



INFORMATION SHEET

CUSTOMS

CUSTOMS CONTROLLED AREA

What is a Customs Controlled Area?

A Customs Controlled Area is a place that Customs does its work, such as a wharf; an airport; a licensed warehouse; an international mail exchange; a depot or other designated place.

What does a 'Customs Controlled Area' mean?

It means that Customs has powers to control the movement of all goods, people and conveyances (vessels, aircraft or vehicles) who enter the designated area.

Customs has the powers to:

- **Ask you for identification and the reason why you are in the area;**
- **Search any goods, person or conveyance in the area;**
- **Seize any prohibited items you may have in your possession; or**
- **Ask you to leave or physically remove you from the area if you do not have permission to be there.**

Heavy penalties apply to persons who enter or remain in a Customs Controlled Area without authority, fail to identify themselves on request or who are found in possession of prohibited items.

Does Customs own these areas?

No, but Customs works with the owners and operators of these areas, such as PNG Ports Corporation and the Civil Aviation

Authority, to ensure access is strictly controlled.

The owner or operator of a facility which is also a Customs Controlled Area is accountable to Customs and can be prosecuted if they wilfully allow unauthorised access.

Each Customs Controlled Area is identified by the presence of signs written in both English and Tok Pisin.

What is the purpose?

Customs Controlled Areas are designed to ensure the security of all goods, people and conveyances arriving into, or departing from Papua New Guinea; to protect the revenue and to ensure compliance with all Customs and Customs related laws.

This information is provided as a guide only.

For more information please contact your nearest Customs office or write to The Commissioner of Customs, PO Box 777, Port Moresby, NCD or visit our website at

www.customs.gov.pg

Legislative References:

Customs Act: Sections 16A to 16D