



Fact sheet



Biosecurity Act 2015

If your project involves the importation of goods, or the arrival of aircraft or vessels into Australia, you may require an import permit and must comply with applicable biosecurity controls under this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

An import permit is required to import certain goods into Australia. Some goods are not permitted entry into Australia. All imported goods must meet applicable conditions designed to mitigate biosecurity risks before and upon arrival in Australia under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) (the Act).

Goods include the following:

- animals
- plants
- samples or specimen of a disease agent
- pests
- mail
- any other article, substance or thing – including, but not limited to, any kind of moveable property.

Applicable conditions will depend on the biosecurity risks associated with the goods intended for import. For example, specific [cleaning](#) requirements must be met as a condition of importing machinery and equipment.

To determine if an import permit is required for the goods you are intending to import, or if alternative conditions or restrictions apply, search the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)'s online [Biosecurity Import Condition system](#) (BICON).

Conveyances entering Australia from overseas, including [aircraft](#) and [vessels](#), are also subject to biosecurity controls and must meet applicable requirements for reporting, cleaning and inspection before and upon arrival. Vessels operating in Australian

waters must also comply with requirements for [biofouling](#) and [ballast water management](#) under the Act.

In addition, all aircraft and vessels must arrive in Australia at a First Point of Entry location. Permission from DAFF is required to arrive at a [landing place](#) or [port](#) that has not been determined a first point of entry under the Act.

Aircraft may also require approval from the National Passenger Processing Committee (NPPC). This depends on the airport intended for landing and the number of travellers on board, in line with NPPC's [Airport Guide](#)^[PDF].

2. Who provides the approvals?

DAFF is responsible for granting import permits and other relevant permissions under the Act.

3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications for import permits must be made online through DAFF's [BICON](#). If a permit is not required but other conditions apply, BICON is used to access any associated forms or declarations needed.

Requests for inspections of imported goods are made and managed separately in the [Biosecurity Portal](#).

Operators of commercial vessels must use the [Maritime and Aircraft Reporting System](#) to meet pre-arrival reporting requirements and receive directions for complying with biosecurity obligations on arrival in Australia. This System is also used to request permission for vessels to arrive at a non-first point of entry.

Requests to land aircraft at a non-first point of entry must be submitted to DAFF by email using the [application form](#) available on DAFF's website.

Applications for NPPC approval must be made at least ten working days prior to arrival through the [Air and Sea Approval Portal](#) in accordance with [guidance](#) from the Australian Border Force.

4. More information

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Further information on Australia's biosecurity requirements for the major resource and energy sector is available on the DAFF [website](#).

DAFF's Biosecurity Conveyance Team can be contacted by email at conveyance.maritime@daff.gov.au.

If you are unsure if an NPCC approval is required and are unable to locate the airport, contact nppc@abf.gov.au.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify potential Australian Government regulatory approvals required for your project, please refer to the [Major projects help tool](#) self-assessment.

The MPFA team can be contacted by email at MPFA@industry.gov.au.