# 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 may be required to import goods into Australia. To determine if an import permit is required, or if alternative conditions apply to the goods, search the Department’s online [BICON portal](https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0/).

Containers and conveyances (vessels and aircrafts) must meet specified requirements prior to import, such as cleaning and pre-arrival reporting.

Goods entering Australian territory (12 nautical miles from the Australian coastline) are automatically subject to biosecurity controls. All conveyances are required to arrive at a First Point of Entry location when entering Australian territory unless an exemption is approved before arrival. Conveyances which are exposed to *any* other conveyance outside of Australian territory are subject to biosecurity control, unless exempted.

Vessels operating in Australian waters have obligations to manage ballast water under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and other related delegated legislation, such as carrying a ballast water management plan and certificate and the maintenance of ballast water records.

## **2.** Who provides approvals?

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department) regulates imported goods, containers and conveyances under the *Biosecurity Act 2015,* which 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](https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0/).

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

Guidelines and applications for non-First Point of Entry arrivals are available on the Department’s [website.](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/first-point-entry-and-non-first-point-entry#permission-to--land-imported--animals-plants-or-other-goods)

Obligations in relation to the management of ballast water are outlined on the Department’s [website](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/ballast).

## **4. More information**

### Commonwealth

For more information, visit the agriculture.gov.au [website](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/before) or contact 1800 900 090 or +61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia).

### Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](https://majorprojectshelp.business.gov.au/) or contact us:

Email: mpfa@industry.gov.au