

**Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) review of proposed amendments to  
Article 3 (Rules of Origin) of the  
Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)  
8 May 2006**

**Question on Notice**

*On what dates were the States and Territories consulted on proposed amendments to Article 3 (Rules of Origin) of ANZCERTA?*

The Standing Committee on Treaties (SCOT, comprised of Commonwealth, State and Territory officers) was first advised of the proposal to amend Article 3 of ANZCERTA in the March 2004 Schedule of Current Commonwealth Treaty Action, including a briefing paper outlining the rationale for the proposal. The same entry was in the Schedule sent to SCOT in September 2004.

In 2005 and 2006, the Schedule included the following information under the column "Past, Present and Prospective Activity".

*Jan 2005*

Australia and New Zealand have agreed to adopt a Change of Tariff Classification (CTC) approach to determining rules of origin (ROO) under ANZCERTA, subject to final agreement on sensitive sectors. This will require a change to Article 3 of the Treaty. Consultations are underway with Australian industry prior to the final details of the tariff schedule and Treaty change being negotiated with New Zealand. It is anticipated that the negotiations will be finalised by end March 2005, to enable the changes to come into effect from 1 January 2006. Legislative changes will be required.

*July-Aug 2005*

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*Feb 2006*

Australia and New Zealand have agreed to adopt a Change of Tariff Classification (CTC) approach to determining rules of origin (ROO) under ANZCERTA. Negotiations on Article 3 text are expected to be completed by the end of January 2006. Changes are scheduled to come into effect on 1 January 2007. Legislative changes will be required. Australian legislative and Parliamentary processes (JSCOT) are scheduled to commence in the Autumn 2006 sitting of the Australian Parliament.

The Schedule is sent to SCOT representatives before their meeting, to give them the opportunity to seek further information. There were no requests for further information.