

ON YOUR LETTERHEAD

ASBESTOS ALERT!!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CLIENTS ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS PROHIBITED IMPORTS REGULATIONS ON MANAGING THE RISK OF IMPORTED GOODS CONTAINING ASBESTOS.

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF DEPT.IMMIGRATION & BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE 2016/30 TITLED

<http://www.border.gov.au/Customsnotices/Documents/2016-30.pdf#search=2016%2F30>

“ASSURANCES THAT IMPORTED GOODS DO NOT CONTAIN ASBESTOS”.

WE STRONGLY ADVISE CLIENTS TO EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF THIS NOTICE & TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO CONFIRM SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY TO ENSURE PROHIBITED GOODS ARE NOT IMPORTED.

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE NOTICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- PRODUCTS CONTAINING ASBESTOS ARE PROHIBITED IMPORTS:
- THERE IS NO TOLERANCE FOR ANY ASBESTOS CONTENT- MUST BE NIL;
- IF CUSTOMS DETECT IMPORTED GOODS CONTAINING ASBESTOS, AT THE BORDER, THEY MAY BE SEIZED & THE IMPORTER MAY BE PROSECUTED OR SUBJECT TO PENALTIES;
- THE AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE(ABF) IS USING A RISK BASED INTELLIGENCE APPROACH TO TARGET HIGH RISK GOODS- THEY WILL, AT THEIR DISCRETION ,BE REQUIRING SUFFICIENT ASSURANCES/EVIDENCE THAT IMPORTED GOODS DO NOT CONTAIN ASBESTOS;
- THE THREE KEY ELEMENTS THAT THE ABF ENCOURAGE IMPORTERS TO IMPLEMENT ARE
 - : CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH THEIR SUPPLIERS THAT SPECIFY NIL ASBESTOS CONTENT;
 - : SAMPLING & TESTING FOR ASBESTOS CONTENT BY AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED LABORATORY, PRIOR TO SHIPMENT;
 - : REGULAR RISK ASSESSMENT & QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES.

N.B.!! IF THE ABF SUSPECT IMPORTED GOODS MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS, THE GOODS MAY BE HELD AT THE BORDER FOR FURTHER TESTING. THIS WILL BE AT A NATA ACCREDITED LABORATORY. INEVITABLY, SIGNIFICANT COSTS WOULD ACCRUE TO THE IMPORTER.

FINALLY, THE ABF HAVE PLACED A BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY ON LICENSED BROKERS TO ENSURE DUE DILIGENCE WHEN ANSWERING COMMUNITY PROTECTION QUESTIONS ON BEHALF OF IMPORTERS.

THE ABF REQUIRES THAT BROKERS ARE THEMSELVES SATISFIED THAT IMPORTERS HAVE SUFFICIENT ASSURANCES FROM SUPPLIERS THAT GOODS DO NOT CONTAIN ASBESTOS. IF THEY ARE NOT, BROKERS ARE OBLIGED TO NOMINATE A “YES” RESPONSE TO THE ASBESTOS QUESTION (I.E. GOODS DO CONTAIN ASBESTOS).

TO ENSURE YOU, OUR VALUED CLIENT, MEET THIS HIGHER THRESHOLD OF COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE ABF, WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT YOU CONTACT YOUR SUPPLIERS & OBTAIN THEIR ASSURANCES THAT THEY CAN SUPPORT THEIR DECLARATION OF NIL ASBESTOS CONTENT.

WE WILL THEN ASK THAT YOU CONFIRM TO US, IN WRITING, THAT YOU ARE SATISFIED THAT YOUR SUPPLIER UNDERSTANDS THE ABF REQUIREMENTS & IS ABLE TO PROVIDE TO YOU ,UPON

REQUEST,SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO SATISFY THE ABF THAT THE DECLARATION OF NIL ASBESTOS CONTENT IS VALID.

CLEARLY, IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, THEN AS YOUR CUSTOMS BROKER, WE CAN BE LIKEWISE SATISFIED & ANSWER “ NO “ TO THE ASBESTOS CONTENT QUESTION WHEN IT IS ASKED OF US .

TO ASSIST YOU IN THIS PROCESS, WE PROVIDE A DECLARATION AT THE END OF THIS NOTICE, FOR YOU TO PRODUCE TO US IN RESPECT OF EACH OF YOUR SUPPLIERS. FOR ALL FUTURE SHIPMENTS, WHERE WE ARE ASKED BY THE ABF TO ANSWER A QUESTION ON ASBESTOS CONTENT, WE WILL REQUIRE A DECLARATION SPECIFIC TO ALL PRODUCTS FROM ALL SUPPLIERS. WE WILL RETAIN THIS DOCUMENT FOR USE FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS FROM THAT SUPPLIER.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS REGARDING THIS NOTICE OR REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT MYSELF OR ANY OF OUR CUSTOMS TEAM.

DECLARATION

IN RESPECT OF THE BELOW NOMINATED SUPPLIER/S, WE DECLARE THAT WE HAVE SATISFIED OURSELVES , AFTER CONSULTATION WITH SAID SUPPLIER/S, THAT ALL PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM THEM ARE 100% FREE OF ASBESTOS CONTENT OR CONTAMINATION.

WE UNDERTAKE TO IMMEDIATELY ADVISE OF ANY CHANGE TO THIS ASSURANCE.

SUPPLIER/S:

SIGNED:.....

PRINTED NAME.....

POSITION WITH ENTERPRISE.....

DATE OF ISSUE.....