

### **Question 1**

**What measures has Customs put in place since the Cole Inquiry to prevent imports/exports from being in contravention of UN sanctions? Please provide details of additional controls that have been implemented.**

Recommendations relating to Customs arising from the Cole Inquiry largely focussed on the need to ensure that penalty provisions in Customs legislation for breaching United Nations sanctions reflected the seriousness of the offence. The Customs amendments contained within the International Trade Integrity Bill 2007 are intended to address those recommendations.

Customs role at the border is to ensure that all cargo being imported from or exported to a UN-sanction country has a valid permit for the movement of the goods, and meets any conditions associated with those permits.

All import and export cargo is required to be reported to Customs electronically. Countries subject to a United Nations sanction are flagged within the Customs electronic risk assessment system. Goods being exported to or being imported from a country subject to a United Nations sanction will be risk assessed, examined where necessary, and have all permits verified (that is, validating the permit with the issuing agency), prior to authority being granted for clearance. UN sanction goods are given a high priority by Customs for examination.

Customs is currently working with UN-related permit agencies to ensure the most robust process is in place for the verification of those permits, including a uniform process for validation.