



Ottawa, July 11, 2003

CUSTOMS NOTICE N-524

AMENDMENT – Mandatory Change for FIRST Release Option

This notice is an amended version of Customs Notice 516, which was issued on June 3, 2003. It clarifies that drivers reporting under the Frequent Importer Release System (FIRST) release option may present a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card instead of a Commercial Driver Registration Program (CDRP) card. Either card will be acceptable.

1. This is to advise that drivers registered under the FAST program may present a FAST card as an alternative to the CDRP card when requesting release under the FIRST option.
2. This requirement will become effective on August 1, 2003. There will be no grace period.
3. Drivers reporting at the border with FIRST lead sheets but without a CDRP or FAST card will be required to contact the appropriate customs broker to arrange clearance under another release option.
4. No Administrative Monetary Penalties System (AMPS) penalty will be applied for failure to produce a CDRP or FAST card. The delay in the release of the goods is considered sufficient incentive for drivers to comply with this program.

5. For information regarding the FIRST release option, please contact:

Betty Lou Daye
Release Policy
(613) 952-1074

For more information on FAST or CDRP, please call the FAST information line at 1-866-340-FAST (3278) or email the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency at fast-expres@ccra-adrc.gc.ca

Application forms are available on our Web site at www.ccra.gc.ca/fast or at www.ccra.gc.ca/customs/business/importing/csa/menu-e.html.

You can also contact one of the following officers:

Georgia Gull: (905) 994-6093
Laurie Parsons: (613) 952-1424

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