



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



IMPORTED FOOD CONTROL ACT 1992

If your project involves importing food into Australia, you must satisfy both biosecurity and imported food requirements, and comply with state and territory food safety legislation. Imported food is monitored for compliance with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

1. What approvals do I need?

A specific approval may be required to import food into Australia to meet biosecurity requirements. For more information on Australia's biosecurity requirements, see the [Biosecurity Act Factsheet](#).

Importers of food must also ensure the food does not pose a risk to human health and complies with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

2. Who provides approvals?

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources regulates imported food under the *Imported Food Control Act 1992* through the [Imported Food Inspection Scheme \(IFIS\)](#).

Under this scheme, imported foods are inspected and analysed at the border on the basis of the risk they may pose to public health. Food Standards Australia New Zealand provides advice to the department on imported foods that pose a medium to high risk to public health. These foods are classified as 'risk food' and are initially inspected and tested at a rate of 100 percent. All other foods are classified as 'surveillance foods' and have a 5 percent chance of being referred for inspection.

State and territory authorities regulate importers and also monitor imported foods for sale within their jurisdictions.

3. How do I get Commonwealth approval?

Guidelines and applications for permits are available on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' online [BICON portal](#).

Biosecurity requirements for imports of fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, egg, meat and other animal products can also be found on the online portal.

Permits are required prior to importing the food. Standard applications are processed within 10-20 days.

4. More information

Commonwealth

For more information on importing food into Australia, visit the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' [website](#).

For more information on food standards, visit the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand [website](#).

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