



QUARANTINE & CUSTOMS INFORMATION

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and the Australian Customs Service (ACS) play very important roles in keeping out unwanted pests, diseases and illegal goods.

To get the most out of your participation in the conference, you need to know what can't be brought into Australia before you arrive.

Quarantine

AQIS manages quarantine controls at our borders to minimise the risk of exotic pests and diseases entering the country. Certain pests and diseases could devastate Australia's native wildlife, environment, tourism and agricultural industries. To prevent that from occurring, Australia has strict controls on items that can be brought into Australia.

If you don't comply with Australia's quarantine laws you may have committed an offence. That is why it's important to declare all food, plant material, animal products and any items used in freshwater streams or lakes on your Incoming Passenger Card. If you don't declare these quarantine risk items, you could receive an on-the-spot fine of up to AUD\$220. For more serious breaches of Australian Quarantine laws, you could be prosecuted and face a fine of more than AUD\$60 000 or 10 years imprisonment which may result in a criminal record.

Before you arrive, find out what you can't bring into Australia

For information on items that can't be brought into Australia, visit the AQIS website – www.aqis.gov.au/travel/entering-australia/cant-take.

Some items are not allowed into Australia unless you have import permit. For more information on how you can import quarantine material, visit www.aqis.gov.au/import.

Examples of items that may carry pests or diseases include:

- drums, other musical instruments and costumes made from materials such as rawhide, feathers, fur, skins, seeds, nuts, wood, bark or other plant material
- recreational freshwater equipment such as watercraft, wetsuits and fishing gear, as they can pose a significant risk of the freshwater alga, Didymo, and
- soiled sporting gear and footwear, including bicycles and golf equipment.



To help you experience a hassle free arrival, you need to do the following things before you leave for Australia:

- Consider sourcing these articles in Australia and/or shipping them to Australia well before the event.
- If that's not possible, notify AQIS as soon as possible of what you plan to bring into Australia. You will be informed if any of these articles are prohibited, require an import permit or must be treated.
- If an import permit is required, allow several weeks for the assessment of your application (fees apply). If a permit is granted, you must then comply with any conditions imposed.
- If your articles need to be treated on arrival in Australia, allow several weeks (fees may apply).
- If you have had items treated overseas you need to ensure you carry the necessary documentation and verification for review.

We recommend you contact AQIS with your enquiry to ensure your items are allowed into Australia and that you have the necessary clearance or import permit required. You can contact AQIS via email on icon@aqis.gov.au or telephone 61 3 8318 8211.

When to tick 'yes' on your Incoming Passenger Card

You will be given an Incoming Passenger Card (IPC) before you land in Australia. This is a legal document. You must tick YES to declare if you are carrying any food, plant material, animal products and any items used in freshwater streams or lakes. If you have items you don't wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins at the airport terminal. In signing the IPC, you are making a legal declaration and failure to answer all questions truthfully can have serious consequences.

On arrival your baggage may be X-rayed, inspected by AQIS officers or checked by a detector dog team.

What happens to items that I declare?

In many cases items you declare will be returned to you after inspection. However, anything that presents a disease risk or is found to contain insects or larvae will be withheld. Depending on the quarantine risk, you can:

- pay for the item to be treated to make it safe (for example fumigation, irradiation)*
- store the item at the airport for collection when you leave Australia*
- re-export the item*, or
- have the item destroyed by AQIS.

Treatment may damage goods. AQIS makes every effort to minimise the risk of damage but does not accept liability for damage that may occur as a result of treatment.

**These options are subject to fees and special conditions may apply.*

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CUSTOMS

To find out more about how to enter and depart Australia, visit www.customs.gov.au and simply choose the *Guide for Travellers* menu.

BRINGING GOODS INTO AUSTRALIA ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS

If you are bringing goods into Australia on a commercial basis, we recommend you undertake the process above and contact a customs broker or seek advice on an individual basis. Duty and goods services tax (GST) will apply however your customs broker will explain how to claim reimbursements of the payments. Community or non profit organisations may be exempt from these costs however we suggest you verify this with your customs broker.

For commercial items imported with you for possible sale, GST and possibly duty is payable. You should carry and present invoices indicating the value of the goods being imported.

If the total value of the commercial goods is less than \$1000, GST and Duty can be assessed on arrival and paid to Customs immediately in using Australian Dollars, EFTPOS or credit card. If the total value of the goods exceeds \$1000 a formal Customs Import Entry is required and should be obtained (possibly utilising the expertise of a Customs Broker) prior to arrival. If these goods do not have a Customs Import Entry on arrival they will be held by Customs pending provision of this Import Entry and released when all monies owed are paid.

For further assistance you may wish to contact the Australian Consulate in your country or visit www.customs.gov.au.