2012/31 which was released on 25 June 2012. The notice can be found on the Australian Customs and Border Protection website <http://www.customs.gov.au>. From the menu select media, publications and forms and then Customs Notices, then click on the link Australian Customs Notices and select the link to 2012/31. Alternatively you can click on this link <http://www.customs.gov.au/notices/acn/default.asp> to access the notice.

Separate statistical codes for Roquefort and Stilton cheeses in Chapter 4 have been introduced to support food inspection requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The changes to the statistical codes for Chapters 84 and 85 facilitate the clearer identification of multifunction devices, laptops / other portable computers, scanners and televisions and will assist in the administration of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011 refer). The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of the Scheme.

## Changes to Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) Codes for 1 July 2012

There are no changes to AHECC codes for 1 July 2012.

The latest version of the AHECC is available on the ABS website from this link:  
Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) - Electronic Publication, January 2012 (cat. no. 1233.0).

### Amendments to existing Customs Tariff Code correspondences and Free Standing Descriptors

Some changes have been made to tariff correspondences and free standing descriptors to correct some errors in the data published in Information paper: Changes to AHECC and Customs Tariff, 2012 (cat. no. 5368.0.55.017).

The following corrections were implemented in the May issue of **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia** (cat. no. 5368.0) and **International Merchandise Imports, Australia** (cat. no. 5439.0).

Customs Tariff 2011	Customs Tariff 2012
3919100072	3919100061
3919100073	3919100061
3919100074	3919100061
3919100056	3919100059
3919100076	3919100059
5801351039	5801371021
5801340015	5801379023
5801359040	5801379023

Free Standing Descriptors for the Customs Tariff codes 4412390023, 4412390024 and 8528720040 was also amended.

These changes do not impact on statistics in this publication but will be reflected in detailed data.

The following corrections will be implemented in the July issue of **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia** (cat. no. 5368.0) to be released on 7 September 2012 and **International Merchandise Imports, Australia** (cat. no. 5439.0) released on 20 August 2012.



Customs Tariff 2011	Customs Tariff 2012
8523290001	8523290081
8523290009	8523290081
8523290021	8523290082
8523290022	8523290082
8523290023	8523290083
8523290024	8523290083
8523290029	8523290083
8523290030	8523290084
8523290031	8523290084
8523290035	8523290084
8523290036	8523290084
8523290041	8523290085
8523290042	8523290085
8523290043	8523290085
8523290049	8523290085
8523290051	8523290086
8523290052	8523290086
8523290053	8523290086
8523290061	8523290087
8523290062	8523290087
8523290071	8523290087
8523290079	8523290087
8523290080	8523290087
8523290092	8523290088
8523290093	8523290088
8523290095	8523290088

Free Standing Descriptors corrections for the Customs Tariff codes 7210300050, 7210300051, 7210300052, 7210610060, 7210610061 and 7210610062.

These changes also impact correspondences to ANZSIC 2006 and BoPBEC classifications for these codes. SITC and BEC correspondences are not impacted.

Customs Tariff code	Current correspondence		Revised correspondence	
	ANZSIC 2006	BoPBEC	ANZSIC 2006	BoPBEC
8523290081	2429	CE04	2429	CE04
8523290082	2429	CE04	2429	CE04
8523290083	1620	CE05	2429	CE04
8523290084	1620	CE05	2429	CE04
8523290085	1620	CE05	2429	CE04
8523290086	2429	CE04	1620	CE05
8523290087	2429	CE04	1620	CE05
8523290088	2429	CE04	1620	CE05

These changes will have an impact on data released in the July issue of **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia** (cat. no. 5368.0) in time series Table 34 - Merchandise imports by Balance of Payments Broad Economic Categories (BoPBEC) and Table 35a - Merchandise imports, Industry (ANZSIC 2006). They will also impact data in data cube Table 8 - Balance of Payments Broad Economic Categories (detailed level), by country published in the July issue of **International Merchandise Imports, Australia** (cat. no. 5439.0).

A full correspondence is available from the Classification manager, International trade.  
Email [international.trade@abs.gov.au](mailto:international.trade@abs.gov.au),  
phone 02 6252 5409 or fax 02 6252 5409

**Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2010–11**

The publication Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2010-11 (cat. no. 5368.0.55.006) was released on 28 May 2012. This publication examines the number and characteristics of Australia's exporters. Estimates of exporters of merchandise trade are compiled from data sourced from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and from the Australian Taxation Office's Australian Business Register. Estimates of exporters of services are compiled largely from the ABS Survey of International Trade in Services.

**Future release dates of foreign trade publications**

5368.0 – International Trade in Goods and Services

July 2012	7 September 2012
August 2012	3 October 2012
September 2012	5 November 2012
October 2012	7 December 2012
November 2012	8 January 2013
December 2012	5 February 2013

5439.0 – International Merchandise Imports

August 2012	18 September 2012
September 2012	18 October 2012
October 2012	20 November 2012
November 2012	18 December 2012
December 2012	17 January 2013
January 2013	19 February 2013

**General comments:**

Please replace the linked webpage with this one.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Websitedbs/c311215.nsf/20564c23f3183fdaca25672100813ef1/2eb425f3785b9185ca25712500734ff6!OpenDocument>

**Approvals:**

Director:  Staff/ABS

Additional Editors: 



Policy and Legislation : Section 12-01

Manual Category: **¶ B. Policy and Legislation**  
Manual ID - No & Title: **¶ Policy - Policy and Legislation**

**Final**  
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Chapter No. & Title: **¶ 12. Confidentiality and Disclosure**

Section No. & Title: **01. Overview - Confidentiality and Disclosure**

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Document Version: **¶ 2010/01**

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Comments:

Finalised contact details are available for *this section*.

Area Resp. for Updating: **Office of the Statistician & External Engagement**

General

Contact Details **Head, Audit, Policy and Parliamentary Liaison**

Name:

Phone:

Specific

Contact

Details

Name:

Phone:

Division:

Email:



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The documents linked here:

- offer guidance on related matters
- when changed will demand a review and possible updating of this document and/or
- will need to be reviewed and perhaps updated as a consequence of changes to these documents.

#### Policy

#### Standards

#### Definitions

#### Procedures

#### Other links

Last modified by [REDACTED] on 21/08/2013 09:54 AM

## OVERVIEW - CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE

### KEY POINTS

1 The vast majority of ABS data are collected under the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (C&S Act). The C&S Act gives the ABS the power to direct persons, businesses and other entities to provide the data requested. The information requested can sometimes be sensitive and have the potential to harm the provider if it was released in an identifiable form. As such, controls must be placed on disclosure of this information to protect provider confidentiality and hence maintain public trust in the ABS, to ensure the continued high quality of national statistics.

2 The confidentiality of the results of these collections is protected by provisions in the C&S Act, which prescribe the manner in which information can be disclosed for both statistical and non-statistical purposes. The Statistics Determination supports the C&S Act by specifying the particular circumstances under which the disclosure of identifiable statistical information is allowed.



3 The Statistics Determination is an enabling provision only. Release of information under a clause of the determination is at the discretion of the Statistician, and is only to be used when the benefits of disclosure are clear and would not have an adverse affect on the trust of the providers who supplied the information, those about whom the disclosed information relates, and the broader community.

4 Chapter 12 covers disclosure for statistical purposes only. For information on disclosure for non-statistical purposes, please refer to other sections of this manual, [REDACTED].

5 In addition to ABS policies and procedures, the disclosure of ABS statistics relating to persons must comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988 and other relevant privacy legislation.

6 Section 12 of the C&S Act requires the Statistician to publish and disseminate the results, or abstracts of those results, of compilations and analyses of statistical information collected under the C&S Act.

7 Results are often presented via publications, spreadsheets on the ABS website or as special data services, for example - in the form of tables of statistics such as counts, totals, means, ratios, averages or percentiles. A 'table' is any form of aggregate data, i.e. it excludes microdata, but includes datacubes or single estimate values that may appear in publication text or elsewhere. See Release of Statistics in Tables for more information.

8 In publishing these results the ABS must not publish information in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a person or organisation, unless it meets the strict rules set out in the Statistics Determination 1983.

9 In terms of aggregate data, there are four provisions under which a disclosure can occur:

- a. Clause 2 allows for the disclosure of certain classes of statistics, including statistics relating to:
  - a. an official body other than a government business undertaking;
  - b. foreign trade collected from Customs documents;
  - c. interstate trade collected under a law of the State of Tasmania;
  - d. building and construction except the costs or net returns of individual builders or contractors; and
  - e. agricultural, apicultural, poultry, dairying and pastoral activities, except the costs or net returns of individual operators.
- b. Clause 3 allows for the disclosure of statistics already available to the public;
- c. Clause 4 allows for the disclosure of published information relating to official bodies; and
- d. Clause 5 allows for the disclosure of statistics, relating to a person (not of a personal or domestic nature), business or organisation, with their consent.

10 Section 13 of the C&S Act, through the Statistics Determination, allows for the release of unit record information under strict conditions:

- a. Clause 6 - the ABS can release lists of names and addresses of businesses and organisations.
- b. Clause 7 - the ABS can release information in the form of unidentified and statistical records.

- c. Clause 7A - the ABS can release unit records to enable the ABS to perform relevant functions.

11 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 Census and Statistics Act 1905 (C&S Act)

14 Statistics Determination 1983

15 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]