



ECA congratulates Australian Customs and Border Protection Service on the recent signing of a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department

The Agreement means Australian exporters will benefit from new trade facilitation measures, such as reduced examination requirements and prioritised clearance, in Hong Kong.

“The signing of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is an important commitment for Australia and Hong Kong to co-operate on important economic and trade issues,” says Export Council of Australia (ECA) CEO Lisa McAuley. “This will improve trade-related opportunities between our two economies by addressing regulatory reform and easing trade facilitation for Australian companies moving goods through Hong Kong.”

Hong Kong is a crucial trading partner for Australia. It is the seventh-largest market in the world for Australian goods exports, and an important gateway to mainland China for many Australian companies.

An MRA is a formal arrangement between customs agencies that recognise supply chain security programmes, and provides reciprocal benefits to the other country's trusted partners. MRAs also provide border agencies with greater end-to-end assurance over imports and exports.

The MRA with Hong Kong provides mutual recognition between the Australian Trusted Trader (ATT) Programme and the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (HKAO) Programme. Trade facilitation benefits provided by the HKAO are therefore extended to members of the ATT Programme, and vice versa.

Australia signed its first MRA with New Zealand Customs Service in July 2016, providing trusted Trans-Tasman exporters with fast-tracked customs processing.

“The MRA with Hong Kong marks the second agreement that Australian has made towards recognising respective supply chain security programmes, and the ECA looks forward to further developments as negotiations progress with Canada and Singapore,” Ms McAuley says.

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