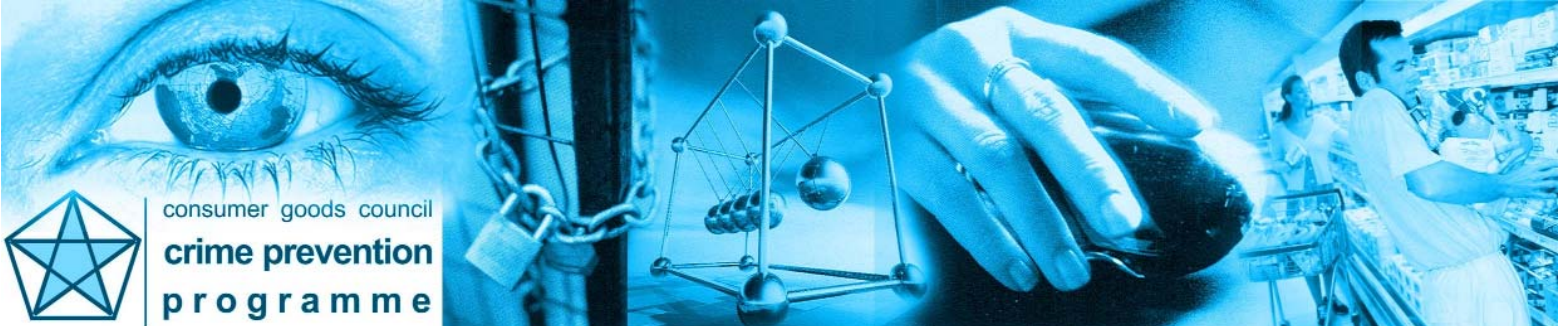




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Bulletin - March 2006

EDITORS NOTE

In the past four and a half years, the Crime Office has focused on growing its capacity, developing the staff and putting processes in place to serve its members in our battle against crime. Our membership has grown tremendously, from 100 companies in September 2003 to over 1700 today. This growth epitomises the Consumer Goods Industry's collective approach to rid South Africa of one of its most serious inhibitors of growth.

Last March we featured an article on the Customs Enforcement Caucus – in which representatives from our Crime Prevention have played an important part since 2001. In each of the coming months we will feature one of the many anti-crime initiatives we participate in with other industries.

TIP & TACTIC FOR THE MONTH

Robbers in cash in transit outfits have been arriving at stores and telling the staff they are the new cash in transit company to collect the money from the safes. Please advise your staff not to allow any "new" suppliers into the store unless informed beforehand by management.



THE SHRINKAGE SEMINAR
 20 - 22 February 2006

The ECR approach to shrinkage reduction delivered significant benefits to retailers and their suppliers. The seminar brought together research from ECR with case studies that show how these benefits can be achieved. This meant that people who attended the seminar learnt how to tailor solutions to their own organization and deliver significant business results. Two esteemed academics from the UK presented at the seminar, Adrian Beck and Paul Chapman. Due to the enormous success of this seminar, we plan to have follow up seminars towards the end of 2006.



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Bulletin - March 2006

OPERATION FESTIVE SEASON : A POLICE INITIATIVE INVOLVING RETAIL INDUSTRY

Operation Festive Season was a Police operation focused on the prevention of serious crime for the duration of the festive season, an operation which terminated on 16 January 2006. The successes achieved with higher visibility and quicker response to reported incidents of crime incited the necessity to continue the operation throughout the year.

This initiative was the topic of discussions at a two day work session on 27 and 28 February, hosted by the South African Police Service (SAPS) and role players in the retail industry: represented by the CGCSA, the banking industry, represented by SABRIC, the petroleum industry, represented by SAPIA, as well as the CIT and gaming industries.

The work session concluded with *inter alia* the following objectives:-

- ★ A **Joint Operational Centre (JOC)** to be established - situated at the SAPS National Head Office in Pretoria. This National JOC (NJOC) will act as a nodal point, where information relating to serious and violent crimes with the emphasis on armed robberies be collated and distributed to the appropriate units to respond. The different role players will be invited to weekly feedback meetings where the incidence of these crimes will be discussed and information shared.

- ★ A comprehensive **Crime Prevention Strategy** to be developed to deal with the displacement of crime between the different industries and geographical areas.

- ★ **A Rough Gallery** to be compiled, consisting of suspects captured on CCTV cameras during commission of crimes (in retail stores, banks etc.)

- ★ A project to be launched in cooperation with the Dept of Justice to make **specialised prosecutors** available to prosecute in violent crime cases, and

- ★ A comprehensive **Communication Strategy** to be developed to deal with feedback issues and the publishing of material in the mass media.

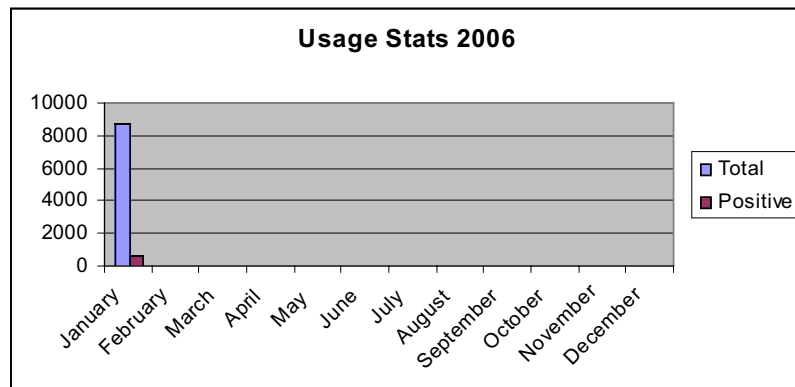
The NJOC will be the top echelon of similar structures of meetings in the provinces. The SAPS is currently considering flattening its command structure into operational sectors that will empower commanders to deal with crime at local level more effectively. This initiative is not completed yet and will influence the way in which the meetings will be conducted in the provinces. The CGCSA CPP will nevertheless be represented in discussions to ensure that the retail industries interests are taken care off.

EMPLOYERS REFERENCE SITE

Over the year 2005, a total of 1089 companies used the ERS system. That is 63% of the companies registered with us. From the 1711 companies registered with us, including new members from this year ONLY 570 companies sent through their terminations last year. That is only 33% of the companies participating in the programme.

The Employers Reference Site team has a goal of which we are wanting to get at least 60% of the companies to participate in sending through their terminations by the end of the year.

The usage stats For January 2006 are as follows. The total number of reference checks that were done was **8708**, and **719** of the results returned employment history.





consumer goods council
**crime prevention
programme**

Bulletin - March 2006

Even though only 32% of companies have sent in their terminations, the database has grown from 123 708 names (in January 2005) to 163 823 in January 2006. More than 10% of the details have got more than 2 companies under their records for employment history.

ACCESS CARDS

The new access card system is on the go and is starting to settle into place. Due to the delay, there has been yet another extension on the Lime Current access cards. All stores have been notified that the expiry date is now the 30 June 2006.

The new cards are going to be PVC cards.

If you have not yet been notified of the new system and current procedures it would be due to either incorrect contact details being supplied to the CGC CPP or your 2005/2006 annual subs are still outstanding. As soon as

the outstanding account has been paid up, the new access card system shall be forwarded to you.

At present there are ongoing discussions between the stores and the ASMC as well as CGC Crime Prevention Programme. Once this has been completed and the final procedures been put into place, a final update email will be sent to all paid up members.

For now, all stores should be accepting the Lime Green access cards.

THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS

The implementation of customs controls in the South African trading environment are proving very difficult at present. There has been a serious increase in 'across border' fraud, to a level that can only be described as a "smuggling onslaught" and serious problems have arisen in many South African industries; some examples are clothing, textiles and consumer electronics. In particular, 'under invoicing', or the so called "valuations problem" is causing a great deal of damage to legitimate business in South Africa.

It is difficult to over-emphasise the seriousness of the current difficulty; trade abuses appear to be increasingly used for political purposes, drugs smuggling and circumvention of money laundering legislation, making resolution even more difficult than just dealing with the greedy and dishonest individual traders, or criminal syndicates.

The Customs Enforcement Caucus was formed in May 1995 and since inception has been a very focused multi-industry association; the Caucus is focused upon "across border trade abuses"; in fact a wide cross section of different types of fraudulent duty and tax evasion. In 2005 the Caucus had a membership of 18 South African industries.

The Caucus' primary activity is the transfer of specific industry information, that is not generally available, to the law enforcement authorities, mostly to the Customs Administration sections of SARS. It does this by four main methods:

- ★ Structured industry / SARS / law enforcement meetings and workshops;
- ★ Training programmes developed by the Caucus together with SARS and industry
- ★ Analysis and research of industry information
- ★ Confidential information data bases accessed by law enforcement officers

Because the Caucus deals with a large number of South African industries it has acquired much knowledge and experience in this area, and offers strategic advice to industry on how to approach solutions to their trade abuse issues.

Further information can be obtained by contacting *Richard Ferrer* or *WAL Gamble* of the Customs Enforcement Caucus, on these contact details:

WAL Gamble
wal@sacx.co.za
(011) 445 2020

Richard Ferrer
richard@sacx.co.za
082 880 7612



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