

Australia

1. Operation of the ATA Carnet System in Australia: ATA Carnets being used by the motor industry to import vehicles for R&D/testing and evaluation.

I have had several cases where some of the vehicle manufacturers in Australia have approached Customs regarding extensions to carnets. All of these carnets are being issued under the “professional equipment” convention and in every case the vehicles on the carnets have been here for R&D/ Testing and evaluation.

There is no convention that Australia is a signatory to that will allow this type of temporary import activity to be accomplished through use of a carnet. The activity can be done under Section 162 of the Customs Act 1901, but this requires applications to be made with and approved by Customs.

Currently the reality is that each time this occurs a false declaration is being made to Customs. I do not want to see entities being penalised for an activity they can perform, but have utilised the wrong mechanisms to do it.

This has the potential to cause some very angry clients for those chambers issuing the carnets incorrectly, and may turn those clients away from using carnets in the future.