



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

If your project involves importing goods; or containers, vessels and aircraft entering Australian territory, you must obtain approvals in accordance with this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

An import permit is required to import goods, containers and vessels into Australia that pose a biosecurity risk.

All vessels are required to arrive at a First Point of Entry location unless an exemption is approved before arrival. Certain goods must be unloaded on these sites. More information for First Point of Entry locations are available on the agriculture.gov.au [website](#).

Goods entering Australian territory (12 nautical miles from the Australian coastline) are automatically subject to biosecurity controls. Vessels which are exposed to *any* other vessel, including installations, outside of Australian territory are subject to biosecurity control, unless exempted.

Vessels that operate in Australian waters have obligations to manage ballast water under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and other related delegated legislation. This may include carrying a ballast water management plan, a ballast water management certificate and the maintenance of ballast water records. More information can be found on the agriculture.gov.au [website](#).

2. Who provides approvals?

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department) regulates imported goods,

containers and vessels under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Act replaced the *Quarantine Act 1908* on 16 June 2016.

3. How do I get Commonwealth approval?

Guidelines and applications for import permits are available on the Department's online [BICON portal](#).

Standard applications are usually processed within 10-20 days. The Department has a maximum of six months to process complex applications.

Guidelines and applications for non-First Point of Entry arrivals are available on the agriculture.gov.au [website](#).

Obligations in relation to the management of ballast water are outlined on the agriculture.gov.au [website](#).

4. More information

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For more information, visit the agriculture.gov.au [website](#) or contact 1800 900 090.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Phone: 02 6243 7121

Email: contact@mpfa.gov.au