



Bare Facts

Number 24

Published by J.J. Lawson - Customs and Freight Brokers



Welcome to our final edition of Bare Facts for 2014. Everyone at JJJLawson thanks you for your ongoing support. 1st April 2015 will see the 40th anniversary of JJJL and we are grateful to those of you who have accompanied us on our journey to this significant milestone.

When we started the business back in 1975, Martin and Gavin were in the early days of school and Greg was not quite one year old. With the support of my wife Jenny, JJJL slowly grew and I now take great pride in working alongside Martin and Greg and indeed every member of our staff across Customs, Transport and Freight. Of course, none of this would be possible without our customers and suppliers – *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you!*

Jim Lawson
Managing Director



Matt's top tip

There have been a number of important changes since my last Top Tip. As some of the information I have for you is so specialised to particular customers, I have loaded the full length article onto our website at www.jjlawson.com.au/toptipBF24

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Look inside for the complete Top Tip, and other interesting bare bits!





Matt's top tip

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Here, I have included general information, important to you all.

Duty Rate Changes on 1 January 2015

The last of phasing down of Customs Duty rates which, if memory serves me correctly, commenced with the Hawke/Keating Government in the 1990s, occurs on 1 January 2015. These changes will mainly affect clothing, reducing current 10% duty rates to 5%. Imported Goods, which would be subject to equivalent excise duties if they were made in Australia, will not be subject to the phasing duty rates.

Going the other way, the Federal Government has re-introduced the indexation of Customs Duty rates applicable to petrol and petroleum-based products, falling in line with the current twice yearly indexation of duties applicable to imported tobacco and alcohol products. The first Duty rate rise occurred on 10 November 2014 with future rises to occur on 1 February and 1 August each year.

Free Trade Agreements

KAFTA - On 5 December 2013, the Australian Government announced that it had finalised the **Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement** (KAFTA). Australia has now completed its domestic legislation to implement this FTA and is awaiting advice from South Korea that it has done the same. At time of writing, Australia and South Korea are aiming at a start date of 1 December 2014 (not yet confirmed). Once we know the requirements importers need to meet, we will send out advice.

JAPEA - On 7 April 2014 the government announced that negotiations on the **Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement** (JAPEA) have been concluded. Not all Australian goods will be allowed duty free entry into Japan, particularly in regard to the agricultural sector but duty reductions have been negotiated. In October, the domestic legislation to implement this FTA was introduced into the Parliaments of both countries for approval. Commencement of this FTA cannot be too far away. As with KAFTA, once the requirements importers need to meet are known, advice will be sent out.

ACFTA - It is anticipated that Australian Government will announce in November 2014 that Australia and China have concluded the **Australia-China Free Trade Agreement** (ACFTA). Once this is done, domestic legislation implementing this Free Trade Agreement will need to be passed by the Parliaments of both countries. The commencement of this FTA looks likely to be sometime next year.

TPP - The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which had been scheduled for conclusion by 1 January 2014, is still under negotiation and seems to have struck some hurdles. The latest meeting was held in Sydney in late October 2014. Since then, there have been further side meetings at the APEC forum in Beijing. The parties believe conclusion of this FTA is not too far away.

Other FTAs - Other Free Trade Agreement under negotiation include the Australia-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) FTA; Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement;

Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Partnership Agreement; Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

More recently China has commenced pushing the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) with 21 member countries that will cover 65% of world trade. They are looking for this Trade Agreement to commence by 2025.

Identity Fraud

Australian Customs is requiring Brokers to be more pro-active in ensuring that the importers they are dealing with are who they say they are. There have been instances of importers assuming the identity of a legitimate company and approaching Customs Brokers to clear shipments in the name of the legitimate company. If we approach you for further confirmation of identity, please do not be offended as we are merely following Australian Customs requirements.

Dumping and/or Countervailing Duties

Since we last reported on Dumping and Countervailing Duties, there has been a bit of an explosion in the number and type of products that are subject to these duties.

For the full list of products now subjected to Dumping and/or Countervailing Duties, please read the full article online at www.jjlawson.com.au/dumpingupdateBF24

Trusted Trader Programme

In the last issue of Bare Facts, we made reference to the proposed Trusted Trader Programme which will consist of two schemes

- Import Trusted Trader Scheme (ITTS); and
- Export Trusted Trader Scheme (ETTS)

At this time, Australian Customs has advised it hopes to have a pilot programme running by 1 July 2015 but at the moment there is not much more information available in regard to this programme.

Quarantine

AFAS

Peru has now been added to the AFAS list of countries for Methyl Bromide fumigation – this means that fumigation certificates can only be accepted from those approved treatment providers on the AFAS Peru list – which can be found at

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/import/general-info/pre-border/afas/providers>

Other countries on the AFAS Scheme are India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Illegal Logging

As advised recently, the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulations 2013 commenced on 30 November 2014 and apply to all **Regulated Timber Products** imported into Australia on or after 30 November 2014 (regardless of the date of order or purchase).

For the full list of Regulated Timber Products and the Exemptions, please read the full article on our website at www.jjlawson.com.au/loggingproductsBF24

Where a person or company is importing non-exempt Regulated

Timber Products, Customs Brokers are required to answer a new Entry Lodgement Question that asks whether the importer is in compliance with the Due Diligence requirements of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulations 2013.

Due Diligence requires the importer, prior to importation, to undertake and document the enquiries they have made to assess the risk that the Regulated Timber Products they are importing have been illegally harvested or derived from illegally harvested timber.

The Australian Government has put out Fact Sheets on the Due Diligence requirements that need to be met, explaining that it is a four stage process. The information required for Due Diligence, as contained in this fact sheet, is laid out in the online article on our website at www.jjlawson.com.au/loggingfactsBF24

It is an offence under the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 to:

- import illegally harvested timber products or products derived therefrom; or
- not to carry out Due Diligence when it is required; or
- fail to make a declaration in regard to whether Due Diligence has been carried out.

Where illegally harvested timber products are imported they may also be seized and forfeited.

We have been advised that for the first 18 months of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulations, the Department of Agriculture will be concentrating on education for compliance with the due diligence requirements, rather than prosecution. However this does not mean that they won't prosecute where necessary.

Further information on the new requirements (including the Fact Sheets) can be found at www.daff.gov.au/illegallogging or email illegallogging@agriculture.gov.au or call 1800 657 313.

Until next time,
Matt McAuliffe
JJL Legal Eagle

Freight Mates

Over the last few months, our Freight Department here at JJL has expanded to meet our growing customer needs. We recently welcomed Danny Khoury into our team as Freight Forwarding Manager and many of you will have already met him either in person or by phone.

Working alongside Danny (standing right in photo) are our Senior Account Manager David Pinson (standing left), our long-serving Freight Operations Manager Terry Morris (standing centre), our Assistant Freight Manager Kate Worrington (seated right) and our Freight Clerk Larissa Barbosa (seated left),

If you would like to know more about our Freight services and capabilities, please call Danny on 02 9669 3011.



Meet the Bears!



David Weston - AKA Dave AM Allocator

Has been at JJL since.. February 2013

The best thing about my job is...

everyday throws up a different challenge which keeps things interesting.

My biggest work achievement to date is...

it's hard to say what my biggest achievement is, but everyday there's a sense of achievement when everything gets done.

My ideal weekend would be...

to head off for a long cruise on the bike with a few mates.

The most amazing thing I ever saw...

the birth of my son.

To me, sport is all about...

gambling on it.

I really admire...

people that work hard to achieve what they want in life.

When I'm driving, I'm listening to...

anything and everything, including the voices in my head!

Don't talk to me about...

let's face it, you can talk to me about pretty much anything.

In ten years time, I'll be...

still trying to teach Vozzo how to allocate!

All I want for Christmas is...

some quiet time with my family and friends.

What I like most about working for JJL is...

definitely the people I work with.

BEAR BITS



A bear walks into a bar late on Christmas Eve and says to the barman, "I'd like a large rum..... and coke, please."

The barman asks, "What's with the large pause?"

The bear replies, "Oh, I've had them all my life."





Convoy for Kids 2014

In late September this year, six of our JJL drivers joined the Convoy for Kids, an annual event to raise money for NETS (Neonatal and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service).

NETS is a mobile Intensive Care Unit for babies and children who need Emergency Treatment whilst being moved to a specialised hospital unit. NETS saves hundreds of young lives every year.

Our drivers Brad, Gabriel, Doug, Gavin, Peter and Craig took their shiny red and black Bear trucks out to Huntingwood in Sydney's outer western suburbs for the early start on Sunday 28th September. They joined the hundreds of trucks making their way in along the M4 to Sydney Olympic Park – a spectacular sight!

Convoy for Kids was created in 1992 by a small group of dedicated volunteers from the transport industry who had a desire to help sick children. 2014 is the 23rd year that the Convoy for Kids has operated and has raised over \$1.7 million for the Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick, NRMA Careflight and NETS.



On the Net

This and previous Bare Facts Issues are also available for download from www.jjlawson.com.au

www.jjlawson.com.au



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