



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS - UNACCOMPANIED PERSONAL EFFECTS

The Australian Customs Service is responsible for the clearance of all unaccompanied effects from overseas. Travellers who will have unaccompanied effects should take careful note of the information contained in this brochure.

Returning Australian residents are not exempt from the requirements outlined in this brochure.

This information **does not apply to commercial consignments**, nor does it relate to motor vehicles. Two separate brochures titled "**Customs Information for Importers**" and "**Importing a Motor Vehicle or Motor Cycle**" provide detailed advice for importations of this kind.

Clearance

Unaccompanied effects can be cleared by the owner. Alternatively, the owner can appoint a nominee or a customs broker. A list of brokers, who usually charge a fee for their services, appears in the yellow pages of the telephone directory.

It is important to contact your shipping company, airline or freight forwarder before attempting to gain Customs clearance. These companies will advise you of their requirements, their operating hours and the location of the goods.

If you do not enlist the services of a broker, you should contact your nearest Customs office, depending on the location of the goods, to arrange clearance. Australian Customs Service capital city offices are listed in this brochure. For your nearest office, you should consult your local telephone directory.

Procedure

To help Customs clear your goods you will have to:

- (1) complete an **Unaccompanied Effects Statement** (B534)
- (2) produce your **passport**, and
- (3) provide a **detailed packing list**.

Customs may examine your goods, and it will assist them to clear your consignment if you are able to provide invoices/purchase receipts relating to any new item you may have declared. If you have any questions about the Unaccompanied Effects Statement ask a Customs officer or your customs broker. The statements are available from all Customs offices and brokers, and are printed in a number of foreign languages.

Concessions

If you are a migrant coming to Australia to take up permanent residence for the first time, or a person returning to resume permanent residence, you may enter duty/GST free any unaccompanied effects - other than controlled items - which you have **owned and used** overseas for 12 months (or more) before your departure for Australia.

Duty free concessions, which apply to alcohol, tobacco and other articles which **accompany** you through Customs when you arrive in Australia, **do not** apply to unaccompanied effects.

Where customs duty and GST are payable on articles not owned and used for 12 months or more, liability does not lapse where goods have been acquired as gifts.

Customs may inspect unaccompanied effects consignments to ensure that concessional provisions are not misused.

Please Note

The information in this brochure is only a guide. If you need any more information, or if you are not certain how the requirements apply to you, contact the Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263 or at information@customs.gov.au
Or look at the Customs website at www.customs.gov.au

Duty free concessions do not apply to goods arriving in Australia as unaccompanied effects.

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE – UNACCOMPANIED PERSONAL EFFECTS

	<p>PROHIBITED PRODUCTS</p> <p>Prohibited unless accompanied by a valid Import Permit. Contact Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for advice about importing these products</p>
	<p>MUST BE TREATED</p> <p>In some cases there may be a treatment cost</p>
	<p>INSPECTION REQUIRED</p> <p>Will be inspected and treated if necessary. Some items in this class may be prohibited</p>

FOOD

BEANS, PEAS, CEREAL SEEDS includes handicrafts and souvenirs that contain or are made from these seeds	
BISCUITS, CAKES, CONFECTIONERY includes chocolate, sweets, crisps, roasted nuts, pretzels	
EGGS includes whole, dried, powdered and uncooked egg products	
FRUIT and VEGETABLES - FRESH (cooked, dried, frozen, canned or bottled are allowed)	
FRUIT and VEGETABLES - DRIED includes mushrooms, citrus peel or dried banana	
HONEY includes royal jelly and propolis	
BEE PRODUCTS includes honey comb and beeswax	
MEAT- UNCANNED and ALL PORK PRODUCTS includes fresh, dried, frozen, smoked or salted	
MILK and MILK PRODUCTS includes all products that contain milk ingredients (NZ dairy products and up to 1kg of baby formula per infant are allowed)	
OTHER FOODS includes herbs and spices, breakfast cereals, Vegemite, flour, roasted coffee beans, jam, nutritional/dietary supplements	
POPPING CORN, RAW UNROASTED NUTS includes raw peanuts, chestnuts (NZ chestnuts are allowed)	
SALMON AND TROUT PRODUCTS ask about special import conditions	
TEAS, COFFEE, KAVA, JUICE and OTHER DRINKS containing milk and/or eggs are prohibited	

ANIMAL MATERIAL

ANIMALS - LIVE includes birds, birds' eggs, fish, reptiles and insects	
ANIMALS - STUFFED (some may be prohibited by environmental laws) must be prepared by a taxidermist and have a certificate	
BONES, HORNS, FEATHERS, SEASHELLS must be clean and free of blood, skin, faeces or soil	
RAWHIDE includes rawhide drums, shields, other artifacts	
SKINS, HIDES must be professionally tanned or cured (some may be prohibited by environment laws)	
WOOL, ANIMAL HAIR wool must be scoured and hair cleaned	

PLANT MATERIAL

FLOWERS - FRESH and LEIS (flowers that may be propagated - for example, roses, carnations and chrysanthemums - are prohibited)	
FLOWERS - DRIED arrangements containing grape vine, pine cones, cereal/grain seeds, straw will be treated	
HANDICRAFTS and CURIOS includes carvings, items woven from palm fronds or leaves (banana leaf items are prohibited)	
PINE CONES includes wreaths, decorations and dried arrangements	
PLANTS - LIVE includes cuttings, roots, bulbs, corms, rhizomes and stems	
POTPOURRI	
SEEDS small commercial packets, seed ornaments, necklaces (beans, corn and lettuce are prohibited)	
STRAW OBJECTS includes corn dollies, wreaths and cereal grain decorations	
WOODWARE, BAMBOO includes coconut carvings, cane baskets	

OTHER MATERIAL

ANIMAL EQUIPMENT - USED includes saddles, bridles, bird cages, grooming and veterinary equipment	
BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS includes human & animal vaccines, veterinary therapeutics	
HERBAL MEDICINES/REMEDIES (some may require a Permit)	
HOLY WATER	
PACKING MATERIAL/STUFFING includes fruit cartons, straw, raw cotton and raw wool (most other packing material is allowed)	
SOIL, SAND includes items filled with soil or sand	
THERAPEUTIC MEDICINES (some may require a Permit)	
VITAMIN/MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS, NUTRITIONAL/DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS (some may require a Permit)	

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE ISSUES – SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER

(READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENCLOSED AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE CHECK LIST AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY)

When completing the Australian Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement please take note of the following points:

1. If you are packing your own effects please ensure that a list is made of the contents of each box/case etc. Do not pack any goods in fruit / produce cartons.
2. Any item of furniture made of wood will be inspected and any evidence of borer will result in a fumigation treatment. The cost of this is to the Importers account.
3. Any cartons packed and labeled 'ornaments' will be inspected to ascertain whether they are made of wood. If you are packing china/glass/brass etc. ornaments label them as such. If you have wooden ornaments pack them separately and label them.
4. Any items packed and shipped with bark on them will result in a heat treatment (\$85.00 min). This applies to pine cones most commonly found in Christmas decorations (even those tiny ones).
5. Shipping artificial flowers with moss on them will result in quarantine treatment.
6. Wheat bags will attract a heat treatment or be destroyed by Quarantine personnel at a cost of \$65.00 minimum.
7. Garden tools, lawn mowers, golf clubs, golf shoes, gumboots and anything with soil on it must be cleaned thoroughly, and with the exception of footwear, sprayed with CRC. In some instances Quarantine may order that they be re-cleaned.
8. Ivory chess sets etc. will be confiscated by Australian Customs due to the fact that trade in Ivory is illegal. If you wish to export such items we advise that you contact Australian Customs to clarify what paperwork is required to prove legal ownership. Any mats, furniture or items e.g. saddles and horse equipment found with animal hair on it will be ordered to undergo Gamma Irradiation. This is a very expensive procedure with a minimum cost of \$200.00.
9. **We stress that the above is a summation of some Quarantine issues and is not comprehensive by any means. We urge you to also check through the enclosed Australian Quarantine List.**

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Please Note: Quarantine Requirements for Australia are VERY strict and No exceptions will be made. It is important to make sure that the goods you intend to bring into Australia comply with Australian Quarantine Laws. Below are some of the more common items to check.

- Outdoor furniture must be clean and free of soil residue, grass and any insects.
- Lawn mowers must be clean and free of soil and grass clippings.
- Vacuum cleaner bags must be removed and any dust must be cleaned prior to shipping.
- All shoes must be fully cleaned (especially in the grooves on the bottom of the shoes) and must be free of sand and grass residue.
- Golf clubs, bicycles, garden tools and any outdoor equipment must be clean and free of soil, sand and grass residue.
- Natural plant materials are not allowed in to the country. Therefore, even Christmas decorations that contain pine cones will be ordered for treatment by the Australian Quarantine service in order to clear these goods for delivery.
- Dairy and Meat products are strictly not permitted to be imported into Australia.
- Bottled and sealed food items with brand labels may be allowed, but the final decision will be at the discretion of the Inspecting Quarantine Officer.

****PLEASE NOTE - Quarantine restrictions are not limited to the above items. The attached AQIS check sheet provides further information. If in doubt, please check with Australian Quarantine for further information at www.aqis.gov.au ****