

# Australia Country Guide - IAM

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## Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

### Documents Required

- Copy of passport (photo and signature page)
- Completed Australian Customs form B534
- Copy of visa or e-visa approval (non-citizens)
- Detailed inventory / packing list (in English)
- Alcohol inventory, if applicable
- Original bill of lading if no telex release / waybill issued (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)

### Specific Information

- The OBL must be received 7 days prior to arrival at first entry port into Australia.
- The AWB must be received 48 hours prior to arrival at first entry airport into Australia.
- Sea freight clearance times vary from 12-15 working days depending on mode of sea freight and the destination location.
- Airfreight clearance takes approximately 5-7 working days depending on documentation received and destination location.
- An inventory of alcohol is required for Australian Customs to assess the duty and taxes payable, which are generally 50% of the alcohol's purchase value for wine and 150% for spirits.
- The signature on the Australian Customs form B534 must match the passport page.

## Motor Vehicles

## Documents Required

- Vehicle import approval (VIA)
- Import declaration (prepared by Customs broker)
- Registration papers from country of origin
- Proof of ownership and purchase receipt

## Specific Information

- A VIA must be obtained prior to the importation of motor vehicles.
  - VIA will take 3-6 weeks to approve.
  - Application for VIA may be found at:[https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how\\_to\\_apply.aspx](https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how_to_apply.aspx)
- The restrictions for documents and Customs regulations must be met for the importation for privately owned motor vehicles.
- Customs clearance is required at the port of entry.
- Customs duties and goods and services taxes (GST) must be paid at the time of vehicle import with the exception of returning Australian vehicles when GST only applies.
  - GST only is payable on motorcycle imports
- Contact the Australian Taxation Office to determine if and when luxury car taxes (LCT) must be paid.
  - <https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Luxury-car-tax/>

## Pets

### Documents Required

- Import application
- Import permit

### Specific Information

- All animals imported to Australia must meet the requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and will be quarantined upon arrival.
- Import permits take approximately 10 business days from the date receipt by Department of Agriculture to be approved; however, incomplete or incorrect applications may take longer.
- Owners of the goods must select a quarantine station for the animal prior to import.
- Animals may be visited by only the person identified as the importer during the quarantine period

**Note: It is critical to contact Department of Agriculture and Water Resources prior to the import of pets as**

***requirements and restrictions are dependent upon the country of origin and vary dramatically per type of animal.***

## **Restricted/Dutiable Items**

- Alcohol:
  - Customs duties plus goods and services tax (GST) will apply to alcohol imported into Australia.
  - Duty is calculated on the type of alcohol, the volume contained per bottle, the alcohol % per bottle and the value per bottle.
  - Ten percent (10%) GST is then added to the duty calculated.
- Anabolic and androgenic substances (those that enhance muscle and bone growth and may include health supplements)
- Antibiotics
- ANZAC and any related advertising material
- Items bearing an image of the Australian national flag and coat of arms
- Items bearing an image of the Australian state or territory flags and coat of arms
- Asbestos
- Cat and dog fur products
- Glazed ceramic ware (specific to lead content)
- Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises)
- Chemical weapons
- Chewing tobacco and snuff in quantities greater than 1.5 kg
- Cigarette lighters (up to five lighters acceptable if over 18 years or older on a ship or aircraft)
- Cosmetics and toxic materials (cannot contain more than 250 mg/kg of lead but may contain more than 250 mg/kg of lead acetate designed for use in hair products)
- Counterfeit credit cards
- Crowd control equipment (antipersonnel sprays, body armor, extendable batons, electric shock devices, etc.)
- Cultural heritage goods from Papua New Guinea (permission from the Trustees of the Papua New Guinea Public Museum and Art Gallery is required)
- Diamonds (only rough diamonds in tamper proof container from a country participating in the Kimberley Process may be imported and require a Kimberley Process Certificate)
- Dog collars designed to puncture or bruise an animal's skin
- Passengers arriving on board a ship or aircraft do not need a permit for the import of drugs and narcotics required for personal use if:
  - The drugs and narcotics are prescribed by a medical practitioner or veterinarian, and quantity does not exceed a 3 month's supply at the maximum prescribed dosage,
  - The drugs / narcotics are carried as accompanied baggage;
  - Prescription must be in English or translated to English.

- Kava may be imported in root or dried form in amounts not to exceed 2 kg and is carried as accompanied baggage by a passenger 18 years or older.
- Firearms and accessories, parts, magazine, ammunition, components of ammunition, and replica
- The following items are embargoed goods and are restricted and require permission to import. Contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for additional information:
  - Eritrea – weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts
  - Iran – weapons, ammunition, military vehicle and equipment and spare parts
  - North Korea – weapons ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts
  - Libya – weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts
- Endangered animal and plant listed in the appendices to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
  - A search tool for CITES endangered species is available at <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en>
- Novelty erasers (resembling food in scent or appearance)
- Plastic explosives formulated as a mixture, malleable or flexible at room temperature or with:
  - One or more high explosives which in pure form have a vapor pressure less than 10.4 PA at a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius
  - A binder material
  - Fish and tooth fish
  - Electronic flyswatters and mosquito bats
  - Growth hormones and substances of human or animal origin
  - Hazardous wastes (explosive flammable, poisonous, toxic, exotoxic or infectious, clinical wastes, waste oils, waste residue from manufacture or household waste as defined by the Basel Convention)
  - Hydrofluorocarbons
  - Incandescent lamps
  - Knives and daggers
  - Laser pointers
  - Novelty money boxes coated with material containing more than 90 mg/kg of lead
  - Ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases
  - Pencils and paintbrushes with a coating that contains excess amounts of toxic compounds such as lead, arsenic and barium
  - Pesticides and other hazardous chemicals
  - Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Terphenyls and Polyphenyls
  - Pornography and other objectionable materials
  - Radioactive substances
  - Therapeutic drugs and substances (abortifacients, aphrodisiacs, etc.)
  - Unmanufactured tobacco (not stemmed or stripped or in whole form)
  - Toys containing excess amounts of toxic compounds such as lead, arsenic and barium

- Woolpacks
- Weapons (military goods and other weapons including blow pipes, crossbows, martial arts equipment, knuckle dusters, slingshots, maces and flails)
- Trade Practices Act goods

## **Prohibited Items**

- Rough diamonds
- Dogs (dangerous breeds including Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terrier or Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario and advertisements referencing these breeds)
- Embryo clones and viable materials, and any related advertising matter advertising these items
- Suicide devices

## **Consignment Instructions**

**Recommended:** Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

### **Helpful Website(s):**

<http://www.agric.wa.gov.au>

<https://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Impo/Send>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/australia.html>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food>

## **Cultural and Other Information**

[CIA World Factbook Entry for Australia](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for Australia](#)