

Quarantine Matters!

What can't be mailed to Australia?



**Save Australia
from a pack of trouble**



Australian Government
Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE

Quarantine helps protect Australia. 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. Quarantine officers, x-ray machines and detector dogs screen all of the 150 million items of international mail sent to Australia each year, intercepting around 80,000 high-risk items.



What will AQIS **remove** from international mail?

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

- all uncanned meat — including fresh, dried, frozen, cooked, smoked, salted or preserved meat
- 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 per cent dairy or egg (whole, dried and powdered, such as cake mix, salad dressing, mayonnaise)
- mooncakes containing egg



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- fresh fruit and vegetables
- dried fruit and vegetables containing seeds or fruit peel



PLANTS AND SOIL

- all plant material including bulbs, whole plants, cuttings, roots, flowers and stems
- soil, including small souvenir or sentimental samples
- footwear, sporting and camping equipment contaminated with soil, manure or plant material
- gifts, ornaments and toys filled with sand or soil



SEEDS AND NUTS

- seeds including vegetable and flower seeds, unidentified seeds, birdseed and some commercially-packaged seeds*
- gifts, ornaments and toys filled with seeds
- pine cones
- raw nuts
- grains and legumes including lentils, popping corn and cereal grains
- raw/green coffee beans



PLANT MATERIAL

- tea containing seeds, fruit skin (for example citrus and apple peel) and fruit pieces
- remedies and medicines containing herbs, seeds, bark, fungi and dried plant material*
- dried flower arrangements and potpourri
- dried herbs or leaves
- handicrafts—including wreaths and Christmas decorations—containing seeds, raw nuts, corn, pine cones, grapevines, bark, moss, straw or other plant material
- wooden items with bark or signs of insects present



LIVE ANIMALS, ANIMAL PRODUCTS

- all mammals, birds, birds' eggs and nests, fish, snakes, turtles, lizards, scorpions, amphibians, crustaceans and insects
- souvenirs, artefacts and goods made of animal products such as raw hide, feathers, teeth and bones



LABORATORY MATERIAL

- medical and animal samples
- diagnostic kits and micro-organisms*

This is not a complete list of prohibited items. Some of these items can be treated and released (fees will apply). Any items containing insects or larvae will be removed and must be treated. *special conditions apply—check import conditions at www.aqis.gov.au/icon

WHAT HAPPENS TO QUARANTINE ITEMS?

If something that has been mailed to you is detained for quarantine reasons, you have a range of options. Depending on the quarantine risk, you can:

- pay for AQIS to treat the item (for example fumigation, irradiation)* to make it safe;
- apply for an import permit by going to www.aqis.gov.au/importapp*;
- get AQIS to return the item to the sender*; or
- get AQIS to destroy the item.

Treatment may damage goods: AQIS makes every effort to minimise the risk of damage, but does not accept liability for damage that may occur.

AQIS will hold items for 30 days. If you do not contact us in this time, the goods will be destroyed.

*subject to fees

WHY ARE SOME ITEMS REMOVED WHEN I CAN BUY THEM IN AUSTRALIA?

Some items that are removed from your mail may be commercially available in Australia. The items you buy in Australia have been manufactured, processed and imported under strict quarantine conditions. Similar items that are home-made, traditionally produced or purchased overseas could carry quarantine pest or disease risks and cannot be imported.

INTERNET AND MAIL ORDER PURCHASES

Quarantine laws apply to all goods sent by mail, including goods ordered on the internet or by mail order, such as:

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

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

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL AND SEASONAL EVENTS AND QUARANTINE

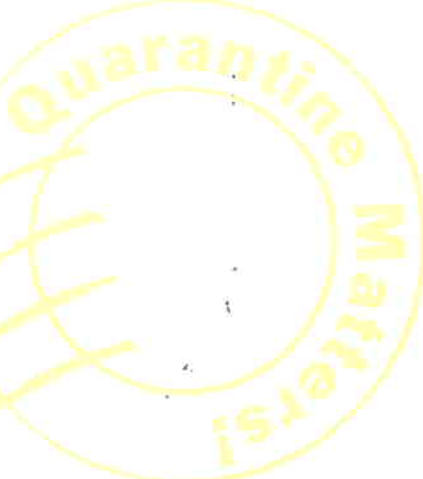
International mail commonly contains items for celebrating cultural or seasonal events. Unfortunately, many of these items must be detained for quarantine reasons.

EVENT	QUARANTINE ITEMS
New year	ornaments made with straw, seeds and conifer sprigs
Valentine's Day	fresh and dried flowers
St Patrick's Day	shamrock plants and seeds
Easter	hardboiled eggs, painted eggshells and straw or hay
Chinese moon festival	mooncakes containing egg yolks or meat
Spring (northern and southern hemisphere)	seeds and bulbs
Sukkot	etrog, branches of palm, myrtle or willow
Halloween	pumpkins, corn husk dolls
Christmas	decorations containing pine cones, vine wreaths, spruce; hampers containing prohibited foods including meat and dairy products

Please think about alternative gifts that could be mailed to Australia for cultural celebrations and seasonal events. Tell your friends and family overseas about Australia's quarantine laws — and ask them not to send prohibited food, plant or animal products.

TIPS FOR SENDING INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO AUSTRALIA

- Do not send prohibited food, plant material or animal products.
- To find out about product requirements and import conditions visit www.aqis.gov.au/icon
- Fill out the declaration label clearly and correctly. Make sure you itemise everything inside the package, including any packaging materials you've used.
- Do not pack items in egg cartons, wooden boxes, or cardboard boxes that have been used to hold fruit, vegetables or meat/smallgoods: this packaging is a quarantine risk and is prohibited.
- Do not pack with straw or dried plant material: this packaging is prohibited. Use newspaper or foam to wrap fragile goods.
- Thoroughly clean all footwear, sporting and camping equipment to remove any soil or seeds.
- Tell friends and family overseas about Australia's quarantine laws and ask them not to send prohibited food, plant material and animal products.
- You could be fined up to \$60,000 for breaching Australia's quarantine laws.



MORE INFORMATION

This brochure is available in other languages from AQIS.

www.aqis.gov.au

email: international.mail@aqis.gov.au

free call within Australia: 1800 020 504

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 Q 4007

Ph: 07 3246 8678 Fax: 07 3246 8681

Victoria

AQIS International Mail Program
PO Box 1491, Tullamarine VIC 3043

Ph: 03 8318 6992 Fax: 03 8318 6931

Western Australia

AQIS International Mail Program
PO Box 606, Welshpool WA 6006

Ph: 08 9277 6889 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
PO Box 37846, Winnellie NT 0821

Ph: 08 8920 7000 Fax: 08 8920 7066

Australian Capital Territory

AQIS International Mail Program
GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6272 3933 Fax: 02 6272 3468

For information about customs import requirements, visit www.customs.gov.au
For information about wildlife trade laws, visit www.deh.gov.au/travel

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If someone you know is breaking Australian quarantine, export or food inspection laws, AQIS wants to hear from you. Report breaches to the AQIS Redline 1800 803 006.

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