



Importing Personal Property into

AUSTRALIA

IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

DUTY-FREE ENTRY IS PERMITTED IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET:

- Unaccompanied baggage and used household goods that have been owned/used for at least 12 months prior to shipping.
- First time migrants are allowed a duty-free concession in the amount of A\$400.00 per each adult and A\$200.00 for each child under the age of 18 years old.

Notes:

- **Australian Customs Service requires the submission of a physical address for all importers of household goods prior to 24 hours of the arrival of the shipment. A PO Box or email address is not acceptable. Shipments lacking a physical address will be subject to heavy fines.**
- Customs inspections target electrical appliances, TVs, stereo equipment, etc. Customs officials may require the shipper to produce invoices or receipts for particular items. If a receipt is not produced, then customs will assess the item's value.
- Food items should not be included in the shipment. If inclusion of such items is required, then these items should be packed separately in one box and noted clearly on the inventory.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Shipper must provide a home delivery address (not a business or c/o address), contact work and home phone number.
- ✓ A completed, original (not a photocopy or faxed copy) Customs Form B534 "Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement."
- ✓ Copy of every page, including blank pages, of shipper's current passport upon arrival to Australia. The copy should include the Australian arrival stamp and/or the visa stamp. The first page of the copy should be signed and dated and endorsed with the following statement "I hereby declare this to be a true copy of my passport." This document may be faxed.
- ✓ Itemized list of articles/goods not in possession of shipper for at least 12 months.
- ✓ A certified Australian commercial invoice for computing duties/taxes by customs officials.
- ✓ Air Waybill or Bill of Lading
- ✓ Purchase receipts/invoices of items (for duty free items)

QUARANTINE; RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED ITEMS

QUARANTINE

Australia is very dependent upon the livestock and agriculture industries. Australia is fortunate in its freedom from many diseases of humans, animals and plants that affect other parts of the world. As a result, quarantine regulations are strict. If in any doubt, please check with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service or the Imported Food Inspection Service, prior to shipment.

Customs officials recommend fumigating or deep cleaning the following "high risk" items to avoid possible customs delays and charges:

- Car and boat interiors (including golf carts)
- Bicycles
- Camping equipment
- Lawn and garden tools, furniture
- Work tools
- Shoes
- Christmas Decorations
- Flowers (artificial or dried)
- Saddlery
- Candles
- Wood models
- Pet boxes and cages
- Soft toys (especially from South East Asia and the middle East)
- Drums
- Souvenirs (especially from Africa and Pacific Islands)
- Any wood or cane ware and blinds
- Vacuum cleaners (remove bag)

Note: Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service may not honor a Fumigation Certificate issued in the country of origin.

RESTRICTED ITEMS:

- Many food items, animal products, plant materials are restricted and require

inspection and may require treatment. For more detailed information, visit www.affa.gov.au.

- Intellectual property
- **All alcohol items must be accompanied by an alcohol inventory form**, listing type of alcohol, amount imported, alcohol % and size of each bottle. **These items WILL be assessed duty and Wine Equalization Tax of 29%.**

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Certain drugs and goods containing those drugs are prohibited. Some of the prohibited drugs include: DHEA, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, steroids and performance enhancing drugs.
- Weapons such as firearms, firearm parts, air pistols, air rifles, ammunition, replica firearms, spring-bladed knives, daggers, swordsticks, knuckle-dusters, and martial arts equipment.
- Offensive / pornographic materials, and materials which promote, incite or instruct in criminal or violent activities.
- Cordless Telephones are prohibited unless approved by the Spectrum Management Agency (SMA) and the Australian Telecommunication Authority (AUSTEL).
- Protected wildlife (animals) and related products are prohibited. This includes items made of reptiles/snakes, elephants, rhinoceros, game cats, whales, dolphins, zebras, antelope, deer, coral, etc.
- Fresh & tinned meat, salami, popping corn, egg and dairy products.
- Plants, soil, and seeds
- Protected cultural heritage items
- Birds

IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, DOGS AND CATS

IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

- **Before importing a vehicle (automobiles or motorcycles) into Australia, you must first obtain approval from the Department of Transport and Regional Services.** To obtain approval, you must complete an "Application for Vehicle Import Approval." Without this permit, a duty of \$12,000 may be applied to your vehicle by customs. For additional information:

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Vehicle Safety Standards

GPO Box 594

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: 61 2 6274 7444

Fax: 61 2 6274 6013

Email: Vimports@dotars.gov.au

Website: www.dotars.gov.au

To download an application to import a vehicle:

http://www.dotars.gov.au/land/Imports_Certif/imp-cert.htm.

- Contact the **Vehicle Safety Standards Branch** to determine if the vehicle can meet the safety and emission requirements. For detailed information, visit the following website: http://www.dotars.gov.au/transreq/vsb/vsb_10.htm.
- The following requirements must be met for a Personal Import status:
 - Shipper has had continuous possession of the vehicle for at least 12 consecutive months.
 - Shipper is or has applied to become an Australian citizen, or an Australian permanent resident
 - Shipper is eligible for a driver's license.
 - Road safety requirements will be met prior to registration.

- Shipper has not imported a vehicle within a year of current importation.

- All vehicles are subject to duty and tax.
- The vehicle must be steam cleaned, including the underside and the interior vacuumed to remove all dirt, prior to shipment. Quarantine authorities will inspect the vehicle upon arrival.
- Vehicles 15 years or older are exempt from Compliance Plate restrictions, but must meet State or Territory vehicle registration requirements and require an Import Permit.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Original Vehicle Import Approval
- ✓ "Vehicle Imported by a Passenger" form – fully completed
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Driver's License
- ✓ Purchase and Transaction Documents
- ✓ Bill of Sale with purchase price, purchase date and full name and address of seller.
- ✓ Registration and Insurance Papers
- ✓ Service Records and Log Books
- ✓ Letter of Compliance from an approved company.

IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS:

Australia is a rabies-free country and therefore has very stringent regulations governing the importation of animals. To meet all of the requirements, it requires advanced planning to make all the necessary arrangements. The following points are general guidelines. For detailed information contact the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS): <http://www.aqis.gov.au>, email: animalimp@aqis.gov.au, phone: +612 6272 4454, or fax: +612 6272 3110.

- A permit must be obtained **before** importation. Applications for permits can be obtained from AQIS.

IMPORTING DOGS AND CATS, AND FIREARMS

IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS (CONTINUED):

- Quarantine requirements are dependent upon the animal's country of origin. The dog/cat must have been in the **approved country** for at least 6 months and must **NOT** have been in a quarantine kennel in the country of origin within 30 days prior to export.
- Animals must be at least 6 month old.
- Certain breeds deemed "dangerous," such as Pit Bull Terriers, are prohibited importation.
- All pets must be microchipped
- Pets must have a Rabies Neutralizing Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) between 60 days to 12 months prior to exportation. The collection date should be at least 150 days before export to minimize the length of stay in quarantine. The test should occur at least 4 weeks after the rabies vaccination is administered.

Note: Birds and prohibited animals will be destroyed upon arrival.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ AQIS Import Permit
- ✓ Veterinary Certificate A & B, completed and endorsed by an official Veterinarian in the country of origin prior to shipment.

IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS:

The following steps should be taken prior to importation:

- Contact the Police Department in the state of your final destination regarding regulations and to obtain approval for importing the firearm.
- Obtain a **Firearm License** from the Australian Police authorities in the region of your final destination.

The firearm can be imported duty-free if:

- You have a Firearm License.
- The firearm passes ballistics inspection by the Commonwealth Police.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- ✓ Firearm License

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Australian Customs Service, www.customs.gov.au, May 2003.
- Department of Transport and Regional Services, www.dotars.gov.au, May 2003.
- Australian Van Lines, www.vanlines.com.au/customs.htm, 2003.
- Nuss Australia, January 2003.

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.