



## Australia Country Guide

Updated: November 15, 2016

### Household Goods and Personal Effects

#### Documents Required

Copy of passport (photo and signature page)

Completed Australian Customs form B534

Copy of visa or e-visa approval (non-citizens)

Detailed inventory / packing list (in English)

Alcohol inventory, if applicable

Original bill of lading if no telex release / waybill issued (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)

#### Specific Information

The OBL must be received 7 days prior to arrival at first entry port into Australia.

The AWB must be received 48 hours prior to arrival at first entry airport into Australia.

Sea freight clearance times vary from 12-15 working days depending on mode of sea freight and the

destination location.

Airfreight clearance takes approximately 5-7 working days depending on documentation received and

destination location.

An inventory of alcohol is required for Australian Customs to assess the duty and taxes payable, which are

generally 50% of the alcohol's purchase value for wine and 150% for spirits.

The signature on the Australian Customs form B534 must match the passport page.

### Motor Vehicles

#### Documents Required

Vehicle import approval (VIA)



Import declaration (prepared by Customs broker)

Registration papers from country of origin

Proof of ownership and purchase receipt

### **Specific Information**

A VIA must be obtained prior to the importation of motor vehicles.

VIA will take 3-6 weeks to approve.

Application for VIA may be found

at:[https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how\\_to\\_apply.aspx](https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how_to_apply.aspx)

The restrictions for documents and Customs regulations must be met for the importation for privately owned

motor vehicles.

Customs clearance is required at the port of entry.

Customs duties and goods and services taxes (GST) must be paid at the time of vehicle import with the

exception of returning Australian vehicles when GST only applies.

GST only is payable on motorcycle imports

Contact the Australian Taxation Office to determine if and when luxury car taxes (LCT) must be paid.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Luxury-car-tax/>

### **Pets**

#### **Documents Required**

Import application

Import permit

#### **Specific Information**

All animals imported to Australia must meet the requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture and



Water Resources and will be quarantined upon arrival.

Import permits take approximately 10 business days from the date receipt by Department of Agriculture to be approved; however, incomplete or incorrect applications may take longer.

Owners of the goods must select a quarantine station for the animal prior to import.

Animals may be visited by only the person identified as the importer during the quarantine period

*Note: It is critical to contact Department of Agriculture and Water Resources prior to the import of pets as requirements and restrictions are dependent upon the country of origin and vary dramatically per type of animal.*

### **Restricted/Dutiable Items**

Alcohol:

Customs duties plus goods and services tax (GST) will apply to alcohol imported into Australia.

Duty is calculated on the type of alcohol, the volume contained per bottle, the alcohol % per bottle and the value per bottle.

Ten percent (10%) GST is then added to the duty calculated.

Anabolic and androgenic substances (those that enhance muscle and bone growth and may include health supplements)

Antibiotics

ANZAC and any related advertising material

Items bearing an image of the Australian national flag and coat of arms



Items bearing an image of the Australian state or territory flags and coat of arms

Asbestos

Cat and dog fur products

Glazed ceramic ware (specific to lead content)

Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises)

Chemical weapons

Chewing tobacco and snuff in quantities greater than 1.5 kg

Cigarette lighters (up to five lighters acceptable if over 18 years or older on a ship or aircraft)

Cosmetics and toxic materials (cannot contain more than 250 mg/kg of lead but may contain more than 250

mg/kg of lead acetate designed for use in hair products)

Counterfeit credit cards

Crowd control equipment (antipersonnel sprays, body armor, extendable batons, electric shock devices, etc.)

Cultural heritage goods from Papua New Guinea (permission from the Trustees of the Papua New Guinea

Public Museum and Art Gallery is required)

Diamonds (only rough diamonds in tamper proof container from a country participating in the Kimberley

Process may be imported and require a Kimberley Process Certificate)

Dog collars designed to puncture or bruise an animal's skin

Passengers arriving on board a ship or aircraft do not need a permit for the import of drugs and narcotics

required for personal use if:

The drugs and narcotics are prescribed by a medical practitioner or veterinarian, and quantity does not



exceed a 3 month's supply at the maximum prescribed dosage,

The drugs / narcotics are carried as accompanied baggage;

Prescription must be in English or translated to English.

Kava may be imported in root or dried form in amounts not to exceed 2 kg and is carried as accompanied

baggage by a passenger 18 years or older.

Firearms and accessories, parts, magazine, ammunition, components of ammunition, and replica

The following items are embargoed goods and are restricted and require permission to import.

Contact the

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for additional information:

Eritrea – weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts

Iran – weapons, ammunition, military vehicle and equipment and spare parts

North Korea – weapons ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts

Libya – weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts

Endangered animal and plant listed in the appendices to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered

Species (CITES)

A search tool for CITES endangered species is available at <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en>

Novelty erasers (resembling food in scent or appearance)

Plastic explosives formulated as a mixture, malleable or flexible at room temperature or with:

One or more high explosives which in pure form have a vapor pressure less than 10.4 PA at a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius

A binder material

Fish and tooth fish

Electronic flyswatters and mosquito bats



Growth hormones and substances of human or animal origin

Hazardous wastes (explosive flammable, poisonous, toxic, exotoxic or infectious, clinical wastes, waste oils, waste residue from manufacture or household waste as defined by the Basel Convention)

Hydrofluorocarbons

Incandescent lamps

Knives and daggers

Laser pointers

Novelty money boxes coated with material containing more than 90 mg/kg of lead

Ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases

Pencils and paintbrushes with a coating that contains excess amounts of toxic compounds such as lead, arsenic and barium

Pesticides and other hazardous chemicals

Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Terphenyls and Polyphenyls

Pornography and other objectionable materials

Radioactive substances

Therapeutic drugs and substances (abortifacients, aphrodisiacs, etc.)

Unmanufactured tobacco (not stemmed or stripped or in whole form)

Toys containing excess amounts of toxic compounds such as lead, arsenic and barium

Woolpacks

Weapons (military goods and other weapons including blow pipes, crossbows, martial arts equipment, knuckle dusters, slingshots, maces and flails)

Trade Practices Act goods



## **Prohibited Items**

Rough diamonds

Dogs (dangerous breeds including Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terrier

or Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario and advertisements referencing these breeds)

Embryo clones and viable materials, and any related advertising matter advertising these items

Suicide devices

## **Consignment Instructions**

**Recommended:** Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

### **Helpful Website(s):**

<http://www.agric.wa.gov.au>

<https://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Impo/Send>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/australia.html>

<http://www.border.gov.au/busi/cargo-support-trade-and-goods/importing-goods/prohibited-and-restricted>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/food>