



## Fact sheet



### Customs Act 1901

If your project involves bringing goods into or out of Australia, you may require approval before import or export occurs and your goods must be cleared through customs in accordance with this Act.

#### 1. What approvals do I need?

A permit, licence, or written permission is required before certain goods can be imported into or exported from Australia under the [Customs Act 1901](#) (the Act). Generally, all goods require clearance from the Australian Border Force (ABF) before export can occur and prior to receipt upon import. Individual [labelling requirements](#) may also apply to imported goods.

If goods are considered to be [prohibited goods](#), their importation or exportation is either prohibited entirely or must be authorised through a specific permit or other form of approval. Individual approval requirements will depend on the goods. Goods subject to prohibition or restriction for import or export are specified within the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#) and the [Customs \(Prohibited Exports\) Regulations 1958](#).

Details of the relevant regulators and approvals associated with individual prohibited goods are available on the [prohibited goods list](#) on the ABF website.

To be cleared by the ABF, imported goods must be entered for either home consumption or warehousing using an applicable [declaration](#), unless an exemption applies. To receive clearance for export, all goods must be reported through an [Export Declaration](#) unless exempt.

For further guidance on different import and export requirements and processes, please refer to fact sheets, guides and manuals available on the ABF [website](#).

#### 2. Who provides the approvals?

The ABF, within the Department of Home Affairs, is Australia's customs service and administers most of the

Act. The ABF clears goods through customs and processes import and export declarations. The ABF is responsible for providing many of the permissions and permits required under the Act.

#### 3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Import and Export Declarations can be lodged electronically through the [Integrated Cargo System](#) (ICS) or at a physical [ABF counter](#).

Approval and compliance requirements may vary depending on the type and volume of goods for import or export, and the method of transportation.

If you are a first-time or infrequent importer, the ABF encourages the use of a [licensed customs broker](#) to clear your goods. The ABF provides further guidance about [how to comply](#) with requirements under the Act on its website.

#### 4. More information

##### Australian Border Force

Further information on bringing goods in and out of Australia is available on the [importing](#) and [exporting](#) sections on the ABF website.

The ABF can be contacted via its [contact us webpage](#).

##### 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](mailto:MPFA@industry.gov.au).