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All Traders, Declaring Agents and Shipping Agents

**RETURN OF CUSTOMS PERMITS WITH MASTER
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON EXPORT OF LIQUORS AND
TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN CONTAINER BY SEA**



Currently, a trader is required to manually return the Customs Outward permit with master acknowledgement for the export of dutiable liquors and cigarettes in full load container by sea to Customs.


2 We are pleased to announce that an E-filing system, called SEA System (Sea-Cargo Electronic Acknowledgement System) will be launched to allow the out-carrier agent to electronically submit the "loadlists" of dutiable liquors and tobacco products exported in container to Customs within 7 working days after the permit has been utilised. The BG debited for Customs permits with condition (LL) requiring the submission of loadlists by carrier agent of the vessel will then be credited back automatically.

3 Before cutting over to a full electronic system, we will conduct a parallel run which will commence on 15 Mar 2001 and end on 14 May 2001. The purpose is for the trading and shipping communities to familiarise themselves with the system and to enable a smooth transition from manual to a fully electronic environment. During the parallel run, the shipping agent can electronically submit the loadlists through SEA system, or manually submit the Customs permit with master acknowledgement to Customs.

4 With effect from 15 May 2001, the Customs Outward permit is no longer required to be returned manually to the Customs office after cargoes have been loaded onto the vessel. Also, once the loadlist is submitted by the out-carrier agent, the amount of Bank Guarantee (BG) debited for the consignment will be automatically credited back to their account for re-use.

5 Declarants are advised to declare correctly the Out-Carrier Agent's CR No/Name, Vessel Name, Voyage No and Departure Date for the Customs Outward permit to facilitate the implementation of SEA System.

6 If you need further information, please contact the Customs Call Centre on telephone number 3552000 followed by *(*)0).


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The Way of Excellence in Public Service