



What do we do?

Your Cooks Islands Custom Service (CICS) Airport Staff are our frontline team managing security and community risks in a busy and challenging environment. We are a dedicated team of a Senior Customs officer, four (4) Supervising Customs Officers and fifteen (15) Customs Officers.

We work to protect and control our border through detecting and preventing high risk people and goods from entering our country.

In facilitating legitimate travel, we are responsible for the collection of revenue from passengers; enforcing risk-profiling assessments, and the questioning and conducting of searches for all passenger cargo, airline staff, airport personnel or any questionable persons at Rarotonga International Airport.

We are all shift workers covering twenty scheduled International flights per week and other private, medical or military flights.

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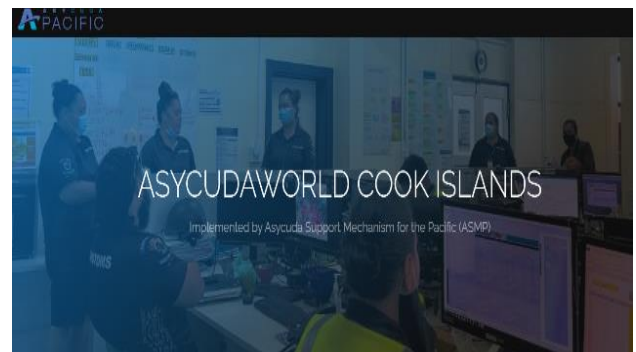
Want to know more? Check out our website: <https://www.mfem.gov.ck/customs>

What's New?

Project ASYCUDA World

Through the launch of ASYCUDA World the airport staff have moved away from a manual payment process. We accept eftpos payments directly entered into our Customs system and automatically receipted. This removes the need for a paper based manual entries and improves the service level provided to passengers.

Further AW operational automation initiatives are expected. We will cover these off in the next issue. **Watch this space!**



Airport Newsletter

Customs News

Kia Orana Values

Customs works with the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute to improve your airport experience.

In February, Sixteen (16) Customs officers attended the Kia Orana Values courses delivered by Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute tutors, Rose Akava and David Samuel. Whilst Customs is normally associated with enforcement and revenue roles, we also have an important role in facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

As part of their training, Officers are taught the core Customs values of Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Professionalism.

The Kia Orana Values courses complement these values and will improve the professionalism of our officers at the airport. We are ready to do our part in 'Cook Islands - love a little paradise... for real'



Public Health Training & Awareness

The Ministry of Health/Te Marae Ora's (TMO) Public Health team facilitated

training for Border Agencies. The objective of the training focused on TMO's legislative amendments related to medicinal cannabis and tobacco products to raise awareness and further enhance the capabilities of border officials.



New Appointment – Welcome back!

The CICS Airport team welcomes the newly appointed Senior Customs Officer (SCO) – Airport, Dennis Heather. SCO Heather



is a former customs officer and returns to CICS to take up the senior post after five (5) years away working with the Cook Islands Office of Ombudsman and Cook Islands Financial Intelligence Unit.

Airport Handy Hints

Hint one! Goods

Unsure if what you are carrying is okay to cross borders? Declare it! Honesty is the best policy. Check out the list below and

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our website for full details:

<https://www.mfem.gov.ck/customs-airport>

The following items must be declared to Customs:

- ❖ Any prohibited or restricted goods, for example: medication, weapons, illicit drugs, indecent publications
- ❖ Alcohol and or Tobacco over the allowed passenger duty free concession
- ❖ Goods obtained overseas with a value of more than \$750
- ❖ Goods carried for commercial purposes
- ❖ Goods carried on behalf of another person
- ❖ A total of \$10,000 or more in cash, precious gems or jewelry.

A recent example of 'commercial goods' that must be declared is *tattoo equipment*.

CICS recommends you complete an export entry prior to departing with goods of this type with the intention to return.

This documentation is presented to our Customs team upon reentry to the Cook Islands to minimise delays.

Hint two!

Did you know that the Cook Islands allows two (2) bottles of spirits per passenger 18yrs and over? NZ allows three (3) so don't be caught with that extra bottle.

Hint three! – Starlink kits



Starlink kits are subject to the same rules as all imports to the Cook Islands.

There is no import duty payable on the kits, but they are subject to 15% VAT on importation.

If imported through normal channels such as mail, courier or freight systems importers will pay 15% VAT on the price of the kit. There will also be associated costs such as import entry fees and Customs Brokers charges, which will vary according to transport mode.

If a kit is purchased overseas & accompanies a passenger to the Cook Islands, that passenger may claim their \$750 duty & VAT free allowance for the kit. Costs over \$750? The passenger will pay VAT on the amount over \$750. The passenger concession does not apply to commercial goods. Again, declare it, Honesty is the best policy! Don't receive a fine or have your goods seized.

Questions?

If you have any questions on Airport Operations please contact us on:

Email: customs.info@cookislands.gov.ck

Phone: + (682) 29510