

TIPS FOR SENDING INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO AUSTRALIA

- Mail sent to Australia should not include prohibited food, plant material or animal products.
- The declaration label must be filled out clearly and correctly – include ALL contents and packaging on the declaration.
- Do not pack items in egg cartons, wooden boxes, or cardboard boxes that have been used to hold fruit, vegetables and meat/smallgoods. This packaging is a quarantine risk and is prohibited.
- Do not use straw and dried plant material as these are prohibited. Use newspaper or foam to wrap fragile goods.
- Thoroughly clean all footwear, sporting and camping equipment to remove any traces of soil and seeds.
- Inform friends and relatives overseas of Australia's quarantine laws and ask them not to send prohibited food, plant material and animal products.
- Many items which are removed from international mail are commercially available in Australia. They have been imported under strict quarantine import conditions.
- Breaches of quarantine laws can lead to fines of up to \$60,000 and 10 years imprisonment.

MORE INFORMATION

www.aqis.gov.au
email: international.mail@aqis.gov.au
1800 020 504 (free call within Australia)

AQIS International Mail Centres

New South Wales

AQIS International Mail Program
PO Box 657 Mascot NSW 1460
Sydney Parcel Centre
Ph: 02 9897 2108 Fax: 02 9897 7728
Mail Handling Unit, Sydney Airport
Ph: 02 8338 0081 Fax: 02 8338 1349

Queensland

AQIS International Mail Program
Brisbane Airport Logistic Centre
25-27 Qantas Drive Brisbane Airport QLD 4007
Ph: 07 3860 5494 Fax: 07 3860 4704

Victoria

AQIS International Mail Program
PO Box 1491 Tullamarine VIC 3043
Ph: 03 9310 3155 Fax: 03 9920 1718

Western Australia

AQIS International Mail Program
Attn: Perth International Mail Centre
PO Box 1410 Canningvale WA 6970
Ph: 08 9311 5333 Fax: 08 9277 6889

South Australia

AQIS International Mail Program
PO Box 63 Port Adelaide SA 5015
Ph: 08 8410 6590 Fax: 08 8410 6590

Northern Territory

AQIS International Mail Program
DPIF AQIS Operations
PO Box 1970 Berrimah NT 0828
Ph: 08 8981 9000 Fax: 08 8981 6555

Australian Capital Territory

AQIS International Mail Program
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601
Ph: 02 6272 3933 Fax: 02 6272 3468

Quarantine Matters!

What can't be mailed to Australia?



Save Australia from a pack of trouble

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE

Australia's remoteness created an environment unlike any other on Earth. Quarantine helps protect it. Food, plant material and animal products from overseas could introduce some of the world's most serious pests and diseases into Australia, devastating our valuable agriculture and tourism industries and unique environment.

QUARANTINE AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) checks goods arriving at international mail centres, airports and seaports. AQIS screens all of the 180 million items of international mail sent to Australia each year. Quarantine officers, x-ray machines and detector dogs screen mail to find items of quarantine risk. AQIS intercepts approximately 60,000 high risk items in international mail each year.



This brochure is available in other languages from AQIS
Information in this guide is correct at time of printing
Quarantine conditions may change without notice

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Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



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AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE
AND INSPECTION SERVICE



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WHAT HAPPENS TO QUARANTINE ITEMS?

When items are withheld for quarantine reasons the person receiving the item is given a range of options depending on the quarantine risk:

- treating the item to make it safe (for example fumigation, irradiation);
- holding the item until an import permit can be presented;
- re-exporting the item or returning it to the sender; or
- destroying the item.

These services and treatments (except for destroying the item) are subject to fees which are payable by the person who receives the package.

In some instances, 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 a treatment.

AQIS will hold items for 30 days. If AQIS is not contacted within this time the goods will be destroyed.

INTERNET AND MAIL ORDER PURCHASES

Quarantine laws also apply to goods ordered on the internet or through mail order, such as:

- flower, tree and vegetable seeds and bulbs;
- food products;
- therapeutics and other medicinal products for both humans and animals; and
- tea with fruit pieces.

Before placing your internet or mail order, remember to check Australia's quarantine import conditions at www.aqis.gov.au/icon

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL AND SEASONAL EVENTS AND QUARANTINE

It is common for international mail to contain items for celebration of cultural or seasonal events. Unfortunately many of these items must be withheld for quarantine reasons.

EVENT	QUARANTINE ITEMS
New year	ornaments made with rice straw, rice seed and conifer sprigs
Valentine's Day	fresh flowers
St Patrick's Day	shamrock plants and seeds
Easter	hard boiled eggs, painted egg shells and straw or hay
Chinese moon festival	mooncakes containing egg yolks or meat
Spring (northern hemisphere)	flower and vegetable seeds and bulbs
Sukkot	etrog (citrus fruit), palm branch, myrtle, willow branches
Halloween	pumpkins, corn husk dolls
Thanksgiving	fresh pumpkins and cranberries
Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decorations containing pine cones, vine wreaths, spruce/conifer cuttings, straw ornaments and raw nuts • hampers containing prohibited foods (including meat and dairy products)

Please think of other items to mail to Australia to celebrate these and other cultural and seasonal events. Tell your friends and relatives overseas of Australia's quarantine laws and ask them not to send prohibited food, plant material and animal products.

Items that will be removed from international mail



Meat and meat products



Dairy and egg products



Fruit and vegetables



Handicrafts



Plants, seeds and soil



Dried plant material

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

- All uncanned meat - fresh, dried, frozen, cooked, smoked, salted or preserved meat, including salami and sausages
- Packaged meals (including noodles) containing meat
- Mooncakes containing meat
- Remedies and medicines containing animal material
- Pet food including canned and dried food and supplements

DAIRY, EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS

- Cheese, milk, butter and other dairy products*
- Packaged meals and other foods containing more than 10% dairy or egg (whole, dried and powdered, for example cake mix, salad dressing)
- Mayonnaise or mooncakes containing egg

HANDICRAFTS

- Souvenirs, artefacts and goods made of unprocessed animal products such as rawhide, feathers, teeth and bones
- Dried flower arrangements and pot pourri
- Handicrafts made from or containing seed, pine cones, bark, moss and straw

This is not a complete list of prohibited or restricted items. Any items found to contain insects or larvae will be withheld and must be treated. *Some special conditions apply - please check with AQIS.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- All fresh fruit and vegetables
- Dried fruit and vegetables containing seeds or fruit skin

PLANTS, SEEDS AND SOIL

- Plant material including plants, cuttings, roots and bulbs
- Seeds including commercially packaged seeds*
- Soil including small souvenir or sentimental samples
- Footwear and equipment contaminated with soil, manure or plant material
- Gifts and toys filled with seeds, sand, soil or straw

DRIED PLANT MATERIAL

- Tea containing items such as seeds or fruit skin (for example citrus and apple peel)
- Remedies and medicines containing herbs, seeds, bark, fungi and dried plant material
- Popping corn and raw nuts

LABORATORY MATERIAL

- Medical and animal samples
- Diagnostic kits and micro-organisms*