



30 September 2022

(22-7393)

Page: 1/78

Committee on Import Licensing

Original: English

## REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES<sup>1</sup>

### NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 7.3 OF THE AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES (2022)

#### AUSTRALIA

The following communication, dated 28 September 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Australia.

#### Table of contents

<b>1 ANIMALS (INCLUDING BIRDS, MARINE ANIMALS AND INSECTS) AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, PLANTS AND GOODS OF GENERAL QUARANTINE CONCERN .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 ANZAC GOODS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 ASBESTOS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4 CAT AND DOG FUR PRODUCTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5 CHEESE, CERTAIN TYPES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6 CHEMICAL WEAPONS, CHEMICALS AND THEIR PRECURSORS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7 COUNTERFEIT CREDIT CARDS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>8 DOG COLLAR – PROTRUSION .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>9 FLAGS, ARMS AND SEALS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>10 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>11 HAZARDOUS GOODS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>12 HAZARDOUS WASTE.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>13 ICE PIPES.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>14 IMPORTS TO ANTARCTICA .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>15 IMPORTS TO TERRITORY OF HEARD ISLANDS AND MCDONALD ISLANDS .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>16 INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>17 ROAD VEHICLES .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>18 NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED CHEMICALS.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>19 OBJECTIONABLE GOODS .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>20 ORGANOCHLORINE CHEMICALS .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>21 OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES AND SYNTHETIC GREENHOUSE GASES.....</b>	<b>48</b>

<sup>1</sup> See document G/LIC/3, Annex, for the Questionnaire.

<b>22 PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>23 RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>24 ROUGH DIAMONDS.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>25 SECURITY SENSITIVE AMMONIUM NITRATE .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>26 TABLET PRESSES AND ENCAPSULATORS .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>27 THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCES AND GOODS.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>28 TOBACCO PRODUCTS.....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>29 UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO LEAF.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>30 VIABLE MATERIAL DERIVED FROM HUMAN EMBRYO CLONES .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>31 WEAPONS AND CROWD CONTROL GOODS.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>32 WOOLPACKS.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>33 ELEMENTAL MERCURY .....</b>	<b>76</b>

## **1 ANIMALS (INCLUDING BIRDS, MARINE ANIMALS AND INSECTS) AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, PLANTS AND GOODS OF GENERAL QUARANTINE CONCERN**

### **Outline of System**

1. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) regulates international trade in Australian native species, live animals and plants, and species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Biosecurity Act) applies controls to the importation of all plants, parts of plants and plant products, all animals (including birds, marine animals and insects), animal products, soil and other items of general quarantine concern.

Sections of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) control the importation of some animals and plants.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Apart from exports, the EPBC Act regulates:

- the import of all live animals and plants, including marine animals;
- the import of non-live animal and plant specimens, including parts and derivatives, of species listed under CITES.

The purpose of Australia's biosecurity legislation is to manage the risk of introduction of pests and disease that could damage plant, animal or human health or the environment. Australia's biosecurity legislation applies to the importation of all plants, animals and their products and derivatives.

The PI Regulations control the importations of fish caught by foreign-based fishing vessels and Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish. The Regulations also control the import of raw tobacco and certain plant material containing drugs.

3. These systems apply to the importation of goods from all countries.

4. The EPBC Act seeks to implement Australia's obligations under CITES, by regulating international trade in wildlife and wildlife products, to contribute to the protection and conservation of species that are endangered, or could become endangered, and to facilitate legal, sustainable trade in wildlife. The EPBC Act is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

The biosecurity legislation is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports but to manage the risk of introduction of exotic pests and diseases associated with importation for the purpose of

protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment. The legislation also seeks to protect the Australian environment against further establishment of pest species of plants and animals by controlling the importation of certain live plants, animals and other biological material.

5. The controls on the importation of goods specified in this category are statutory requirements under the following legislation:

- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#);
- [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000](#);
- [Biosecurity Act 2015](#);
- [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#);

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for administration of the EPBC Act and for administration of animal and plant biosecurity legislation. The Department of Home Affairs is responsible for administration of the PI Regulations.

The legislation does not allow for administrative discretion regarding goods/items subject to import controls. It is not possible for the Government or executive branch to abolish the systems without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications should be made well in advance of arrival of the goods to allow time for the application to be assessed against the legislation and the relevant import policy. Under the EPBC Act, once a permit application is received, there is a 40-business day statutory timeframe in which a decision regarding the application must be made. Not all goods require an import permit and clearance to import can be given at the point of entry provided the import conditions have been met. The Biosecurity Act does not prescribe a specific period of notice required but does note that relevant regulations may prescribe different requirements for notices for different classes of goods.

(b) In the case of most importations in this category it will not be possible for permission to be issued immediately on request.

(c) No, permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Applications for permission to import most animals, animal products, plants and plant products into Australia involve an approach to a single agency – the DAFF.

8. An application to the DAFF for an import permit may only be refused under the ordinary criteria for such applications. Reasons for refusal will be advised. There are legislated structures in place that allow applicants to request a review of a decision to refuse to grant an import permit.

For permit decisions under the EPBC Act, applicants may appeal on the merits of the decision to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

The Biosecurity Act provides the DAFF with an option to apply a fit and proper person test to import permit applicants and their associates. The test supports the trust placed on importers who are granted import permits. Not all permit applicants will be subject to a fit and proper person test - this test will only be used at the DAFF's discretion.

9.(a) Not applicable

(b) All Australian persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import.

---

## Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Applications for permission to import must be made electronically for all commodities through the DAFF BICON system. Conditions for imports into the Australian external territories of Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are not contained in BICON. For information about all imports into these Australian external Territories, please visit <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/external-territories>.

Importers should consult the BICON database to determine if a commodity intended for import to Australia needs an import permit and/or treatment or if there are any other biosecurity prerequisites. Permits must be obtained prior to importation and are required on importation. Applications for permits may be lodged electronically (<https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0>). Other documentation required is dependent on the type of commodity and the import conditions of the permit or as listed on the BICON database. For the import of CITES listed specimens, both CITES export and import permits are generally required upon importation. The import of live specimens may also require an import permit.

Where the importation of the item is listed under CITES, applications for permission to import must be made electronically to the Minister for the Environment. The link to the application form can be found at: <https://onlineservices.environment.gov.au/>.

11. Where the importation of the item comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, an Australian import permit is required unless the specimens are considered to be personal and household effects, or they are pre-CITES and non-live. In most cases of CITES-listed specimens, CITES documentation from the country of export is required. Original documents must travel with the goods.

12. Information on fees and charges may be found at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fees> and <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/wildlife-trade/permits/fees>.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses, although assessment fees apply for most DAFF permit applications. An application (processing) and assessment fee for a DAFF permit is charged automatically when a permit application is accepted, regardless of whether or not the permit is issued.

## Conditions of licensing

14. The period of validity of a permit depends on the nature of the importation: specific details to be supplied on enquiry. Legislation will normally not allow for continuing permission. Individual assessments of permit applications will determine the appropriate validity period, which is generally one or two years for biosecurity permits. From time to time, a permit will be issued with a different validity, such as short-term importation of artefacts for a museum exhibition. CITES permits are valid for up to six months. The period of validity cannot be extended.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permit or a portion of a permit.

16. Biosecurity import permits are not transferrable between importers. Permits issued under the EPBC Act may be transferred under very limited circumstances.

17. Biosecurity import permits often have end use restrictions placed on the goods (e.g., for human consumption only) and/or types of treatments they have to undergo prior to or after the goods arrive in Australia (e.g., product has been heat treated at 100 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes).

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Conditions may be applied in respect of such issues as custody, end use, disposal or distribution of imported goods as well as pre-export treatment, testing, certification or on-arrival treatment or quarantine.

## Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 2 ANZAC GOODS

### Outline of System

1. Importation into Australia of goods the description of which includes or bears the word "Anzac", or advertising matter relating to those goods, is controlled by the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) and is prohibited except with the written permission of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs (the Minister) or an authorised officer.

A person making an application to import "Anzac" goods under the PI Regulations will also need to apply to use the word "Anzac" under the Protection of Word "Anzac" Regulations (Anzac Regulations).

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) issues the Use of the Word 'Anzac' Guidelines (the Guidelines) to help Australians comply with the legal restrictions on the use of the word 'Anzac'.

For more information about use of the word 'Anzac', visit Protecting the word Anzac, or contact: [usewordanzac@dva.gov.au](mailto:usewordanzac@dva.gov.au).

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Licensing system maintained, and products covered include: the Anzac Regulations and the PI Regulations.

The purpose of Regulation 4V of the PI Regulations is to prohibit the importation of all goods into Australia that include or bear the word "Anzac", unless: the person importing the goods is the holder of a written permit granted by the Minister or an authorised officer; and the permit is produced at or before the time of importation. The Minister or an authorised officer may specify conditions or requirements to be complied with by the holder of the permission or permit to import "Anzac" goods, and may, for any such condition or requirement, specify a time period before the permission expires. The Minister or an authorised officer may revoke permission where the conditions of the permit are not met.

In certain circumstances, providing the goods obtain approval status, importers are able to obtain retrospective import approval after the goods have arrived in Australia. However, if the "Anzac" goods in question do not receive ministerial approval they may be detained or seized by the Australian Border Force (ABF).

3. The regulation applies to the importation of goods from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The PI Regulations, in conjunction with the Anzac Regulations, seek to protect the inappropriate use and commercial exploitation of the word "Anzac" and to protect the significance of the word.

5. The controls on the importation of "Anzac" goods are statutory requirements and cannot be abolished without legislative approval. There are two regulations under which the word "Anzac" is protected in Australia: [Protection of Word "Anzac" Regulations \(Anzac Regulations\)](#) and [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956 \(PI Regulations\)](#)

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

- 7.(a) An application for the importation of "Anzac" goods into Australia should be made well in advance of the arrival of the goods. Permit applications may take up to four weeks for the process to be completed and to be notified of an outcome. On rare occasions this may increase beyond four weeks, particularly around peak times leading up to Anzac Day or because of the checks made on the individual or company applying to import the "Anzac" goods. Checks are also undertaken on the nature of the goods and their intended use.

The importation of "Anzac" goods is prohibited without written approval from the Minister or an authorised officer. Goods that arrive into port without ministerial approval may be detained or seized by the ABF.

In addition to the PI Regulations, the Anzac Regulations prohibit the use of the word "Anzac" or any word resembling the word "Anzac" in connection with any trade, business, calling, or profession without the Minister or an authorised officer's written approval. Persons applying to import "Anzac" goods may also require written consent to use the said "Anzac" goods under the Anzac Regulations.

- (b) A permit cannot be granted immediately on request as certain conditions must be fulfilled. Processing and assessing applications includes extensive checks and the preparation of a brief for the Minister's consideration and decision.
- (c) Applications can be made at any time of the year.
- (d) The DVA issues permits for the importation of "Anzac" goods in accordance with Regulation 4V of the PI Regulations, and Permission to Use Word "Anzac" in accordance with the Anzac Regulations. When considering permit applications, other authorities may be contacted by the DVA to verify application details.

8. An application for a permit may be refused if: the Minister considers that approving the application would cause offence; use of the word "Anzac" on the imported goods is inappropriate; the application does not fall within the intent of the Regulations, e.g., the use of the word "Anzac" on an inappropriate product; the applicant is not considered fit and proper; or further permission is required but has not been obtained. A permit may be revoked if the applicant fails to comply with the conditions of the permit.

An unsuccessful applicant is advised in writing of the Minister's decision and the reason for it. There are no appeal provisions under the Regulations; however, the Minister will consider a request for reconsideration if the applicant is able to provide new information in support of their application. In addition, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

- 9.(a) Any person, firm or institution is eligible to apply to the Minister to import "Anzac" goods.
- (b) Not applicable

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. An application can be submitted using form D9363 *Application for Approval to use the word "Anzac"* available on the DVA website. Every application is considered on its individual merits and if additional information is required the applicant will be contacted.

Applications should include, but are not restricted to:

- name of the applicant/importer (person and organisation);
- name and address of registered company/premises;
- nature of the business and purpose of the proposed "Anzac" goods;
- a current copy of the company Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN) registration;
- product description, full colour copy of item and text;

- letters of support from the ex-service community;
- proposed date of import;
- the duration permit is required; and
- where applicable, the name of the end user and the use of the end goods.

11. The signed permit is required at the time of importation.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

### Conditions of licensing

14. The period of the import permit is specified in the permit issued to the applicant and is based on the requirements of each application. Unless otherwise noted, an import permit is required for every delivery.

The period of an existing permit cannot be extended, but a new permit may be issued upon request to the Minister.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Permits/licences are not transferable between importers.

17.(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 3 ASBESTOS

### Outline of System

1. Under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations), the importation of asbestos, or goods containing asbestos, is subject to prohibition. The regulations empower the Work Health and Safety Minister (the WHS Minister) administering the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) to grant permission to import asbestos in certain circumstances.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Under the PI Regulations, the importation of asbestos, or goods containing asbestos, is prohibited unless:

- (a) The asbestos or goods containing asbestos are hazardous waste as defined in Section 4 of the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989* (HW Act). Goods of this type must be imported in accordance with the provisions of the HW Act;
- (b) The goods are raw materials containing naturally occurring traces of asbestos; or
- (c) Permission has been granted by the WHS Minister for one or more of the following purposes:
  - i) in any case: research, analysis or display;
  - ii) if the importation is from and Australian external Territory: disposal in a mainland State or Territory; or

- 
- (d) A confirmation from an authority of an Australian State or Territory is in force stating that the proposed use of the asbestos or goods is research, analysis or display in accordance with WHS laws of that State or Territory; or
- (e) The importation is of a ship or resources installation and all of the following apply:
- i) of at least 150 gross tonnage as shown on the International Tonnage Certificate;
  - ii) the asbestos was installed or affixed before 1 January 2005;
  - iii) the asbestos in the ship or resources installation will not be a risk to any person unless it is disturbed.

Asbestos means the asbestiform varieties of mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine or amphibole groups of rock forming minerals including the following:

- (a) actinolite asbestos;
- (b) grunerite (or amosite) asbestos (brown);
- (c) anthophyllite asbestos;
- (d) chrysotile asbestos (white);
- (e) crocidolite asbestos (blue);
- (f) tremolite asbestos;
- (g) a mixture that contains one or more of the minerals referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f).

3. The regulations apply to the importation of goods from all countries.

4. The importation of all forms of asbestos is regulated as a community and workplace safety measure. The importation of asbestos is subject to prohibition to reduce and prevent occupational and environmental exposures to asbestos fibres, and the possible adverse health outcomes attributed to these exposures. In addition to the prohibition of the importation of asbestos, the use of asbestos is prohibited in all Australian state, territory and Commonwealth work health and safety regulations. The import prohibition applies to all goods that contain asbestos regardless of their value.

5. The control on importation of asbestos and goods containing asbestos is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4C of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Permission to import must be obtained before shipment to Australia.

(b) A request for permission to import asbestos can be made at any time by writing to the Minister administering the WHS Act, or to the CEO of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency who is authorised by Ministerial instrument to grant permission in some instances. Upon consideration of the request, the Minister or authorised person will reply to the applicant.

(c) Permission to import may be granted at any period of the year.

(d) Consideration of licence applications is effected by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (the Agency). The Agency consults with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), which has responsibility for the WHS Act. The WHS Minister is briefed by the Agency or the DEWR in relation to applications that are complex or not routine in nature. Otherwise, the delegated decision maker is the CEO of the Agency. Permission to import may be granted for a one-off import or for an ongoing period, as decided by the WHS Minister or CEO of the Agency

8. Applications for permission to import asbestos are risk-assessed on a case-by-case basis. The act of applying for permission does not guarantee permission will be granted.



There are no specific appeal provisions in relation to asbestos available under the PI Regulations. However, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import asbestos.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. For permission to import, applications must be made in writing to the WHS Minister or to the CEO of the Agency. The application should include the following information:

- importer's name, address and phone number, as well as those details for a representative;
- details of the asbestos or goods containing asbestos to be imported including the reason or purpose for the importation, where the asbestos or goods containing asbestos are to be imported from, and the amount of asbestos intended to be imported;
- details of the procedures to be used to package, label, handle, transport and dispose of the goods, including whether they are compliant with relevant laws;
- where applicable – evidence that a laboratory where research will be undertaken has appropriate accreditation.
- where applicable – that relevant WHS regulator approval has been obtained,
- an assurance the applicant will comply with relevant Commonwealth and State/territory legislation relating to the use, handling, transport, and disposal of asbestos.

Relevant information for applicants is available at the website of the [Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency \(Australian Government\)](#).

11. The import permission of the relevant Minister or authorised person is to be available for presentation to the ABF at the point of importation. Asbestos must be declared as present in the goods when lodging the import entry.

12. No.

13. No.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The WHS Minister and authorised person (CEO of the Agency) have discretion as to the period of validity of a permission. Import permissions are single use or they may be for ongoing use for a period specified in the permission letter, depending on the applicant's requirements.

15. Not applicable.

16. Not transferable.

17.(a)Not applicable.

(b) The WHS Minister or authorised person may only grant permission to import asbestos:

- in any case, for the purpose of research, analysis or display, or
- in the case of (Australian) external territories, for disposal on the mainland.

Permission to import asbestos is granted conditional on it only being for one or more of these purposes, as specified in the permission letter. The WHS Minister or authorised person has discretion to attach other conditions, such as compliance with relevant laws in relation to asbestos.

Conditions are to ensure compliance with the asbestos border control and to reduce the risk of exposure of asbestos fibres to humans from the asbestos in the goods.

#### **Other procedural requirements**

18. In some states a person is required to seek permission to use asbestos from the relevant WHS regulator. It is a requirement that permission be sought prior to the granting of import permission.

19. Not applicable.

## **4 CAT AND DOG FUR PRODUCTS**

### **Outline of System**

1. The importation of cat and dog fur and goods made from or using cat or dog fur is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) unless the permission of the Minister for Home Affairs, or an authorised person, has been obtained.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. The goods covered by this control include raw, tanned or processed furs or pelts, and goods that may contain such fur, that are derived from the cat and dog species listed below. These species are more commonly referred to as domestic cat and dog breeds.

- Cat fur - the pelt or hair of an animal of the species *Felis catus*;
- Dog fur - the pelt or hair of an animal of the species *Canis familiaris*;
- Cat or dog fur product - a product or other thing that consists, wholly or partly, of cat or dog fur.

The relevant Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System tariff numbers include various lines, but are not limited to; 4103.90, 4301.80, 4301.90, 4302.19, 4302.20, 4302.30, 4303.10 and 4303.90.

3. The system applies to importations from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The importation of cat and dog fur products is regulated in response to animal welfare concerns.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4W of the PI Regulations made under the Customs Act. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Application should be made in advance of arrival of the goods. Import permission can be considered for goods which have inadvertently arrived in Australia.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Permissions are granted by the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. Importers may also need to approach the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for permission to import cat or dog fur or products thereof.

8. Apart from statutory or ordinary requirements there are no other criteria. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to import may appeal on the merits of the decision

to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications must be made in writing to the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. The application should include the following information: importer's name and address; and details of the goods to be imported.

11. The original permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or authorised person is required to be produced upon importation.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The Minister for Home Affairs may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Permits/licences are not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be imposed on the permit. Quantitative limits, where appropriate, are specified as conditions.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## **5 CHEESE, CERTAIN TYPES**

### **Outline of System**

1. Australia administers a tariff quota on imports of certain types of cheese and curd. Under the Cheese and Curd Quota Scheme the tariff quota applies to certain types of cheese and curd that can be imported at a concessional rate of duty (\$0.096/kg) and is restricted to 11,500 tonnes per annum. Imports can be made outside the 11,500-tonne quota allocated each year, but a higher rate of duty (\$1.220/kg) applies.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. No licensing system is maintained for out-of-quota cheese imports. For in-quota cheese imports, individuals or companies which have historically imported dutiable cheese under quota are allocated a share of the tariff quota, allowing them to import a quantity of cheese at the concessional rate of duty. Individuals or companies who do not have a share of the tariff quota may still import cheese at the out-of-quota tariff rate. The products covered by the tariff quota are as follows:

<b>Number 0406</b>	<b>Product type Cheese and Curd</b>	<b>Rate of Duty</b>
0406.10	Fresh (un-ripened or uncured) cheese, including whey cheese, and curd	\$A0.096/kg (a) \$A1.220/kg (b)
0406.20	Grated or powdered cheese, of all kinds	\$A0.096/kg (a) \$A1.220/kg (b)
0406.30	Processed cheese, not grated or powdered	\$A0.096/kg (a) \$A1.220/kg (b)
0406.40.10	Blue-veined cheese: - Roquefort, Stilton	Free (c)
0406.40.90	Blue-veined cheese: - Other	\$A0.096/kg (a) \$A1.220/kg (b)
0406.90.10	Other Cheese: - Cheese, of the following types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• made wholly from goats' milk, other than feta or kasseri</li> <li>• surface-ripened soft, having: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a fat content in the dry matter of not less than 50% by weight, and</li> <li>• a moisture content of not less than 65% by weight of the non-fatty matter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Free (c)
0406.90.90	Other Cheese: - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• includes Cheddar, Colby, Edam, Gouda, Havarti, Parmesan, Kasseri, Mozzarella, Provolone, Feta</li> </ul>	\$A0.096/kg (a) \$A1.220/kg (b)

- (a) Rate for cheese imported within the tariff quota.  
(b) Out of quota rate for cheese imported in excess of tariff quota amount.  
(c) Not subject to the tariff quota. Included in table only to indicate coverage of residual tariff item ("other").

Note: The rate for developing countries is as shown in the table above, less 5% of the customs value (fob price) of the product.

3. The scheme applies to cheeses originating in and coming from all countries. the Scheme does not apply to cheese and curd products that are:

- of Australian origin (e.g., returned Australian goods);
- of a preference country of origin (e.g., under a Free Trade Agreement); or
- subject to a free rate of duty under Schedule 3 of the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*.

4. The licensing system is used to administer the tariff quota.

5. The licensing system is maintained under the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

## Procedures

6.-I. The names of annual tariff quota holders and their quota allocation are made public through publication in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

II. The size of the tariff quota is 11,500 tonnes per annum. The allocation of the tariff quota to individual importers occurs on an annual basis.

III. Tariff quota allocations to individuals or companies are based on historical trade performance in the importation of cheese under quota. No tariff quota is allocated on the basis of domestic production of like product. Unused portions/amounts of the tariff quota allocation are not added to the tariff quota for the following year.

IV.-VI. Not applicable.

VII. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is responsible for the policy framework of the Scheme, with the Australian Border Force (ABF) administering the scheme on behalf of the DAFF.

VIII. Tariff quotas are allocated to importers on the basis of historical trade performance involving quota usage. The allocations of the cheese and curd quota are made to importers in July each year based on the actual usage of quota to import cheese and curd in the 23 months ending 31 May of that same year. New importers are able to acquire tariff quota allocation on transfer from an existing holder of tariff quota.

IX. Not applicable.

X. Not applicable.

XI. No.

7. Not applicable.

8. No circumstances exist for refusal to make an allocation beyond failure to meet the standard criteria.

Allocations are made only in accordance with a Determination made in pursuance of Section 273B of the Customs Act, and published documentation such as relevant Australian Customs Notices issued by the ABF. Allocations of quota to new parties are enacted by transfer by use of an approved form.

The fixed annual amount of quota available for distribution is allocated to existing quota holders according to each quota holders' previous import history of use of quota in the 23 months ending 31 May prior to the next financial year allocation. The scheme does not provide for direct applications for quota and does not have a licensing system as such.

The ABF has no record of refusals to make an allocation.

All decisions of an administrative nature are appealable on a case-by-case basis under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act*.

#### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Only those firms that have a history of trade performance in importing cheese under quota are allocated a share in the tariff quota. The allocation of the tariff quota is made on the basis of historical trade performance. Firms are free to transfer their tariff quota allocation.

(b) Not applicable.

#### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications are not required. Eligible importers are advised of their entitlement based on the ABF records of import entries lodged during the preceding base period.

11. No quota specific document is required on importation. Product is entered into Australia under quota by use of unique Tariff Quota Numbers and security codes on Customs import clearance documentation (electronic or manual).

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

#### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Twelve-month period with no extensions.

15. There are no official penalties for individuals or companies that do not utilise their allocation. However, since allocations are based on historical trading performance, future allocations may be reduced for individuals or companies that do not utilise their allocation.

16. Tariff quota allocations can be transferred between individuals and companies without limitation. However, transfer transactions do not count as trade performance for the purpose of quota allocation.

17.(a) No.

(b) No.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 6 CHEMICAL WEAPONS, CHEMICALS AND THEIR PRECURSORS

### Outline of System

1. The importation into Australia of prescribed goods containing a chemical compound, or a chemical compound belonging to a group of compounds, mentioned in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 11 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations), from a country that is not a State Party to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction* ("Chemical Weapons Convention"), is prohibited under Regulation 5J of the PI Regulations.

The importation of prescribed goods containing a chemical compound, or a chemical compound belonging to a group of compounds, mentioned in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations from a country that is a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention or mentioned in Part 4 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations, is prohibited unless:

- the Minister for Foreign Affairs or an authorised person has given permission in writing to import the goods. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has authorised the positions of Director General and Assistant Secretary of Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO) to grant permits; and
- the permission is produced to the Australian Border (ABF).

These prohibitions do not apply to chemicals listed in Part 3 (except Items 1, 2 or 3) or Part 4 of Schedule 11 where they are in concentrations of less than 10% by weight of the goods, and there are no other Part 2, 3 or 4 chemical compounds in the goods. Such goods may be imported from both State Parties and non-State Parties without requiring a permit.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Chemical compounds as mentioned in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations from a country that is a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and all Part 4 chemicals are regulated by a permit system. A permit must be granted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or an authorised person and produced to the ABF.

3. The regulations apply to the importation of goods from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. Australia is a Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and amongst other things, this treaty requires State Parties to declare trade in CWC-Scheduled chemicals, and to impose trade restrictions on transfers of the more toxic chemicals listed in Part 2 and 3 to non-State Parties. Since implementing the treaty in 1997, Australia has regulated the Part 2 chemicals through use of permits. In 2000, the permit system was extended to apply to Part 3 and 4 chemicals in response to stricter CWC provisions relating to Part 3 transfers and because less formal means of controlling and tracking were assessed as inadequate.

5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 5J of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) but could also be relevant

to the *Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act 1994*. This restriction does not apply to goods that contain a chemical compound listed in Part 3 (except Items 1, 2 or 3) or Part 4 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations that is less than 10% by weight of the total and contain no other listed chemicals. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Application should be made in advance of arrival of the goods. There are two types of permits: permits for chemicals in Part 2 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations (Schedule 1 of the CWC) and permits for chemicals in Part 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations (Schedules 2 and 3 of the CWC). Chemicals from Part 2 require 37 days' notice for importation which cannot be varied due to concomitant international reporting requirements. However, the 37-day advance notification requirement is waived for imports of saxitoxin in quantities of 5mg or less for medical/diagnostic purposes provided that the goods contain no other chemical listed in Part 2 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations. Permits for chemicals listed in Part 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 11 require 7 days' notice, which can be reduced if necessary.

(b) Permits cannot be issued immediately for chemicals under Part 2 except in the saxitoxin case described in paragraph 7(a). Part 3 and 4 chemical permits can be issued immediately where practical. There is also allowance for post-import permits to be issued immediately upon request under subdivision GC of the Customs Act where importation occurred inadvertently without a permit.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Permit applications are considered by a single administrative organ, namely ASNO as the permit issuing authority. However, ASNO consults with the ABF prior to issuing an import permit to check whether there are any adverse findings for that company in relation to previous imports. Permits are issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or authorised persons (i.e., the Director General and Assistant Secretary of ASNO). Please note that ASNO then provides the ABF with the details of import permit holders for Part 3 and 4 chemicals, including the company name, all chemicals listed on their import permit, and the tariff classification code used by the importer.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused on the discretion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. There is no right of appeal on the merits of the decision. However, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import, however the chemicals from Parts 2 and 3 can only be imported from a country which is a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (as listed on the Internet at <https://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/member-states>). Also, all of the prescribed chemical imports can only be used for purposes not prohibited by the CWC, as provided for under the *Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act 1994*.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. For permission to import, applications must be made in writing to the relevant Minister or authorised person.

Permits for chemicals in Part 2 of Schedule 11 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (i.e. Schedule 1 of the CWC).

The permit is valid for a single shipment of the specified chemical. The following details must be included in the application:

- 
- importer's name, address, Australian Business Number and other contact details;
  - supplier's name and address;
  - country of export (this can only be another State Party) – the goods must be shipped directly; transshipment through another country is not allowed;
  - name, CAS number, quantity (gross and net) and percentage by weight, proposed use, tariff classification code and other descriptors of the chemical;
  - date of export from supplying country and expected import date;
  - end user's name, address and other contact details;
  - a description of security measures that will be taken to prevent unauthorised access to the chemical.

Permits for chemicals in Part 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 11 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (i.e., Schedules 2 & 3 of the CWC).

The permit is valid for multiple shipments of multiple chemicals over a specified time, usually one year. The following details must be included in the application:

- importer's name, address and other contact details;
- importer's ABN;
- names, CAS numbers, tariff classification codes and percentage by weight of the chemicals the importer is proposing to import;
- exporting country;
- a description of security measures that will be taken to prevent unauthorised access to the chemical.

When required, ASNO can issue bespoke import permits covering Schedule 1, 2 and 3 chemicals to allow for the import of unknown samples from, or on behalf of, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

ASNO's secure online portal (available for existing import permit holders since 1 January 2015) allows for electronic reporting and renewal of import permits.

Companies that are importing chemicals for the first time must submit a completed import permit application form (available at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/asno>).

Further information, including permit application and reporting forms, is available at: <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/the-chemical-weapons-convention-information-for-importers-and-exporters-of-chemicals-2014.aspx>.

11. Written permission of the Minister for Foreign Affairs or ASNO (i.e., the import permit) is required by the ABF at the time of import. Where Part 2 chemicals are imported, the importer must also notify ASNO of the actual arrival date within 30 days of shipment arrival in Australia.

12. No.

13. Not applicable.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Permits for chemicals in Part 2 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations apply to one consignment only and are valid for up to twelve months. A new application is required for each import.

Permits for chemicals in Part 3 and 4 of Schedule 11 of the PI Regulations may be for multiple importations and are valid for up to twelve months. Permits may be reissued on an annual basis on request, provided all permit conditions are met, including reporting annually to ASNO on actual quantities of chemicals imported. Permits may also be varied at any time.

Bespoke import permits for samples sent from, or on behalf of, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons apply to one consignment only and are valid for up to twelve months. A new application is required for each import.



15. No.

16. No.

17. A permission granted under Regulation 5J of the PI Regulations may specify conditions or requirements to be complied with by the holder of the permission. Permit requirements for chemicals in Parts 3 and 4 of Schedule 11 include the annual reporting of chemical shipments covered by the permit for the previous calendar year. If the holder of any permission fails to comply with a condition or requirement the Minister may revoke the permission.

#### **Other procedural requirements**

18. For Part 2 and 3 chemicals, the recipient facility will require an operational permit under the *Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act 1994* (the Act) if certain activity thresholds for those chemicals are exceeded. However, the requirements for operational permits as specified under the Act are not linked to the timing of imports.

19. Not applicable.

## **7 COUNTERFEIT CREDIT CARDS**

### **Outline of System**

1. The importation of counterfeit credit, debit or charge cards is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations), unless the permission of the Minister administering the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* – presently the Attorney General – has been obtained.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. The goods covered are any non-genuine credit, debit and charge cards that are made to imitate and pass for genuine cards. The relevant tariff classification code is 8523.21.

3. The system applies to any non-genuine credit, debit and charge cards that are made to imitate and pass for genuine cards originating from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are intended to prohibit the importation of counterfeit credit, debit or charge cards.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under PI Regulations made under the Customs Act. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications for permission to import should be made in advance of arrival of the goods.

(b) Applications for permission to import can be processed immediately, provided all information is available and the application is considered to be urgent.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Permits are granted by the relevant Minister.

8. Applications for permission to import can be refused at the discretion of the relevant Minister. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to import may appeal on the decision-making process under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications must be made in writing to the Minister. The application should include the following information:

- Importers name and address;
- Details of the goods to be imported.

11. The original permission from the Minister or authorised person is required upon importation.

12. There is no licensing fee.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of these licenses.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The Minister may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Permits/licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be imposed on the permission and quantities are specified.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## **8 DOG COLLAR – PROTRUSION**

### **Outline of System**

1. The importation of protrusion dog collars is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations), unless the permission of the Minister for Home Affairs, or an authorised person, has been obtained.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. The goods covered are: dog collars, incorporating apparatus designed to puncture or bruise an animal's skin.

3. The system applies to importations from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The importation of protrusion dog collars is regulated in response to animal welfare concerns.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4 Schedule 2, Item 10 of the PI Regulations made under the Customs Act. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Application should be made in advance of arrival of the goods.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Permissions are granted by the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person.

8. Apart from statutory or ordinary requirements there are no other criteria for refusal. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to import may appeal on the decision-making process under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications must be made in writing to the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. The application should include the following information:

- importer's name and address;
- details of the goods to be imported.

11. The original permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or authorised person is required to be produced upon importation.

12. There is no permit fee.

13. Not applicable.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The Minister for Home Affairs may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a permission.

16. Licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be imposed on the permit. Quantitative limits, where appropriate, are specified as conditions.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## **9 FLAGS, ARMS AND SEALS**

### **Outline of System**

1. The importation of goods with a representation of the arms, seal or flag of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory or the Royal Arms is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations).

For goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth or a representation so nearly resembling the Arms, a flag or a

seal of the Commonwealth as to be likely to deceive, specified conditions must be complied with. The goods must not be imported unless the design has been approved in writing by the Secretary to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or an authorised person; and if the collector asks the importer to produce the approval, the importer produces it.

For goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth or a representation so nearly resembling the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth as to be likely to deceive; or a representation of the Royal Arms or a representation so nearly resembling the Royal Arms as to be likely to deceive. The goods must not be imported unless the design has been approved in writing from the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Chief Minister's Department of the relevant State or Territory; and if the collector asks the importer to produce the approval, the importer produces it.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. The goods covered are:

- goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth or a representation so nearly resembling the Arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth as to be likely to deceive; and
- goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth or a representation so nearly resembling the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth as to be likely to deceive; and
- goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the Royal Arms or a representation so nearly resembling the Royal Arms as to be likely to deceive.

3. The system applies to the importation of goods originating from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

The importation of goods bearing the arms or having applied to them a representation of a flag or seal of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory was introduced to act as a quality control measure to ensure that representations are realistic, of good quality, preserve the dignity and integrity of national symbols and do not breach other legislation.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4, Schedule 2 (Royal Arms) and Schedule 3 (State and Territory flags, arms and seals and Commonwealth flags, arms and seals) of the PI Regulations made under the Customs Act.

The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications should be made in advance of the importation of the goods and it is recommended that the design be approved prior to the mass production of goods.

(b) Approval cannot be granted immediately on request.

(c) Approvals may be issued throughout the year.

(d) Designs must be approved by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet or the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Chief Minister's Department of the relevant State/Territory.

8. Apart from statutory or ordinary requirements, the only other criteria for refusal is if the design has not been approved by the relevant authority. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants.

Applicants refused permission to import may appeal on the decision-making process under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications for permission to import goods having a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth should include:

- the importer's name and address;
- a description of the goods
- colour image of the goods; and
- a copy of the design.

12. In the case of goods bearing a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth if the collector asks the importer to produce the approval issued by Secretary to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet approval, the importer must produce it.

In the case of goods bearing a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth or a representation of the Royal Arms, if the collector asks the importer to produce the approval issued by the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Chief Minister's Department of the relevant State/Territory, the import must produce it.

13. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

15. Import permissions are not subject to a validity period. In the case of goods bearing a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth, the design approval provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet covers multiple consignments for a period of twelve months. At the expiration of the 12 month period a new approval will need to be sought.

16. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permission or a portion of a permission.

17. Permits/licences are not transferable between importers.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. For goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth, only the approval of the design by the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Chief Minister's Department of the relevant State/Territory is required to import the goods. An importer must produce a copy of the approval to the collector, if requested.

For goods to which, or to the coverings of which, there is applied a representation of the arms, a flag or a seal of the Commonwealth only the approval of the design by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is required to import the goods. Importers must produce a copy of the approval to the Collection if requested.

19. Not applicable.

## 10 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

### Outline of System

1. The *Gene Technology Act 2000* (GT Act), the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 (GT Regulations) and corresponding state and territory laws provide a nationally consistent system to regulate work (dealings) with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Australia. This includes the creation or import, transport, disposal, growth and propagation of GMOs.

Other Australian government regulators also oversee work with GMOs, depending on the use of the GMO. These regulators include:

- [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#) (APVMA) covers agricultural chemicals and veterinary products, including those produced in, or used on, genetically modified (GM) crops and live GM veterinary products. See also [Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994](#) and [Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals \(Administration\) Act 1992](#).
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regulates the import and quarantine of all animal, plant and biological products that could pose a risk if they were imported. See also [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) and [Imported Food Control Act 1992](#).
- [Food Standards Australia New Zealand](#) (FSANZ) covers food issues, including labelling and mandatory pre-market safety assessments for GM foods. See also [Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991](#).
- [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) (TGA) regulates all therapeutics, including those which are GMOs (for example, live GM vaccines). See also [Therapeutic Goods Act 1989](#).

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The National Gene Technology Scheme covers all dealings with all live/viable GMOs as defined in the GT Act. The GT Act defines GMO dealings to include experiments, manufacture, production, breeding, growing, transport, destruction and import.

3. All GMOs, whether created in Australia or imported, are covered by the gene technology legislation.

4. The gene technology legislation is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports but to manage the risks of working with GMOs. In administering the National Gene Technology Scheme, the Gene Technology Regulator (the GT Regulator) has specific responsibility to protect the health and safety of people, and to protect the environment, by identifying risks posed by or as a result of gene technology, and by managing those risks through regulating certain dealings with GMOs. The National Gene Technology Scheme also implements Australia's obligations under Article 8(g) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

A voluntary system/industry self-regulation is not appropriate due to the level of public concern over the potential risks posed by GMOs. However, some work with specified categories of GMOs does not require licensing and can be carried out under a notification process with the appropriate institutional oversight (for example using GM cell lines to manufacture GM pharmaceutical products within certified facilities).

5. The nationally consistent legislative scheme for gene technology is comprised of the Commonwealth GT Act and GT Regulations, and corresponding State and Territory legislation.

The scope and nature of gene technology regulation is specified in the GT Act. Schedules contained within the GT Regulations further clarify the scope of the GT Act and specify the type of authorisations required for work with different categories of GMOs.

The legislation was developed in consultation with all Australian jurisdictions and the scheme is supported by [the inter-governmental Gene Technology Agreement](#) between the Australian Government and each State and Territory.

It is not possible for the government or executive branch to abolish the systems without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) The National Gene Technology Scheme provides for a number of different kinds of authorisations dependent upon the nature of the GMO and the proposed use: <https://www.ogtr.gov.au/apply-gmo-approval/types-gmo-dealings>.

In relation to commercial-scale import of GMOs, in most cases a licence would be required. If the GMO is imported for use within contained facilities (e.g. GM seed imported for immediate processing into non-viable products) a licence for [Dealings Not Involving Intentional Release](#) (DNIR) into the environment may be required. DNIR licences carry a 90-working day processing time and approval must be obtained prior to import.

All other commercial dealings where the GMO is likely to be released into the environment would require a licence for DNIR into the environment. The GT Regulator must decide whether to issue a DNIR licence within 255 working days.

If the GT Regulator is satisfied that a person has come into possession of a GMO inadvertently, the GT Regulator may, with the agreement of the person, treat the person as having made an Inadvertent Dealings application, or the person may apply for a licence themselves. The GT Regulator may issue a temporary licence (no longer than 12 months) to the person for the purposes of disposing of the GMO in a manner which protects the health and safety of people and the environment.

(b) The GT Act does not contain provisions for immediate licence approvals.

(c) Licence applications can be made at any time of the year.

(d) The Australian GT Regulator, supported by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, has sole responsibility for issuing licences for work with GMOs. However, separate approvals would be needed if the end use of the GMO is regulated by another agency, e.g., therapeutic or veterinary products, agricultural products, human food, etc. (see answer to question 1). Approval for import under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry may also be required.

8. The GT Regulator must not issue the licence unless satisfied that:

(i) any risks posed by the dealings proposed to be authorised by the licence are able to be managed in such a way as to protect:

- the health and safety of people; and
- the environment; and that

(ii) the applicant is a suitable person to hold the licence.

The GT Regulator must inform the applicant of the reasons for their decision. A decision not to issue a licence, or to impose a licence condition, is a reviewable decision under the GT Act, and the applicant may apply to the [Administrative Appeals Tribunal](#) for review of the merits of the decision.

Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. Anyone can apply for a licence; however, the GT Regulator is required to consider the suitability of the applicant to hold a licence. Section 58 of the GT Act provides information on applicant suitability.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Application forms to work with GMOs can be found on the OGTR website at <https://www.ogtr.gov.au/apply-gmo-approval>.

11. Each DIR licence is made available on the OGTR website at <https://www.ogtr.gov.au/what-weve-approved/dealings-involving-intentional-release>. A copy of the licence should accompany all shipments of GMOs unless the licence specifies otherwise.

12. Currently no fees apply to applications for licences under the GT Act.

13. Not applicable.

### Conditions of licensing

14. The period of the licence will be determined on a case-by-case basis during the assessment of the application. Typically, commercial licences do not have an expiry date.

15. Licences permit, but do not require, persons to deal with the specified GMOs. All licence conditions must be followed when dealing with GMOs. It is a criminal offence to knowingly breach the conditions of a licence.

16. Section 70 of the GT Act allows for the transfer of a licence. A 90-working day assessment period applies to applications to transfer a licence. When deciding whether to transfer a licence, the GT Regulator must consider the suitability of the receiving applicant to hold the licence.

17. Division 6 of part 5 of the GT Act contains information on conditions that may apply to a licence. This includes (but is not limited to):

- (i) the scope of the dealings authorised by the licence;
- (ii) the purposes for which the dealings may be undertaken;
- (iii) variations to the scope or purposes of the dealings;
- (iv) documentation and record-keeping requirements;
- (v) the required level of containment in respect of the dealings, including requirements relating to the certification of facilities to specified containment levels;
- (vi) waste disposal requirements;
- (vii) measures to manage risks posed to the health and safety of people, or to the environment;
- (viii) data collection, including studies to be conducted;
- (ix) auditing and reporting;
- (x) actions to be taken in case of the release of a GMO from a contained environment;
- (xi) the geographic area in which the dealings authorised by the licence may occur;
- (xii) requiring compliance with a code of practice issued under section 24, or a technical or procedural guideline issued under section 27;
- (xiii) supervision by, and monitoring by, Institutional Biosafety Committees;
- (xiv) contingency planning in respect of unintended effects of the dealings authorised by the licence;
- (xv) limiting the dissemination or persistence of the GMO or its genetic material in the environment;
- (xvi) requiring the licence holder to inform people of licence requirements;
- (xvii) requiring the licence holder to provide the GT Regulator with relevant information; and
- (xviii) allowing the GT Regulator to monitor dealings with GMOs.

### Other procedural requirements

18. Not applicable.



19. Not applicable.

## 11 HAZARDOUS GOODS

### Outline of System

1. For health and safety reasons, the importation of goods deemed to be hazardous is prohibited under the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act), the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations). Only the responsible Minister or an authorised person can grant permission to import banned goods.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Goods covered under these Acts include:

Goods listed under Schedule 2 in relation to Regulation 4 of the PI Regulations:

- Cosmetic products containing more than 250 mg/kg of lead or lead compounds (calculated as lead), except products containing more than 250mg/kg of lead acetate designed for use in hair treatments.
- Erasers that resemble food in scent or appearance, that contain more than:
  - (a) 90 mg/kg of lead; or
  - (b) 25 mg/kg of arsenic; or
  - (c) 60 mg/kg of antimony; or
  - (d) 75 mg/kg of cadmium; or
  - (e) 500mg/kg of selenium; or
  - (f) 60 mg/kg of mercury; or
  - (g) 60 mg/kg of chromium; or
  - (h) 1,000mg/kg of barium.
- Money boxes coated with a material that contains more than 90 mg/kg of lead.
- Toys coated with a material the non-volatile content of which contains more than:
  - (a) 90 mg/kg of lead; or
  - (b) 25 mg/kg of arsenic; or
  - (c) 60 mg/kg of antimony; or
  - (d) 75 mg/kg of cadmium; or
  - (e) 500mg/kg of selenium; or
  - (f) 60 mg/kg of mercury; or
  - (g) 60 mg/kg of chromium; or
  - (h) 1,000mg/kg of barium.
- Pencils or paint brushes coated with a material the non-volatile content of which contains more than:
  - (a) 90 mg/kg of lead; or
  - (b) 25 mg/kg of arsenic; or
  - (c) 60 mg/kg of antimony; or
  - (d) 75 mg/kg of cadmium; or
  - (e) 500mg/kg of selenium; or
  - (f) 60 mg/kg of mercury; or
  - (g) 60 mg/kg of chromium; or
  - (h) 1,000mg/kg of barium.

Goods listed under Schedule 7 in relation to Regulation 4E of the PI Regulations:

- Glazed ceramic articles normally used for or in connexion with the storage or consumption of food containing lead or cadmium in an amount per volume beyond permissible levels specified in schedule 7 of the PI Regulations.

Goods listed in Regulation 4S of the PI Regulations:

- Certain cigarette lighters.

Goods listed under Schedule 12 in relation to Regulation 4U of the PI Regulations:

- Glucomannan in tablet form.
- Seat belt accessories and similar goods designed to induce and maintain slack in retractor seat belts.
- Sun visors that do not comply with Australian Design Rule No. 11.
- Victim toys.
- Chewing tobacco and snuffs intended for oral use, imported in amount greater than 1.5kg.
- Underwater breathing apparatus consisting of an air pump, powered by the user's legs, that supplies air drawn down from the water's surface in a compressed state dependent on the user's effort.
- Devices that enable a water skier to be released quickly in the event of a mishap in the water.
- Candles with wicks that contain greater than 0.06% lead by weight and candle wicks containing greater than 0.06% lead by weight.
- Jelly confectionery product containing 'konjac' (also known as glucomannan, conjac, konnyaku, konjonac, taro powder and yam flour) and supplied in a container that has a height or width of less than or equal to 45mm.

3. The regulations apply to the importation of goods from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports. The importation of these goods is regulated due to safety concerns for people and animals if the goods are used inappropriately.

5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under the PI Regulations made under the Customs Act. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications should be made in advance of arrival of the goods. In certain circumstances, import permission can be given to goods that have inadvertently arrived at the point of entry.

(b) Permission to import is granted by the responsible Minister or an authorised person.

(c) There are no such limitations.

(d) Permission to import is granted by the responsible Minister or an authorised person.

Importers may be required to provide written confirmation from an analytical laboratory recognised by the [National Association of Testing Authorities Australia](#) (NATA), or a NATA accredited authority, that their goods comply with the requirements of the regulations.

8. Apart from statutory or ordinary requirements there are no other criteria. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. In certain circumstances applicants refused permission to import may appeal on the merits of the decision to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Applications for permission to import must be made to the responsible Minister or authorised person. The application must include the following information:

- Importer's name and address;
- Details of the goods to be imported, including quantity to be imported and intended use and distribution.

11. The original permission from the responsible Minister or authorised person is required to be produced upon importation.

Alternatively, for the importation of lighters under Regulation 4S of the PI Regulations, the importer may complete a statutory declaration stating that a certificate of compliance has been issued and produce that statutory declaration to the responsible customs administration.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

### Conditions of licensing

14. The responsible Minister or authorised person may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Permits/licences are not transferable between importers.

17.(a)Not applicable.

(b) Permission to import goods specified under Regulations 4, 4E, 4S and 4U of the PI Regulations may be subject to conditions regarding custody, use, disposal or distribution of the imported goods.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 12 HAZARDOUS WASTE

### Outline of System

1. The import, export and transit of hazardous waste is regulated under the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989* (the Act) and associated regulations, to ensure that hazardous waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner to protect human beings and the environment, within and outside Australia.

The regulatory framework implements Australia's obligations under the *Basel Convention for the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal* (Basel Convention), as well as the following related agreements and arrangements concerning the transboundary movement of hazardous and other waste:

- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Council Decision C (2001) 107 FINAL, as amended by C (2004) 20;
- the Waigani Convention (Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region); and

- a bilateral arrangement between Australia and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The Act and regulations establish a permit control system for the export from, import into, or transit through, Australia of hazardous and other wastes, which are determined by category and characteristics listed in the schedules of the Basel Convention, Waigani Convention, and OECD Council Decision.

3. The permit system applies to all transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes between countries that are a party to the Basel Convention or the Waigani Convention, or member countries of the OECD, or imports from East Timor to Australia.

4. The Act and regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

The permit system ensures that Australia's international obligations concerning the transboundary movement, for environmentally sound and safe management of hazardous and other waste, are upheld.

To that effect, the Basel Convention provides that trans boundary movements of hazardous and other wastes is to be reduced to the minimum consistent with the environmentally sound and efficient management of such wastes.

Complementary to this, the OECD Council Decision controls the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes destined for recycling and/or recovery operations between OECD members in view of member countries having established infrastructure.

Australia's agreement with East Timor allows the import of hazardous waste from East Timor to Australia following similar procedures to that established under the Basel Convention.

5. The law under which the permitting system is maintained is the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989* (Hazardous Waste Act) and associated regulations. Permitting is a statutory requirement for the import, export and transit of any hazardous waste listed in schedules to the Basel Convention, Waigani Convention, or the OECD Council Decision. It is not possible to abolish the system without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) The Hazardous Waste Act and regulations require that a permit be obtained before hazardous waste is exported from, imported into, or transited through, Australia. All applications are assessed according to the relevant sections of the Hazardous Waste Act or associated regulations, and on a case-by-case basis. The timeframes in the Hazardous Waste Act and associated regulations reflect the timeframes provided for in the treaties on hazardous waste to which Australia is a party.

(b) No. Permits are issued only after authorisation by the Minister for the Environment or their delegate, with a requirement for determination of the justification for import and the fitness of the processing organisation to treat the material in an environmentally sound manner.

(c) No.

(d) Consideration of a permit application is undertaken by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Importers may, however, have to approach other government (Commonwealth, State and Territory) agencies for approval to import due to conditions that apply to the type of item. Examples of such agencies would be the Therapeutic Goods Administration or the appropriate State or Territory environment agency.

8. A permit application may be refused on various grounds under the Act and regulations, for example if the Minister for the Environment considers that it would not be in the public interest to grant the permit.

There are also requirements on all countries through which the proposed movement of hazardous waste is to be transported, to control the transboundary movement of hazardous waste. Refusal to accept the movement by any such country will result in the country of export being refused a permit.

A statement of reasons for the Minister of the Environment or their delegate's refusal of a permit is given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to exports may appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal on the merits of the decision. Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) Any person, firm or institution may apply for a permit.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. As with all applications, the decision of the Minister for the Environment or their delegate will be based on information provided as required under the Hazardous Waste Act or relevant regulations.

Amongst other things, the Minister for the Environment will consider whether the proposed manner for dealing with the hazardous waste is environmentally sound, the applicant is a suitable person to be granted a permit and has appropriate insurance.

The form that is required to be used when applying for an import, export or transit permit may be accessed here: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/hazardous-waste/permits>.

In general information required in the permit application includes:

- the identity and suitability of the applicant, including applicant's name and address and financial situation;
- a description of the material to be imported;
- the method of transportation, ports of entry for importation; and
- the method of disposal of the waste.

More details of what the Minister for the Environment will give consideration to as part of an application process can be found at: <https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A03937>

Additional documentation required with the application includes verification that the disposal is environmentally sound and safe, the capability of the processors to treat the material, and proof that appropriate insurances and contracts have been obtained/arranged.

11. The import permit and a completed Movement/Tracking Form are required.

12. The application fees and levy that apply to the lodgement of permit applications, can be accessed in the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) (Fees) Regulations 1990. All permit application fees (including the levy) are non-refundable.

13. There is no requirement for an advance payment, as the relevant fee must be paid at the time of making a permit application. Full payment of the fee is required (unless the Minister has determined in writing that the prescribed fee payable in relation to a specified application or a specified notice is reduced by a specified amount) - The fee is not refundable. Permit application fees can be found at: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/hazardous-waste/permits#permit-application-fees>

### Conditions of licensing

14. Under the Basel Convention, the import permit is valid for a period of up to twelve months and covers the amount and number of shipments of the hazardous waste as noted in the application. The OECD Council Decision allows the period for permits up to 36 months for pre-authorised facilities.
15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of an import permit or a portion of that permit.
16. Permits/licences are not transferable between importers.
- 17.(a) Not applicable.
- (b) All applications must identify the maximum amount of the hazardous wastes that is intended to be covered by the permit. The maximum amount that is then specified in that permit cannot be exceeded. In addition, the applicant is provided with conditions that form part of the permit that usually relate specifically to the transport, treatment and/or disposal of the hazardous waste.

### Other procedural requirements

18. In some cases the approval/certification of other agencies is required prior to the issue of a permit. The permit applicant is responsible for ensuring they have obtained all relevant approvals and licenses.
19. Not applicable.

## 13 ICE PIPES

### Outline of System

1. The importation of ice pipes is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#) (PI Regulations) unless the permission of the Minister for Home Affairs, or an authorised person, has been obtained.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Ice pipes are defined as a device that is capable of being used for administering methylamphetamine, or any other drug mentioned in Schedule 4 of the PI Regulations, by the drawing or inhaling of smoke or fumes resulting from heating the drug, in the device, in a crystal, powder, oil or base form. Components are also controlled, and these are defined as a device which appears, on reasonable grounds, to be part of an ice pipe; and is capable of being used for administering a drug mentioned in Schedule of the PI Regulations, in the way described in the definition of ice pipe, only if adjusted, modified or added to.
3. The system applies to the importation of goods originating from all countries.
4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports. A permit can specify conditions or requirements including times for compliance and the number of ice pipes allowed to be imported. The Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person has the power to revoke permission where the holder does not comply with a condition or requirement.

The control on ice pipes has been introduced as a result of the Australian Government's commitment to reduce the abuse of illicit drugs. Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) have been identified by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission as an organised crime priority for the Australian Government. While ATS can be administered in a range of ways, smoking its crystalline form (known as ice) is particularly dangerous, due to high drug purity levels, which can result in serious physical and emotional harm.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4I of the PI Regulations made under the Customs Act. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7. (a) Application should be made in advance of arrival of the goods.

(b) Applications for permission to import can be processed immediately provided all information is available and the application is considered to be urgent.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Permissions are granted by the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused at the discretion of the relevant Minister or authorised person. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to import may appeal on the decision-making process under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply. However, permission will not be granted for personal use.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications must be made in writing to the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. The application should include supporting documentation to possess the goods and/or any relevant end user evidential documentation.

11. The original permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or authorised person is required upon importation.

12. There is no permit fee.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of permission.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The Minister for Home Affairs may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permission or a portion of a permission.

16. Permits/licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be imposed on the permission and quantities are specified.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 14 IMPORTS TO ANTARCTICA

### Outline of System

1. Under the *Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act 1980* (Antarctic Treaty Act) as amended, and in line with the requirements of the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty* (the Madrid Protocol), persons are not permitted to import certain items into Antarctica. This legislation applies to Australian nationals for all areas south of 60° south and for foreign nationals to the Australian Antarctic Territory only.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The import licensing system is implemented via the Antarctic Treaty Act. It provides:

- that a person shall not bring into the Antarctic an organism that is not indigenous to the Antarctic unless the organism (not being a live animal) was brought into the Antarctic to be used as food. None of these items may be brought into Antarctica unless authorised by a permit (s19(1)(c));
- if a person brings an organism into the Antarctic for use as food the person must put controls in place to ensure that the organism does not escape into the Antarctic environment;
- a person who brings into the Antarctic poultry or any other bird product that is to be used as food must ensure it is not contaminated with disease;
- that a person shall not bring into, or keep in, the Antarctic non-sterile soil, or polychlorinated biphenyls, or polystyrene beads or chips or any similar kind of packaging material (s19(1)(ca)); and,
- that a person shall not bring into, or keep in, the Antarctic any pesticide unless for scientific, medical or hygienic purposes (s19(1)(cb)).

3. The system applies to goods from all countries.

4. The above restrictions have been put in place to implement the Madrid Protocol. The objective of the Madrid Protocol is the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Antarctic Treaty Act is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

5. The control may not be repealed without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Proponents are encouraged to submit permit applications as far in advance of their intended activity as practicable. Proponents should allow a minimum of two months for the assessment of a permit application.

(b) Permits cannot be granted immediately upon request. The permit-holder must obtain a permit prior to their arrival in Antarctica. Permits cannot be issued retrospectively.

(c) Permit applications may be lodged at any time of the year.

(d) Permit applications are assessed by one organisation – i.e., the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) of the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Corresponding permits are also prepared by the AAD. Accordingly, proponents need only approach one organisation.

8. An application for a permit will only be refused if it does not meet the ordinary criteria. Particulars of refusals to grant permits are provided to the applicant and those particulars are accompanied by a statement to the effect that, subject to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, application may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for the review of the merits of a decision to refuse to grant a permit by or on behalf of the person or persons whose interests are affected by



the decision. Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All Australian proponents of Antarctic activities are eligible to apply for a permit. No fee is charged.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. The project proponent (in the case of research projects, the Chief Investigator) completes an application form for a permit. The application should include the following information:

- name and address of applicant;
- research location and research methodology;
- any non-indigenous species being introduced to Antarctica;
- intended access to specially protected areas; sample specimens to be extracted;
- members of research team or field project; and
- organisation affiliated to research project.

Permits are applied for online. The process is described at: <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/environment/environmental-impact-assessment-approvals-and-permits>

11. Inspectors appointed under the Antarctic Treaty Act monitor actions to ensure they are undertaken in accordance with the approved permit.

12. There is no fee or administrative charge.

13. Not applicable.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. A permit's period of validity is dependent on a project's planned length. A proponent may apply to extend a permit's period of validity.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permit or a portion of a permit.

16. Permits are not transferable. However, a permit may be varied to:

- include additional names; and
- omit existing names.

A person to whom a permit has been granted (a principal) may authorise other persons to accompany one or more of the principals to carry on activities authorised by the permit.

17. No.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. There are no other administrative processes required.

19. Not applicable.

## 15 IMPORTS TO TERRITORY OF HEARD ISLANDS AND MCDONALD ISLANDS

### Outline of System

1. The Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands is an external territory of Australia. The purpose of the *Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Environment Protection and Management Ordinance 1987* is the preservation and management of the Territory for the protection of its environment and wildlife.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The *Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Environment Protection and Management Ordinance 1987* prohibits:

- the importation of any diseased organism or live poultry into the Territory (s13);
- the importation of any organism, or any dead poultry or poultry products into the Territory unless in accordance with a permit (s14.1(b)).

3. The system applies to goods from all countries (and from other parts of Australia).

4. The *Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Environment Protection and Management Ordinance 1987* is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

5. The controls may not be repealed without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Proponents are encouraged to submit permit applications as far in advance of their intended activity as practicable. Proponents should allow four months for the assessment of a permit application.

(b) Permits cannot be granted immediately upon request. The permit-holder must obtain a permit prior to their arrival in the Territory. Permits cannot be issued retrospectively.

(c) Permit applications may be lodged at any time of the year.

(d) Section 15(1) permit applications are assessed by a single organisation – i.e., the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) of the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Corresponding permits are also prepared by the AAD. Accordingly, proponents need only approach one organisation.

8. An application for a permit will be refused if it is inconsistent with the requirements of the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve Management Plan 2014-2024*, which includes the Territory. The reasons for refusals are given to the applicant and the applicant has a right of appeal. Particulars of refusals to grant permits are published in the Commonwealth Government Gazette and those particulars are accompanied by a statement to the effect that, subject to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, application may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for the review of the merits of a decision to refuse to grant a permit by or on behalf of the person or persons whose interests are affected by the decision. Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) Any person is eligible to apply for a permit.

## Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. The application should include the following information:

- name and address of applicant;
- details of research location;
- any non-indigenous species being introduced to the Territory;
- use of radioisotopes;
- details of sample specimens to be extracted;
- members of research team or field project; and
- organisation affiliated to research project.

11. Permit requirements and the application process are described at: <http://heardisland.antarctica.gov.au/protection-and-management/management-plan/permits>. Visitor self-regulation is an important component of the Territory's environmental management regime.

12. No fees or administration charges are currently imposed. Section 15(6) does, however, provide for the imposition of a permit issue fee not exceeding A\$50.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

## Conditions of licensing

14. A permit's period of validity is dependent on the length of time that the applicant is scheduled to stay in the Territory. A proponent may apply to extend a permit's period of validity.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Permits are not transferable. However, a permit may be varied to include additional names; and omit existing names.

17. No.

## Other procedural requirements

18. There are no other administrative processes required.

19. Not applicable.

## 16 INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

### Outline of System

1. The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) aids in the protection of the Australian people and the environment through the regulation of the introduction of industrial chemicals, the assessment and evaluation of the introduction and use of certain industrial chemicals and providing information and recommendations to promote their safe use. Industrial chemicals include a broad range of chemicals used in inks, plastics, adhesives, paints, glues, solvents, cosmetics, soaps and many other products. The Office of Chemical Safety (OCS) within the Department of Health and Aged Care administers the statutory scheme known as the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS), established under the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019* (IC Act). OCS assessments inform decisions made by a wide range of Commonwealth, State and Territory government agencies involved in regulating the control, use, release and disposal of industrial chemicals. AICIS administers the following licensing systems under the IC Act:

- Chemical assessments and authorisations – The import and/or manufacture of industrial chemicals is authorised under specific categories. Chemicals not listed on the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals (Inventory) may be introduced under Exempted (very low risk introductions), Reported (low risk) or Assessed (medium to high risk) categories.

Introducers will have to first categorise the chemical they wish to introduce by determining the indicative risk to human health and the environment. Commercial importers and/or manufacturers (introducers) are required to apply for assessment of a medium to high-risk chemical and upon completion an assessment certificate may be granted. Introducers are also required to apply to vary the Inventory listing for an industrial chemical if their intended use differs from that specified in the listing. An introducer may apply for a commercial evaluation authorisation in order to evaluate the commercial viability of industrial chemicals.

- Registration of introducers – establishes a Register of Industrial Chemical Introducers – A certificate of Registration authorises companies and persons to import industrial chemicals into Australia
- International Conventions - is responsible for implementing the domestic obligations of the Rotterdam Convention for industrial chemicals and the Minamata Convention on Mercury for mercury with industrial uses. Australia's import decisions for industrial chemicals listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention reflects the current regulatory status of that chemical in Australia. More information can be obtained from: <https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/chemical-information/banned-or-restricted-chemicals/chemicals-listed-rotterdam-and-stockholm-conventions/apply-annual-import-authorisation-rotterdam-convention>

Rotterdam Convention - The importation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and other substances obtained by chlorinating terphenyls (PCTs) and other polyphenyls, is prohibited under the provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* and Prohibited Import (PI) Regulations unless the permission in writing of the responsible Minister is granted and presented at the time of importation. The permission must be issued in the name of the owner. It may include strict conditions as to the application, disposal and destruction of the industrial chemicals.

Under the Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019, the introduction and export of chemicals listed in sections 72 and 73 is prohibited without approval from the Executive Director, AICIS.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Refer above for details of each licensing system and chemicals that are subject to each system under the IC Act.

3. Chemical assessment and authorisation applies to the importation of industrial chemicals (as defined in the IC Act) from all countries.

4. International Conventions - The Rotterdam Convention applies to chemicals subject to the Convention originating in and coming from countries that are Parties to that Convention. The purpose of the Rotterdam Convention is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm. Systems for chemicals covered by the Rotterdam Convention apply to goods originating in and coming from countries that are Parties to that Convention. AICIS also authorises chemicals imported from countries which are not a Party to the Convention, for example tetraethyl lead. The licensing of chemicals covered by the Rotterdam Convention is for the purpose of fulfilling Australia's obligations under that Convention. The monetary value is not a criterion for control.

See section 34 for measures for mercury with industrial uses under the Minamata Convention

5. Chemical assessment and authorisation - the registration process and the control on the importation of other industrial chemicals are prescribed in the IC Act.

Registration of introducers – the purpose of registering all introducers is a legislative requirement under the IC Act. The risk from the importation of chemicals is borne by industry in the form of a charge based on the value of relevant industrial chemical imported/manufactured.

International Conventions - the licensing of chemicals covered by the Rotterdam and Minamata Convention is for the purpose of fulfilling Australia's obligations under those Convention. The

monetary value is not a criterion for control. The control on importation of PCBs, PCTs and polychlorinated polyphenyls is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4AB of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The OCS administers the statutory scheme known as the AICIS, established under the IC Act.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Chemical assessment and authorisation – Required authorising instruments (e.g., assessment certificates) must be obtained before the chemical is introduced into Australia under the appropriate category for that chemical.

International Conventions – for the importation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated triphenyls (PCTs) and polychlorinated polyphenyls application for a permit should be made in advance of the arrival of the goods.

(b) Chemical assessment and authorisation – assessment certificates are issued after an assessment is completed. Statutory timeframes apply to assessment applications, commercial evaluation authorisations and applications to vary an Inventory listing.

International Conventions – for the importation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated triphenyls (PCTs) and polychlorinated polyphenyls permits cannot be issued immediately as they are only issued on the advice of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

For the remaining chemicals listed on the Rotterdam Convention – within 20 business days as long as criteria are met.

(c) All licencing may be issued throughout the year.

(d) International Conventions – for the importation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated triphenyls (PCTs) and polychlorinated polyphenyls, a permit is issued by the Minister for Home Affairs on the advice of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Permissions to import PCBs are normally granted by the Department of Home Affairs for research purposes. However, PCB waste may also be imported under the Hazardous Waste (Regulations of Exports and Imports) Act 1989, provided all the requirements of that Act have been met. For the remaining industrial chemicals listed on the Rotterdam Convention, written approvals are issued by AICIS.

8. International Conventions – for the importation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated triphenyls (PCTs) and polychlorinated polyphenyls an application for permission to import can be refused on the discretion of the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. There is no right of appeal against the Minister's decision. For the remaining chemicals listed in the Rotterdam Convention, and the import/export of mercury for industrial uses, approvals are issued by AICIS and if approval is not granted a person whose interests are affected may request the Executive Director to reconsider the decision. An application may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review of a reconsidered decision.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Every person who introduces an industrial chemical in Australia must be registered.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import provided statutory requirements outlined above are met.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Chemical assessment and authorisation – a comprehensive list of documentation and other requirements required for this process can be found on the AICIS website at

---

[https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/getting\\_started/basics-importing-and-manufacturing-chemicals](https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/getting_started/basics-importing-and-manufacturing-chemicals).

International Conventions – applications for permits to import polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated triphenyls (PCTs) and polychlorinated polyphenyls must be made in writing to the Minister for Home Affairs. The application should include the importer's name and address and details of the goods to be imported.

Applications for permission to import PCBs and PCTs can be made using the form available at: <https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/1530.pdf>.

11. International Conventions – for the importation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated triphenyls (PCTs) and polychlorinated polyphenyls, the written permission of the Minister for Home Affairs is required to be produced on import. For the remaining chemicals listed in the Rotterdam Convention, authorisation from AICIS is required to be in force at the time of importing the chemical.

12. A comprehensive list of all AICIS fees and charges can be found on the AICIS website at <https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/fees>.

International Conventions – There are fees for import approvals for chemicals listed in the Rotterdam Convention under the IC Act. The fees and charges are available at: <https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au/fees>. There are no fees for import or export approvals for mercury.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

### Conditions of licensing

14. Registration of introducers - AICIS Registration is valid for one year commencing on 1 September and finishing on 31 August.

International Conventions - Rotterdam Permits (granted by the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person) apply to one consignment only.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a licence or a portion of a licence under the IC Act.

16. Registration of introducers - permits/licences are not transferable between importers.

17. All authorisations to import the chemicals listed in the Rotterdam Convention can be subject to conditions including the quantity. Permission granted under Regulation 4AB of the PI Regulations may specify conditions or requirements to be complied with by the holder of the permission.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 17 ROAD VEHICLES

### Outline of System

1. Importation into Australia of road vehicles is controlled under the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (the Act) and *Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019* (the Rules). The Act and the Rules commenced in full on 1 July 2021 and replaced the now repealed *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (MVS Act) and associated regulations and determinations.

## Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Under the Act, approvals are required to import road vehicles into Australia. (However, approvals are not required in circumstances where road vehicles are imported under certain International Conventions, where the importation is covered by certain Australian customs by-laws, and where the importation is of certain Australian Defence Force Road vehicles.)

The various approvals are described below.

Road vehicles that are imported under road vehicle type approvals include vehicles that are fully compliant with national road vehicle standards or are substantially compliant where the non-compliance is minor or inconsequential, sufficient to make the vehicles suitable for provision in Australia for use on a public road.

Road vehicles that are approved for importation under concessional import arrangements are vehicles not otherwise available in Australia, or subject to other special circumstances, and which do not or cannot meet the national road vehicle standards. These vehicles may have particular features such as being high performance, low emission, or having accessibility features, or they may be designed to perform particular specialised jobs that fully compliant vehicles are not capable of performing while still fulfilling their intended purpose. Concessional import arrangements limit the quantity of road vehicles that can be imported into Australia by the holders of relevant approvals, where those vehicles are personal effects or trailers. These quantity limits do not depend on the country from which these vehicles are imported into Australia. Road vehicles subject to concessional import arrangements are covered by 'concessional RAV entry approvals'.

Road vehicles that are not, generally, to be used on a public road can also be approved for importation - for example, vehicles to be used in a race or rally, in testing and evaluation, or for public exhibition. These road vehicles are covered by 'non-RAV entry import approvals'.

Following the repeal of the MVS Act, approvals are available temporarily for certain vehicles to be imported into Australia. These approvals are 'transitional import approvals'. Arrangements for transitional import approvals limit the quantity of certain used vehicles that can be imported into Australia by the holders of these approvals. These quantity limits do not depend on the country from which these vehicles are imported into Australia.

Certain road vehicles that are outside Australia can be approved for reimportation into Australia. The relevant approvals are 'reimportation import approvals'.

3. The requirement in the Act for an approval to import a road vehicle into Australia applies to the importation of all road vehicles from all countries.

4. A purpose of the Act is to set nationally consistent performance-based standards that road vehicles must comply with before being provided in Australia. Another purpose of the Act is to provide consumers in Australia with a choice of road vehicles that:

- meet safety and environmental expectations of the community;
- use energy conservation technology and anti-theft technology; and
- are able to make use of technological advancements.

The Act aims to achieve these purposes by requiring approvals to import road vehicles into Australia.

5. The Act and the Rules are published on the Federal Register of Legislation, accessible at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022C00421>

Legislative requirements for approvals are set out in the Rules. Controls on the import of road vehicles are statutory requirements and cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

## Procedures

6. Not applicable.

- 7.(a) With the exception of applications for road vehicle type approvals, applications for approvals where there is no quantitative limit on importation are usually assessed within 30 business days. Applications for road vehicle type approvals are usually assessed within 60 business days. However, these timeframes will be longer if further information or an inspection is requested to assist in the assessment process.
- (b) Requests for immediate granting of approvals may be submitted for consideration, providing all statutory requirements for applications are met.
- (c) There are no limitations on the period of the year for the submission of applications for approvals.
- (d) Applications for approvals are considered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
8. There are no circumstances under which applications for approvals are refused other than failure to meet the statutory criteria in the Rules. Reasons are provided to the applicant where a refusal is issued.

Applicants may appeal a refusal decision to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Alternatively, an appeal may be made in relation to the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. Generally, all persons may apply for approval to import vehicles into Australia. As set out below, some approvals can only be applied for by particular persons, and the granting of some approvals is dependent on whether criteria that relate to the applicant are met.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Following the repeal of the MVS Act, approvals ('transitional import approvals') are available temporarily for certain unrestricted volume two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicles. These transitional import approvals can only be applied for by holders of approvals granted under section 21B of the MVS Act that remain in force under the Consequential and Transitional Provisions Act.

Under concessional import arrangements, a person can be approved to import into Australia a road vehicle that is to be imported as part of the person's personal effects. The eligibility criterion for the import of personal effects under these arrangements, set out in section 39 of the Rules, includes requirements that apply to the applicant. These requirements include that, as at the date of the application for an approval, the applicant:

- o is entitled to remain in Australia indefinitely, or
- o has applied to become an Australian citizen or permanent resident, or for a visa that would allow the applicant to remain in Australia indefinitely, or
- o is the holder of a visa that entitles the applicant to apply to become a permanent resident, whether or not after a specified period or in specified circumstances.

Following the repeal of the MVS Act, approvals ('transitional import approvals') are available temporarily for certain used vehicles. These transitional import approvals can only be applied for by holders of approvals granted under section 21B of the MVS Act that remain in force under the Consequential and Transitional Provisions Act 2018.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications for concessional RAV entry approvals, non-RAV entry import approvals, and reimportation import approvals require applicant details, certain declarations, road vehicle details, as well as information about road vehicle use, compliance with applicable national road vehicle standards and information about whether the person who would be the approval holder has or may have contravened certain road vehicle legislation. The information and documents required in



particular applications will depend on the particular circumstances. Application forms are electronic and can be accessed by registered users of the department's online application system – Road Vehicle Regulator 'ROVER'. ROVER is accessible at the website of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Applications for road vehicle type approvals require applicant details, vehicle type details, details about relevant design and manufacturing facilities, information about the person's control over design and manufacturing of the relevant road vehicle type, as well as information about compliance with applicable national road vehicle standards and whether the person that would be the approval holder has contravened or may have certain road vehicle legislation. Application forms are electronic and can be accessed by registered users of the department's online application system – Road Vehicle Regulator 'ROVER'. ROVER is accessible at the website of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Applications for transitional import approvals require applicant details, evidence that the applicant holds a valid import plate approval IPA (IPA) under the MVS Act, information and declarations to confirm the make and model of vehicle being imported and that it is covered by the terms of the IPA, evidence to confirm that the vehicle has been plated according to the requirements specified in the IPA, information to confirm the reasons for importing the vehicle, information to confirm its intended usage, and the importation date. The information and documents required in particular applications will depend on the particular circumstances. Application forms are electronic and are accessible to eligible applicants through the Vehicle Import System (VIS). VIS is accessible at the website of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

11. Importers must obtain approvals before a road vehicle can be imported into Australia. Importers are advised not to ship their road vehicle to Australia without first obtaining an approval.

12. Application fees must accompany applications for approvals. The application fee payable depends on the kind of application made. The amounts of the various application fees are set out in Part 10 of the Rules.

13. Not applicable.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. A road vehicle type approval remains in force for seven years, unless revoked earlier. A concessional RAV entry approval will specify the day that the approval comes into force, and the day (if any) that the approval expires. A transitional import approval will specify the day that the approval comes into force and, if the approval is for a specified period, the day that the approval expires. A non-RAV entry import approval will specify the day that the approval comes into force and, if the approval is for a specified period, the day that the approval expires.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of an approval or a portion of an approval.

16. Approvals are not transferable between importers.

17.(a) Not applicable.

(b) Under the Rules, conditions set out in the Rules apply to approvals under concessional import arrangements to import into Australia a road vehicle that is to be imported as part of the person's personal effects, approvals under concessional import arrangements to import into Australia a road vehicle that is a trailer, and transitional import approvals that are available temporarily for certain used vehicles. These approvals can also be subject to any additional conditions specified in the approvals.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. Administrative requirements of the Australian Border Force and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry must be met before a road vehicle is imported into Australia.

19. Not applicable.

---

## 18 NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED CHEMICALS

### Outline of System

1. Licences and permits are issued to control the import of specified narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and related chemicals, including kava.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. This system fulfils part of Australia's obligation under three United Nations Conventions in relation to restricting the supply of controlled substances to that necessary to meet medical and scientific need and preventing diversion to the illicit drug market. The drugs covered are substances listed in Schedule 4 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations). The licensing system covers persons involved in international trade of those substances listed in Schedule 4 of the PI Regulations, their derivatives, precursors and related substances. These include the drugs and chemicals required to be controlled under the *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961*, the *Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971*, and Table I and Table II of the *Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988*.

An exemption applies in the case of a drug that is imported by a passenger on a ship or aircraft where the drug:

- (a):
- (i) is required for the medical treatment of the person or another passenger under the care of the person;
  - (ii) was prescribed by a medical practitioner for the purpose of that treatment; and
  - (iii) was supplied to the person in accordance with the prescription of the medical practitioner.
- (b):
- (i) is required for the medical treatment of an animal that is being imported and is under the care of the person;
  - (ii) was prescribed by a veterinarian for use in the animal for the purposes of that treatment; and
  - (iii) was supplied to the person in accordance with the prescription of the veterinarian.

An exemption applies in the case of kava that is imported by a commercial entity for the purposes of sale as a food.

Incoming passengers who are over the age of 18 years are allowed to bring 4kg of kava (*piper methysticum*) either in the root or dried form, other than a product listed or registered under the *Therapeutics Goods Act 1989*, into Australia in their accompanied baggage.

3. The system applies to importers of controlled substances from all countries.

4. The use of import licences and permits enables the Government to restrict and monitor the quantities of controlled substances imported. This is intended to prevent the over-supply and diversion of controlled substances and is one strategy adopted to address drug misuse. The system is based on the requirements of the international treaties. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports.

5. The *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the PI Regulations govern the importation of drugs. The licensing of importers is a statutory requirement under paragraphs 50(3) (a) and (b) of the Customs Act. The drugs subject to control are specified in Schedule 4 under Regulation 5 of the PI Regulations. This system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

- 7.(a) There is no minimum advance notice required for a licence. However, stringent checks of applicants for licences are undertaken in order to issue a licence. Applications for an import permit should be made a minimum of 20 working days prior to import. Permits will only be issued to a licensed importer. Goods arriving at the port without a permit cannot be imported and retrospective permits cannot be issued.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) Import licences and import permits are both issued by the Department of Health and Aged Care. When considering licence applications, State licence or legislative exception must be supplied at the time of applying for a licence to import, the company applying contacts the relevant State Authority. Other authorities may be contacted by the Department of Health and Aged Care to verify application details (for example, the Australian Border Force for personnel checks of the company applying). The applicant does not need to approach these authorities.

8. An application may be refused for any of the following reasons:

- The criteria are not met. These criteria require the importer to be a "fit and proper person" and maintain adequate security for storage.
- If other permission is required but has not been obtained (for example, quarantine, State licences).

A licence or permit may be revoked if the licence holder fails to comply with the conditions of the licence or permit.

The affected person is notified in writing of any refusal or revocation. A request for review of the refusal can be made to the Australian Government Minister administering the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, within 90 days after the decision first comes into the importer's notice. In the case of the applicant being dissatisfied with the Minister's finding, an application for a review of the Minister's decision can be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

- 9.(a) Not applicable.
- (b) Any person, firm or institution may apply for a licence. A licence shall not be granted unless the applicant is a fit and proper person to be granted a licence to import drugs and suitable security arrangements for the holding of drugs are in place. A licence is granted subject to conditions concerning use, sale and distribution of the substances. Import permits are only issued to licence holders. State licence or legislative exception must be supplied at the time of applying for a licence to import. Any person, firm or institution may apply for a license to import kava. If the kava is imported as a food only a commercial entity may apply.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications for licences and permits must be submitted on either an "Application for a Licence to Import Controlled Substances" or "Application for a Permit to Import Controlled Substances" respectively.

The following information must be supplied for a licence application:

- name of the applicant (person or organisation);
- address of the premises on which the controlled substance will be held;
- nature of the business (e.g. pharmaceutical manufacture, chemical distribution, etc.);
- classes of controlled substances to be held (e.g. narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, precursor chemicals, laboratory standards, etc.);
- details of licences held relating to the storage, manufacture or distribution of the substances;
- details of any losses and/or thefts of controlled substances;

- details of all persons who will have access to the controlled substances, including their positions and qualifications and specific background information to enable a security check;
- details of the security arrangements for the storage, distribution and handling of the substances;
- details relating to the applicant's appointment of an agent (e.g. shipping agent, customs agent);
- proposed importing activity for the period of the licence including drug names and proposed quantities.

The following information must be supplied for a permit application:

- importer's name and address;
- overseas exporter's name and address;
- product description (name, form and strength);
- number and size of the packs;
- quantity of drug;
- proposed date of import;
- where applicable, the name of the end user and the use of the end substance.

A separate Permit to Import is required for every shipment of a controlled substance and will not be issued unless a licence is already held. All permits must be obtained in advance of the controlled substance arriving in Australia.

11. The import permit is the required document and, for some substances, the corresponding overseas export permit.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

### Conditions of licensing

14. Import licence validity can vary from six months to two years depending on the substances being imported. Import permits are usually valid for up to six months.

15. No. However, if a licence holder has not used the licence during the year and applies for a renewal, the applicant may need to justify retention of the licence.

16. Licences and permits are not transferable.

17. For licences, conditions apply to the keeping of records and the reporting of movements. For permits, specific conditions may be endorsed on the permit, (for example for re-export only or for veterinary use only).

### Other procedural requirements

18. Importers of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and related chemicals for commercial supply should familiarise themselves with the requirements of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* in relation to the importation of therapeutic goods for supply in Australia.

19. Not applicable.

## 19 OBJECTIONABLE GOODS

### Outline of System

1. Import controls exist on publications and goods that have been 'Refused Classification' by the Classification Board or if unclassified, would likely be refused classification if submitted for classification from entering Australia. Material which is prohibited under Regulation 4A, Importation of Objectionable Goods, of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) may

not be imported unless written approval has been granted from the Minister administering Part 2 of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (Cth)* (the responsible Minister) or by an authorised person; or the goods are being imported by an Australian police officer for the purposes of criminal investigation or law enforcement (including criminal prosecution).

Under sub-regulation 4A(2A) of the PI Regulations, the responsible Minister has appointed the Director and Deputy Director of the Classification Board as authorised persons to grant permissions to import.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Objectionable goods include: computer games; computer generated images; films; interactive games; publications and any other goods that describe, depict, express or otherwise deal with matters of sex, drug misuse or addiction, crime cruelty, violence or revolting or abhorrent phenomena in such a way that they offend against the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults to the extent that they should not be imported.

The goods may also be considered objectionable if the goods describe or depict in a way that is likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult, a person who is, or who appears to be, a child under 18 (whether the person is engaged in sexual activity or not). The goods may also be considered objectionable if they promote, incite or instruct in matters of crime or violence, or promote or incite the misuse of a drug specified in Schedule 4 of the PI Regulations. The goods may be considered objectionable if they advocate the doing of a terrorist act. Without limiting the above, computer games classified RC (Refused Classification) under the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* are also considered objectionable goods.

3. The regulations apply to the importation of goods from all countries.

4. The importation of these goods is regulated as a community protection measure. Goods included are considered to be detrimental to the well-being of the community. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4A of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Requests for permission to import should be made in advance of arrival of the goods. Requests to the Director or Deputy Director of the Classification Board generally take up to 20 working days to process assuming the person requesting the permission has provided sufficient information to allow a decision to be made. Requests may be made if goods land and are seized by the Australian Border Force. This may happen when a person inadvertently fails to apply in advance or does not realise the goods would be prohibited. The same processing time applies, and the Australian Border Force will delay destruction of the goods once they are notified a request for permission has been made. If the permission to import is refused or granted subject to conditions the person will be notified of the decision in writing.

(b) No.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) A request for permission to import can be refused, or granted subject to conditions, on the discretion of the responsible Minister, or a person authorised by the responsible Minister. Australian Border Force is responsible for determining whether goods are "objectionable" at the border and may apply for classification if the good is a publication, film or computer game as defined in the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*.

8. Where an application is refused, or granted subject to conditions, application for review of this decision may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT), and except where subsection 28(4) of the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975* applies, the applicant may request a statement of reasons for the decision. The responsible Minister may certify in writing that in the public interest the responsibility for permission or refusal should remain solely with the responsible Minister and should not be reviewable by the AAT. The certificate must include a statement of the grounds on which the certificate was issued.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. For permission to import applications must be made in writing to the responsible Minister or an authorised person (the Director, or Deputy Director of the Classification Board). The application should include the following information:

- importer's name and address;
- details of the goods to be imported;
- quantity and distribution (end use);
- the purposes for which the goods are to be imported;
- explanation and evidence of the extent to which the person to whom permission would be granted conducts activities of an artistic, educational, cultural or scientific nature to which the goods relate;
- evidence of the reputation of the person both in general and in relation to the activities described above; and
- explanation of the person's ability to meet any conditions that may be imposed in relation to the goods under sub-regulation 3 (i.e., custody, use, reproduction, disposal, destructions, exportation or accounting for the goods).
- any other relevant matters.

11. Proof of authorisation is required on importation.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Permits apply to one consignment only.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permission or a portion of a permission.

16. Licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be applied regarding the custody, use, reproduction, disposal, destruction or exportation of the imported goods or with respect to accounting for the goods for the purpose of ensuring that the goods are not used otherwise than for the purposes for which permission was granted.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 20 ORGANOCHLORINE CHEMICALS

### Outline of System

1. The importation of certain organochlorine chemicals (OCs) as listed in Schedule 1 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 and Schedule 9 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 is prohibited unless written permission, either from the Minister responsible for the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) or an authorised officer, is provided to the Australian Border Force (ABF) at the time of importation. An authorised officer means an officer of the DAFF who is authorised in writing by the relevant Minister for the purposes of this regulation.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. OCs were once commonly used in agriculture and industry; however, they have since been found to produce harmful effects on animals, people and the environment. The OCs subject to Australian import controls includes OCs controlled under domestic legislation and persistent organic pollutants that are listed under Schedule 1 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995. Schedule 1 is amended from time to time, to, inter alia, to reflect the Australian Government's ratification of decisions made by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention).

3. For OCs subject to domestic regulation import controls apply to all countries. For the OCs listed in Schedule 1 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 as Stockholm Convention import controls apply to Parties to this Convention.

4. The importation of these chemicals is regulated as a community protection measure. These chemicals are considered to be generally persistent in the environment, relatively toxic and bio-accumulative. OCs listed in the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 are intended to restrict imports, unless they are for uses or purposes allowed under the Stockholm Convention (e.g., specific exemption, acceptable purpose, laboratory-scale research, reference standard or environmentally sound disposal).

5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 and Regulation 5I of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

Australia is a Party to the Stockholm Convention and these import controls are required of all Parties. Australia would need to withdraw from the Convention in order to abolish these import controls.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable, as no organochlorine chemicals are restricted on the basis of either the quantity or value of imports.

7.(a) Application should be made in advance of arrival of the goods. However, if the chemicals have arrived without a permit, the Australian Border Force may hold the shipment until a decision concerning an application is made.

(b) Permits are not normally issued immediately. Applications for permits are made to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and normally processed within five business days.

(c) No, permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Permits are issued by the DAFF and are presented by the importer to the ABF at the time of importation.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused at the discretion of the Minister for Agriculture. Reasons for refusal would be explained to applicants. There is no right of appeal against the

Minister's decision. However, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. For permission to import, applications must be made in writing to the relevant Minister or authorised officer at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/ag-vet-chemicals/stockholm-rotterdam>. The application should include the following information:

- importer's name and address; and
- details of the goods to be imported including the appropriate international codes, quantity, intended use, exporting country, date of import.

11. The written permission of the Minister or authorised officer is required to be produced on import.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Permits usually apply to one consignment only, typically valid for three months but may be extended given sufficient justification.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. Permission granted under Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995 and Regulation 5I of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 may specify conditions or requirements to be complied with by the holder of the permission, such as the use of the chemical (e.g., as a reference standard or for laboratory-scale experiment only). If the holder of the permission fails to comply with a condition or requirement the Minister may revoke the permission.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

Further information can be found at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/ag-vet-chemicals/stockholm-rotterdam>.

## **21 OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES AND SYNTHETIC GREENHOUSE GASES**

### **Outline of System**

1. Australia manages its obligations under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* for ozone depleting substances and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and, for synthetic greenhouse gases other than HFCs, the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, through the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.



The import, export and manufacture of the ozone depleting substances - chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, bromochloromethane and methyl bromide (for non-quarantine and pre-shipment use) is prohibited under the Montreal Protocol except where an essential or critical use exemption has been granted by the parties to the Montreal Protocol. The phase out of ozone depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) under the Montreal Protocol is almost complete. Control measures for HFCs under the Kigali Agreement to the Montreal Protocol commenced on 1 January 2019 to phase-down the production and import of HFCs.

Australia's Montreal Protocol obligations are implemented through licensing controls and quota restrictions on HCFCs and HFCs, and licensing of imports of methyl bromide. A licence is required to import equipment containing HFCs. The import of equipment containing HCFCs is prohibited except in certain limited circumstances when an import licence may be granted.

Australia controls the import and manufacture of other synthetic greenhouse gases (perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride) in accordance with its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC. A licence is required to import, export and manufacture synthetic greenhouse gases and to import products containing synthetic greenhouse gases.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The requirements of the licensing system are:

- **Controlled substances:**

- import, export or manufacture of bulk methyl bromide, with the quantity of methyl bromide permitted to be imported for non-quarantine and pre-shipment fumigations limited to the quantity approved by the Montreal Protocol;
- import, export or manufacture of bulk HCFCs and HFCs, with import quotas set in line with Montreal Protocol phase-out obligations and Australia's domestic policy to accelerate phase-out of HCFCs and phase-down of HFCs;
- import, export or manufacture of bulk perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride, with no restrictions on quantity.

- **Essential use:**

- import, export or manufacture of bulk hydrochlorofluorocarbons, chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and bromochloromethane approved for essential use by the parties to the Montreal Protocol.

- **Used substances:**

- import and export of bulk used chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform, bromochloromethane, methyl bromide, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride;

- **Equipment licences:**

- Import of pre-charged equipment containing synthetic greenhouse gases. The import of some equipment is restricted. The import of equipment containing ozone depleting substances is prohibited except in certain limited circumstances when a licence may be granted. Importers who import up to 25kgs of synthetic greenhouse gas (HFCs, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride) in equipment in a calendar year do not need an equipment licence.

Licence conditions and reporting requirements apply in relation to all licences issued.

The import and manufacture of equipment that contains or is designed to operate solely on an HCFC is prohibited under the legislation, except in certain circumstances when an equipment licence may be granted. Exemptions apply to:

- importing replacement parts for HCFC refrigeration or air conditioning equipment (this does not include a complete or substantially complete indoor or outdoor unit of a split system air conditioner);
- importing equipment insulated with foam manufactured with HCFC;
- the equipment is incidental to the main import, and it is impractical to remove or retrofit the equipment (for example equipment incorporated into a large boat or drilling rig);
- the equipment is essential for medical, veterinary, defence, industrial safety or public safety purposes, and no practical and effective alternative exists;
- the equipment is for use in conjunction with the calibration of scientific, measuring or safety equipment; or,
- the equipment is for test, monitoring, or laboratory and analytical use where there is no practical and effective alternative to that equipment.

Exemptions from licensing requirements apply in limited circumstances for the import or manufacture of certain products containing synthetic greenhouse gases. Exemptions have been approved for metered dose inhalers and imported foam products.

3. The system applies to goods from all countries, with restrictions applying to trade of ozone depleting substances with countries that are not party to the Montreal Protocol.

4. The licensing system implements Australia's legal obligations under the Montreal Protocol. As well as limits on production and consumption of ozone depleting substances and HFCs leading to eventual phase-out or phase-down, the Montreal Protocol requires the establishment of a licensing and quota system.

5. The legislation under which licences are maintained includes:

- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*;
- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Act 1995*;
- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Act 1995*;
- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*;
- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Regulations 2004*;
- *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Regulations 2004*.

Licensing is a legislative requirement. It is an offence to import, export or manufacture a scheduled substance without a licence.

The legislation does not leave designation of products to administrative discretion. All substances that require licences are specified in a schedule to the legislation. No other substances require licensing under this legislation.

Importation of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases and equipment containing these substances is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* and the PI Regulations unless a licence has been obtained or the goods are exempt from licensing requirements.

## Procedures

6. The quantity of controlled ozone depleting substances and HFCs that can be imported into Australia is limited through the Montreal Protocol. These limits and the quota system are also outlined in the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*. There is no import limit on other synthetic greenhouse gases.

I. Information on licences is published in customs notices, trade journals, on the Australian Government [Department of Climate Change, the Environment and Water \(DCCEEW\) website](#) and in an Australian database for business. The DCCEEW directly with holders of existing licences and new applicants. There are no quotas on amounts to be imported from specific countries, but imports and exports of ozone depleting substances, and HFCs when the Montreal Protocol trade provisions commence in 2033, must be from countries that are Parties to the Montreal Protocol and its relevant amendments. The legislation does not provide for any exception or derogation from licensing requirements.

- 
- II. Licences for import of controlled substances, used substances and pre-charged equipment are issued for two years. Fixed end dates apply to controlled substances and used substances licences, while pre-charged equipment licences are valid for two years from the date of issue. Most controlled substance licences for an ozone depleting substance and HFCs specify the amount permitted to be imported or manufactured during the licence period. Essential use licences are issued annually. Each licence specifies the maximum amount and type of substance to be imported for the entire duration of the licence.

HCFC and HFC import quotas are based on the total annual consumption (i.e. production plus imports, minus exports) limit under the Montreal Protocol, adjusted for Australia's accelerated phase-out and phase-down policy as applicable. Individual HCFC and HFC import quotas are based on past imports. There is provision for limited HFC quota allocation for new entrants.

- III. Australia has no domestic manufacture of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases. All HCFC and HFC quota holders are importers of substances. Any company wishing to manufacture these substances in Australia would be subject to the same licensing and quota requirements as importers.

Unused quotas are not added to those of the succeeding period as limits under the Montreal Protocol and domestic legislation are not cumulative. The names of Australian importers are available to the public on the DCCEEW website.

- IV. Licence applications may be made at any time. The DEECCW will seek licence reapplications for a new licence period up to six months prior to the commencement of the licence period.

Consideration of a licence application may take up to 60 days. The *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989* provides that if after 60 days the Minister or delegate has not granted a licence or sought more information, the application is deemed to be refused, unless a formal request for additional information has been made. A request for more information provides 60 days from the date the information is received for the application to be granted or refused. If it is not granted in this period it is deemed to be refused.

- V. See IV above.

- VI. Licences can be granted at any time before or during a licence period.

- VII. The authority to grant or refuse licences lies with the Minister for the Environment. This power has been delegated to certain officers in the DCCEEW. Applicants need only apply to the DCCEEW.

- VIII. There is no limit to the number of licences that can be issued under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*. The quantity of ozone depleting substances and HFCs that can be imported is limited under the Montreal Protocol and the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*. HCFC and HFC imports are managed through a quota system, based on past imports. There is provision for HFC quota allocation for new entrants.

- IX. Not applicable.

- X. Not applicable.

- XI. Not applicable.

7. Not applicable.

8. A licence may be refused if the applicant does not meet ordinary criteria. Where applications are refused, applicants will be given the reasons for such refusal on request. An applicant may apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review of the decision not to approve a licence. Alternatively, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Noting the quota restrictions for HCFC and HFC imports, all persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for licences.

(b) Not applicable.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Controlled Substance, Essential Use, Used Substance and Pre-charged Equipment application forms are available on the DCCEE website at: [Import and export licences](#).

11. Upon importation, an importer must present standard customs documentation along with a valid licence issued under the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.

12. Licence application fees are charged. Fees are: Controlled substances - \$15,000; Essential Use - \$3,000; Used Substance - \$15,000; and Pre-charged Equipment - \$3,000.

In addition, licence holders are required to pay a six-monthly activity fee: HCFC - \$3,000 per ODP (Ozone Depleting Potential) tonne; Methyl Bromide - \$135 per metric tonne; synthetic greenhouse gases - \$165 per metric tonne.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

### Conditions of licensing

14. Licences are valid for the licence period and cannot be extended.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a licence or a portion of a licence.

16. Yes. Transferee must be a fit and proper person to be a licence holder. A joint application by the transferor and transferee is made to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

17. Licensees are not permitted to trade in ozone depleting substances with non-parties to the Montreal Protocol. General conditions of the licence are that the licensee must have arrangements in place to manage their product at its end of life, generally through a product stewardship scheme; and must provide six-monthly activity reports and pay the appropriate import levy, as per the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.

Conditions may also apply to the purpose to which the imported substance is to be applied if its import has been approved for a specific purpose through the Montreal Protocol.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 22 PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES

### Outline of System

1. The importation of plastic explosives is generally prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901*, the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) and the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) (Criminal Code). Importation is lawful if the Minister for Home Affairs (the Minister) has issued a permit under the PI Regulations and, if applicable, an authorisation is provided under the provisions of the Criminal Code. The Criminal Code regime fulfils part of Australia's obligation under the *United Nations Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection* (Montreal, 1991) (the Convention).

---

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The goods covered are plastic explosives. Different requirements apply depending on whether plastic explosives are "marked" with a chemical marker specified in the Criminal Code.

3. The Department of Home Affairs and state and territory import licensing and permissions systems apply to importers of plastic explosives from all countries, regardless of whether the explosives are marked.

The Criminal Code requirements apply to both imported and domestically produced explosive products from all countries. That authorisation scheme applies to importers of plastic explosives that are not marked.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports. There are no restrictions in relation to the quantity or value of imports of unmarked plastic explosives under the Criminal Code regime. However, in exercising power to grant an authorisation, the Minister for Home Affairs may have regard to whether the import of unmarked plastic explosives is reasonable.

5. The control of plastic explosives is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4AA of the PI Regulations made under the Customs Act 1901. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval. The provisions requiring Authorisation to be obtained for certain dealings with unmarked plastic explosives under the Criminal Code cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) No specific timeframe. However, it is recommended that the application forms are completed and submitted at least six weeks before the goods' expected arrival in Australia.

In addition, the importer must provide the State or Territory Permit or Licence to import plastic explosives on the Application for Permission to import plastic explosives form and on the Manufacturers Certificate, relevant to the Home Affairs and Criminal Code regimes respectively. In the case of unmarked plastic explosives, an Application for Authorisation to import unmarked plastic explosives should be lodged with the Department of Home Affairs before seeking permission to import.

(b) A permit to import would not normally be granted immediately as some conditions must be fulfilled. Checking of applicants' suitability to hold a permit generally takes some time and therefore permits cannot generally be issued immediately upon request.

An Application for an Authorisation under the Criminal Code regime must be submitted to the Department of Home Affairs for consideration and, if the Application is approved, an instrument of authorisation is executed and provided to the applicant. The process may take approximately two to three weeks.

(c) No.

(d) Granting permission for the importation of plastic explosives involves state and territory licensing authorities, and the Department of Home Affairs. Authorisations and Permissions to import unmarked plastic explosives and Permissions to import marked plastic explosives are granted by the Minister or an authorised officer.

8. Unless otherwise stated, the regulations allow the Minister to consider whatever he or she believes necessary in forming a view as to whether or not to grant a permit. An import permit issued by the Minister, or an authorized person may be revoked if the permit holder engages in conduct that contravenes a condition or requirement of the permission.

An authorisation to import unmarked plastic explosives may be refused by the Minister if he or she considers that the proposed importation is unreasonable and/or considers that the authorisation ought not be granted having regard to such matters as he or she considers relevant. An application

may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the Minister's decision to refuse to grant an Authorisation or the Minister's decision to specify a condition or restriction in an Authorisation made under section 72.18(1) (authorisation for research), section 72.19(1) (authorisation for defence and police purposes), section 72.20(1) (authorisation for use of existing stocks) or section 72.21(2) (authorisation for manufacturers).

The Minister or his or her authorised officer would be required to give reasons for refusing to grant an Authorisation. If the Minister's decision is affected by jurisdictional error or error of law, it is susceptible to judicial review under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) Any person, firm or institution may apply for a permit. A permit shall not be granted unless the applicant is a fit and proper person to be granted a permit to import plastic explosives. Individuals, institutions, or corporations are eligible to apply for an authorisation to import unmarked plastic explosives.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. In order to import unmarked plastic explosives importers will need to complete:

- an application for authorisation to either manufacture, possess, traffic in, import or export unmarked plastic explosives;
- an application for permission to import unmarked plastic explosives; and
- a manufacturers certificate.

In order to import marked plastic explosives importers will need to complete:

- an application for permission to import marked plastic explosives, and
- a manufacturers certificate.

A state or territory licence or permit must be obtained before the Minister can authorise the importation of plastic explosives and before the plastic explosives arrive in Australia. If the permission to import plastic explosives (and authorisation if the plastic explosives are unmarked) is obtained from the Minister, a permit number will be issued. This permit number must be presented to the Department of Home Affairs at the time of lodging an import declaration.

Further information, including relevant documents required to lodge an application for permission to import, is available at <https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-goods/list-of-items>.

11. A state or territory import licence or permit is required on actual importation of marked or unmarked plastic explosives. In addition to the state or territory licence or permit, additional documentation must be completed as specified in response to question (10) above.

12. A state or territory import licence or permit is required on actual importation of marked or unmarked plastic explosives. In addition to the state or territory licence or permit, additional documentation must be completed as specified in response to question (10) above.

13. No deposit or advance payment is required. No deposit or advance payment is associated with the issue of permissions or authorisations by the Minister.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The Minister may issue an authorisation for the importation of unmarked explosives for defence or police purposes until 25 August 2022. Existing authorisations cannot be extended. If an existing user wishes to engage in an activity other than one which is covered by the terms of an existing authorisation, a new application must be made.

15. There is no penalty for non-utilisation of a permit. However, if a permit holder has not used the permit during the year and applies for a renewal, the applicant may need to justify retention of the permit. There is no penalty for non-utilisation of an authorisation issued by the Minister.

16. Permits and authorisations issued by the Department of Home Affairs are not transferable and apply only to those applicants to whom the authorisation was initially granted.

17.(a) Not applicable.

(b) The importation of unmarked plastic explosives (which are not subject to quantitative restriction) may be subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Minister may specify in the authorisation. Such conditions may include a requirement that future stocks of unmarked plastic explosives be purchased only from a specified source and/or that the applicant inform the Department of Home Affairs of any additional consignments of unmarked plastic explosives acquired following the grant of an Authorisation.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

Weblinks to the relevant Acts and Regulations are as follows:

- *Criminal Code Act 1995*: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00360>
- *Customs Act 1901*: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00307>
- Customs (*Prohibited Imports*) Regulations 1956: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C00545>
- *United Nations Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection* (Montreal, 1991): [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/studies/page2\\_en.xml](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/studies/page2_en.xml)

## 23 RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

### Outline of System

1. The importation of radioactive substances and goods containing radioactive substances is prohibited under the provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* and Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) unless the permission in writing is granted by the Australian Minister for Health, the CEO of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) appointed in writing by the Minister, or an Australian Public Service employee assisting the CEO appointed in writing by the Minister as an authorised officer, and presented to the Australian Border Force at the time of importation. In order for a permit to be considered, the entity taking possession of the sources, including the recipient/s, must hold a valid and current radiation licence to possess, sell or store radioactive substance, where required. The Radiation Licence is obtained from the relevant Commonwealth, state or territory radiation regulatory control authority where required.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The goods covered include any radioactive material or substance including radium, any radioactive isotope or any article containing any radioactive material or substance.

3. The PI Regulations apply to the importation of radioactive substances from all countries.

4. The importation of radioactive substances is regulated as a community protection measure and to comply with Australia's international obligations under the *Basel Convention on the Control of trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes*. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports.

5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4R of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Application should be made in advance of the arrival of the goods.

(b) Permits to import are granted when it is established that the recipient/s taking possession of the radioactive substances have obtained the required radiation licence, where required, from the relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory radiation control authority. For the import of radioactive substances, the relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory radiation control authority is advised of the application for permission to import.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) A permit is issued by the Minister for Health, the CEO of ARPANSA or an Australian Public Service employee assisting the CEO appointed in writing by the Minister as an authorised officer. Applications to import radioactive materials or articles containing radioactive materials must be made to ARPANSA on Form ARPANSA 20, "Application for Customs Prohibited Import Release for Medical Radioisotopes", or on ARPANSA-FORM-1704, "Application for Permission to Import Non-Medical Radioactive Substances" or on ARPANSA-FORM-1705, "Application for permission to import non-medical radioactive substances - Twelve-month permit". These forms, and instructions for completing the forms, are available on the ARPANSA website (<https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/licensing/import-export-permits>).

Before submitting an application for permission to import, the recipient/s taking possession of the radioactive substance must hold a valid Radioactive Substances Licence, where required, from the relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory radiation control authority. The licence number and licence details must be stated on the application form.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused on the discretion of the Minister for Health. There is no right of appeal against the Minister's decision. However, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. For permission to import, applications must be made in writing to ARPANSA on the appropriate form available on the ARPANSA website: <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/>. The application should include the following information on the permit application form:

- Applicant's name and address;
- end users name and address;
- storage premises details
- details of the radioactive substance;
- details of the goods to be imported; and
- details of the Radioactive Substance Licence.

Application forms are available on the ARPANSA Website (<https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/licensing/import-export-permits>).

11. The written permission from the Minister of Health, or an authorised officer, an approved signed import permit, is required to be produced on import.



12. ARPANSA has an administrative charge for the granting of a single shipment permit, and for the granting of a Twelve-Month Permit as per the charge fee structure on the ARPANSA website: <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/licensing/import-export-permits>.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of permits.

### Conditions of licensing

14. Permits for the importation of medical or non-medical radioisotopes may apply to one consignment only or may apply for a number of importations for a specified twelve-month period (Twelve Month Permit). Twelve-Month Permits are issued for the importation of radiopharmaceutical drugs registered on the Australian Register for Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) and for low hazard radioactive materials. The holder of a 12 Month Permit is required to confirm that the distributor requesting the product(s) holds an appropriate radiation licence or is exempt from radiation licensing. A single shipment permit is valid for six months.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permit or a portion of a permit.

16. Permits are not transferable between importers or permit applicants.

17.(a) Not applicable.

(b) Permission granted under Regulation 4R of the PI Regulations may specify conditions or requirements to be complied with by the holder of the permission.

All forms and requirements for import of radioactive substances can be found on the ARPANSA website at <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/licensing/import-export-permits>.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 24 ROUGH DIAMONDS

### Outline of System

1. Australia is a participant to the Kimberley Process (KP) and the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). Australian legislation implements our obligations under this international agreement.

The importation of rough diamonds is prohibited under regulation 4MA of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* unless the diamonds are transported in a tamper-proof container, exported from a country that is a participant of the KPCS, and accompanied by a valid KP Certificate. KP Certificates are issued by the relevant export authority in the country exporting the goods to Australia. An original and valid KP Certificate must be presented to the Australian Border Force (ABF) at the time of importation.

The importer must retain the original KP Certificate for a period of five years after the time of importation. The certificate must be made available to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) if requested.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is Australia's lead Policy KP Focal Point, the ABF within the Home Affairs Portfolio is the import authority for the KPCS in Australia and DISR is the export authority for the KPCS in Australia.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The KP is an international agreement aimed at preventing the entry of 'conflict diamonds' into the legitimate global supply chain. The trade in conflict diamonds is a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate governments, and the illicit traffic in, and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Rough diamonds means diamonds that are unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted and fall under the relevant Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System 7102.10, 7102.21 and 7102.31.

3. The KPCS is an international certification scheme that outlines the rules and standards that govern global trade and production of all rough diamonds and applies to all Participant countries of the KP.

Participants of the KP must meet the terms of KPCS, including issuing export certificates to verify rough diamonds are conflict free.

Under the terms of the KPCS participants must:

- Satisfy minimum requirements and establish national legislation, institutions and import/export controls.
- Commit to transparent practices and to the exchange of critical statistical data.
- Trade only with fellow members who also satisfy the fundamentals of the agreement.
- Certify shipments as conflict-free and provide the supporting certification.

4. The KPCS is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of imports.

5. The control of imports of rough diamonds is a statutory requirement under regulation 4MA of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*, made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7. (a) Application for and issue of a KP Certificate needs to be made in advance of arrival of the goods.

(b) KP Certificates are not normally issued immediately. The time taken to issue a KP Certificate is dependent on the time taken for completion of a number of checks by the exporting authority issuing the certificate. In some cases, this may take up to several weeks.

(c) No, permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) KP Certificates are only issued by the exporting authority of a recognised KP Participant. KP Certificates are presented to the importing authority of a recognised KP Participant on import.

8. Application for a KP Certificate to export rough diamonds can be refused at the discretion of the Exporting Authority in the exporting country. Reasons for refusal may or may not be provided to the applicant and will depend on the exporting authority protocols and internal controls.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9.(a) Any person, firm or institution is eligible to apply to an authorised KP Participant exporting authority for a KP Certificate.

(b) Not applicable.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. For permission to import rough diamonds, the importer must apply for a KP Certificate from the Exporting authority of the export country. Applications are made in writing and must provide the following:

- importer's name and address
- proof of origin of rough diamonds being exported
- original receipt of purchase of rough diamonds
- an affirmative statement declaring all rough diamonds are produced from legitimate sources and are not conflict diamonds
- country of import
- carat weight
- total value
- any other information as requested by the KP Participant exporting authority.

11. The original KP Certificate must be presented to the ABF at the time of importation.

12. Fees and charges for the issue of a KP Certificate is at the discretion of the KP Participant. Some KP Participants do charge a fee, while others do not.

13. Not applicable.

### Conditions of licensing

14. A KP Certificate is typically valid for a two-month period. However, KP Exporting Authorities can determine different expiry timeframes as required. This may be the case for frequent exporters. KP Certificates cannot be extended. If a KP Certificate is not presented to an importing authority of a KP Participant country prior to the expiry date, the exporter must apply for a new KP Certificate.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a KP Certificate.

16. KP Certificates are not transferable between importers.

17. Specified conditions for issuing a KP Certificate are set out by each individual KP Participant.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 25 SECURITY SENSITIVE AMMONIUM NITRATE

### Outline of System

1. The importation of security sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN) is prohibited under the provisions of the [Customs Act 1901](#) and [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956 \(PI Regulations\)](#) unless:

- (a) Permission has been granted for the importation by the state/territory authority where the goods will be located immediately after arrival and that is presented to the Australian Border Force (ABF) at the time of importation; or
- (b) the State/Territory does not require permission to import.

A licence is required to import SSAN into the following States and Territories: Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The goods covered include security sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN). SSAN is ammonium nitrate, a mixture or emulsion made up of more than 45% ammonium nitrate, but not ammonium nitrate in solution.
3. The PI Regulations apply to the importation of goods from all countries.
4. The importation of SSAN is regulated as a community protection measure. SSAN is a chemical of security concern and is regulated by the states/territories under dangerous goods legislation. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports.
5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4X of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.
7. (a) Applications for import licences should be made at least 7 working days in advance of the importation. Licences are granted by state/territory authorities. Where other licences for SSAN are held (e.g., export) a shorter timeframe may apply.
- (b) Licences cannot be issued immediately as the licence holders need to satisfy a number of conditions under the relevant state/territory legislation that the licence is granted under.
- (c) Licences may be issued at any period of the year.
- (d) The licences are specific to each state/territory within Australia. This means that to import SSAN into more than one jurisdiction, multiple authorities need to be approached. The licensing authority in each state/territory consults other government agencies in the licensing process.
8. Licence applicants must satisfy the requirements of the legislation in the relevant jurisdiction. Appeal provisions are managed by those jurisdictions.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

- 9.(a) Not applicable.
- (b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import although they must satisfy the requirements of the legislation in the jurisdiction where they are applying for the licence.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. Applications for licences must be made to the relevant State/Territory authority on the approved form for that state/territory and include all relevant particulars. The documents required to be submitted vary depending on the jurisdiction and whether the applicant holds other licences for SSAN or other dangerous goods.

The relevant agencies are:

State/Territory	Agency
Queensland	Department of Mines and Energy
New South Wales	WorkCover Authority NSW
Australian Capital Territory	WorkSafe ACT
Victoria	WorkSafe Victoria
Tasmania	WorkPlace Standards Tasmania
Western Australia	Department of Mines and Petroleum
South Australia	SafeWork South Australia

11. Where permission is required in the state/territory of importation, the permission from the relevant State/territory authority must be produced to the AF on import

12. Licensing fees are charged by the state/territory licensing authorities and vary depending on the type of licence sought.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Licensing periods vary in each jurisdiction. They range from one year to five years.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license.

16. Licenses are not transferable between importers

17. Licences may impose conditions to be complied with.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. Not applicable.

19. Not applicable.

## **26 TABLET PRESSES AND ENCAPSULATORS**

### **Outline of System**

1. The importation of tablet presses and encapsulators is prohibited under provisions of the [Customs Act 1901](#) and the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#) (PI Regulations) unless the permission of the Minister for Home Affairs, or an authorised person, has been obtained.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Tablet presses are defined as any equipment which can be used for the compaction or moulding of powdered or granular solids, or semi-solid material to produce coherent solid tablets. Encapsulators are defined as any equipment which can be used for the complete envelopment of powdered or granular solids, semi-solid material, liquids, or gases to produce coherent solid capsules.

3. The equipment may be manual, semi-automatic or fully automatic and may be not complete, temporarily or permanently inoperable, or unfinished.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports. A permission can specify conditions or requirements including times for compliance and the number of tablet presses allowed to be imported. The Minister or an authorised person has the power to revoke permission where the holder does not comply with a condition or requirement. The manufacture and distribution of amphetamine type stimulants is a serious problem in Australia and preventing the importation of tablet presses/encapsulators for use in illicit markets is an important way of reducing domestic production.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4G of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7. Where there is no quantitative limit on importation of a product or on imports from a particular country:

- (a) Application should be made in advance of arrival of the goods.
- (b) A permit to import would not normally be granted immediately as some conditions must be fulfilled. Checking of applicants' suitability to hold a permit generally takes some time and therefore permits cannot generally be issued immediately upon request. The application process generally takes six to eight weeks. In some circumstances this process may take longer as the Department of Home Affairs relies on other law enforcement agencies to provide information to enable the authorised officer to make an informed decision on each application.
- (c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.
- (d) Granting permission for the importation of tablet presses/encapsulators involves state and territory authorities and the Department of Home Affairs. Advice received from the relevant state or territory police force and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) plays a major role in the decision-making process. The Department of Home Affairs takes the responsibility to contact state and territory authorities as part of the decision-making process.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused at the discretion of the relevant Delegate. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to import may appeal the decision-making process under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

#### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

#### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications must be made in writing to the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. The application should include supporting documentation to possess the goods and/or any relevant end user evidential documentation. The application form can be found at: <https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/b712.pdf>.

11. The original permission from the Minister or authorised person is required upon importation.

12. There is no licensing fee.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licenses.

#### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The permission is valid for 12 months from the date of signature. However, the Minister for Home Affairs may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a licence.

16. Permits/licenses are not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be imposed on the permission and quantities are specified.

#### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 27 THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCES AND GOODS

### Outline of System

1. Importation into Australia of therapeutic goods for human use is controlled under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, and its Regulations, and the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations).

Under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, therapeutic goods may not be imported into Australia unless they are registered, listed or included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) or specifically exempt from this requirement. One exemption is for personal importation of therapeutic goods. Under Schedule 5 of the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990, an individual may import a therapeutic good into Australia on their person, or arrange from within Australia for a therapeutic good to be sent to them from an overseas supplier, subject to the following:

- the goods are to be used by that individual or a member of his/her immediate family and are not sold or supplied to any other person;
- the quantity imported may not exceed three months' supply per importation and the total quantity imported per year cannot exceed 15 months' supply at the manufacturer's recommended maximum dosage;
- substances, which are a prohibited import under the PI Regulations, may not be imported without an import permit;
- products which are injections containing material of human or animal origin (except insulin) may not be imported as personal imports, without permission from the Therapeutic Goods Administration;
- products which are "biologicals", as defined under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, may not be imported as personal imports, without permission from the Therapeutic Goods Administration; and
- in order to import any product which is a prescription medicine (substances in Schedules 4 or 8 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons), the importer must have a prescription issued by a medical practitioner registered in an Australian State or Territory (Note: medicines carried by a passenger on a plane or ship are an exception to this requirement, however, an import licence is still required in the case of medicines in Schedule 4 of the PI Regulations if the passenger does not have a prescription).

Importation of certain substances is prohibited under regulations 5, 5G and 5H of the PI Regulations except with the permission of the Secretary of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care. These substances include antibiotics, certain hormones and other substances, including anabolic or androgenic substances (included in Schedules 7A of the PI Regulations). Substances of human or animal origin are not prohibited imports *per se*.

Importation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and related chemicals, including kava, is also controlled under the PI Regulations. Those controls are described separately in this document, in the section titled "Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Related Chemicals".

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Import permits are issued under the PI Regulations both for goods approved for marketing in Australia and for "unapproved" goods where supply is considered appropriate (e.g. in the context of clinical trials or special patient access). The therapeutic substances/goods covered are:

- Goods to which regulation 5G of the PI Regulations refer, that is, goods, which are, listed in Schedule 7A to the Regulations. Schedule 7A currently lists therapeutic goods which are mostly, hormones. Exemption applies where:
- the substance is required for the medical treatment of a person who is a passenger on a ship or aircraft; and
- the substance is imported into Australia on the ship or aircraft; and
- the substance was prescribed by a medical practitioner for that treatment; and
- the amount of the substance imported does not exceed the amount of the substance prescribed by the medical practitioner for the person receiving the treatment.

However, the above exemption does not apply if the goods are required for the medical treatment of a person who is an athlete within the meaning of section 4 of the *Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Act 2006*; or a person who has come to Australia for purposes relating to the performance of a competitor or the management of a competitor or a competitor's interest.

3. The regulation applies to the importation of therapeutic goods from all countries.

4. The controls under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* safeguard public health in Australia through regulation of the quality, safety and efficacy or performance of therapeutic goods intended for supply in Australia.

The controls under the PI Regulations are intended to restrict entry to Australia of substances that may be the subject of abuse in one form or another or pose a risk to public health such that they should not be accessible to the general public via personal import arrangements. The importation of antibiotics is regulated as a public health measure. It also allows information on the distribution and consumption of antibiotics in Australia to be obtained. Goods listed in Schedules 7A and 8 to the PI Regulations are those known to be associated with particular hazards or concerns, which warrant restriction or prohibition of their use. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports.

5. The controls on importation of therapeutic goods are statutory requirements under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, and associated regulations, and under the *Customs Act 1901*, and associated PI Regulations. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Application for importation should be made in advance of the arrival of the goods. In certain circumstances, import permission can be given for goods which have inadvertently arrived at the point of entry.

(b) Permits may be issued immediately if a genuine emergency exists.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Applications for import permits under regulations 5, 5G and 5H of the PI Regulations are processed and issued within the Department of Health.

8. If an import permit under regulations 5, 5G or 5H of the PI Regulations is refused, the applicant is notified in writing of the reasons for refusal. A request for review of the refusal can be made to the Australian Government Minister who administers the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, within 90 days after the decision first comes into the importer's notice. In the case of the applicant being dissatisfied with the Minister's finding, an application for a review of the Minister's decision can be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. In addition, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import provided they are domiciled in Australia. They must also comply with any State/Territory legislation relating to manufacture and wholesale.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. For permission to import goods specified in Schedule 8 (Regulation 5H of the PI Regulations) the written application must include:



- importer's name and address;
- full details of the product proposed for import;
- supervising doctor's prescription, if applicable;
- State/Territory Schedule 4 (prescription only medicine) licence number (if applicable);
- depending on the nature of the goods and the intended purposes, further documentation or evidence may be required.

11. Import authorisation is usually issued in the form of a permit but may be by letter of authority.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of licences.

### Conditions of licensing

14. Import permits may apply to one consignment only or remain valid for successive consignments within a stated period (usually one year).

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a permit or a portion of a permit.

16. Permits are not transferable between importers.

17. Permits issued for substances in Schedules 7A and Schedule 8 of the PI Regulations are subject to individual quantitative restrictions. However, there is no annual quota or annual quantitative restrictions applicable to these goods required under the legislation or under an international agreement.

The quantitative restriction applies to individual importers as a condition of the import permit and is based on established need and end use.

Import permits may also cite such matters as:

- compliance with other State, Territory and Commonwealth laws;
- the subsequent use of the therapeutic good;
- the custody, use, disposal or distribution of the imported goods;
- the keeping of records relating to the imported goods; and/or
- a time restriction within which the importation must occur.

### Other procedural requirements

18. Importers of therapeutic goods for commercial supply should familiarise themselves with the requirements of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* in relation to the importation of therapeutic goods for supply in Australia. Further information is available at <http://www.tga.gov.au/>.

19. Not applicable.

## 28 TOBACCO PRODUCTS

### Outline of System

1. The importation of tobacco products is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and regulation 4DA of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (PI Regulations) unless specific permission of the Minister, or an authorised person, has been granted.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The prohibition applies to all tobacco products (as defined by the *Customs Act 1901*):

- Tobacco of a kind specified in regulation 4D of the PI Regulations;
- Chewing tobacco and snuffs intended for oral use;

- Cigars;
- Tobacco products:
  - That are prescribed by by-law for the purposes of item 15 of Schedule 4 to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*; and
  - That are imported by passengers, or members of the crew, of ships or aircraft; and
  - On which duty is not payable.

3. A generic import approval by the Minister for Home Affairs exists for cigars in any quantity and chewing tobacco; snuffs intended for oral use weighing 1.5kg or less.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports. The importation of tobacco products is regulated to reduce the trade in illicit tobacco and to further protect the public health.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4DA of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) The Australian Border Force (ABF) standard for issuing permissions is 28 days from receipt of all required information.

(b) Licenses cannot be granted immediately on request.

(c) There are no limitations as to the period of the year during which an application for a tobacco import permission may be made.

(d) The application for a tobacco import permission is considered in its entirety by the ABF. However, the ABF may contact external agencies to obtain relevant information in considering a permit application.

8. In considering whether to grant a permission, the Minister for home Affairs or authorised person may consider any relevant matter. The Minister for Home Affairs or authorised person may grant a permission subject to conditions or requirements, specified in the permission, that are to be complied with by the holder of the permission. Where a permit is refused, the applicant will be advised in writing of the decision and the reasoning behind the decision.

### Eligibility of importers to apply for licence

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for a tobacco import permission. However, an applicant must have a valid Australian Business Number (issued by the ATO) or an ABF Customer Reference Number (CRN) prior to submitting an application for a tobacco import permission.

### Documentation and other requirements for application for licence

10. An application for a tobacco import permission must be made in writing to the ABF. Application forms can be found at: [www.abf.gov.au/tobacco](http://www.abf.gov.au/tobacco).

As part of the application process, applicants are also required to supply the following information:

- Name, address, ABN/CRN and other contact details;
- Details of the type of tobacco product to be imported; and
- The intended use for the imported tobacco products (i.e., personal or commercial).

The Minister or authorised person may seek additional information to the above should it be deemed necessary to make an informed decision on an importers application.

11. The ABF may require the original permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or authorised person to be produced upon importation in addition to the normal importation documentation required by the Department of Home Affairs.

12. There are no fees associated with applying for or obtaining the permission.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issuance of tobacco import permissions.

### Conditions of licensing

14. The validity period for a tobacco import permit is at the discretion of the Minister for Home Affairs or authorised person, having regard to all relevant information relating to the applicant.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a tobacco import permission.

16. Tobacco import permissions are not transferrable.

17. The Minister or authorised person may grant a permission subject to conditions or requirements, specified in the permission, that are to be complied with by the holder of the permission.

### Other procedural requirements

18. There are no other administrative producers, apart from the requirement to obtain a permission, required prior to importation.

19. Not applicable.

Links to legislation:

- [Customs Act 1901](#)
- [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#)
- [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) \(Importation of Tobacco Products\) Approval 2019](#)
- [Customs Tariff Act 1995](#)

## 29 UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO LEAF

### Outline of System

1. The importation of unmanufactured tobacco leaf is prohibited under provisions of the *Customs Act 1901* (Customs Act) and the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (PI Regulations) unless the permission of the Commissioner of Taxation, or an authorised person, has been obtained. Permission from the Commissioner requires an Excise licence to manufacture tobacco or a licence to deal in tobacco products, granted under the *Excise Act 1901* (Excise Act). In addition, the site where imported tobacco leaf is to be dealt with must be licensed under the Customs Act.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The goods covered include tobacco that is not stemmed or stripped and includes whole tobacco plants or leaves in the natural state, or as cured or fermented leaves. Licensed tobacco manufacturers and dealers who also hold a permission to import unmanufactured tobacco leaf (permission) are able to import these goods as an input to manufacture or more generally deal in tobacco seed, plant or leaf.

3. The system applies to unmanufactured tobacco leaf originating from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports. The importation of unmanufactured tobacco leaf is regulated to limit access to those licensed as manufacturers or dealers and therefore reduce illicit production.

5. The control on the specified goods is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4D of the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

An Excise licence for tobacco is a legislative requirement under Sections 25 (Manufacturers) and 33 (Dealers) of the Excise Act. There is no administrative discretion – manufacturers or dealers in tobacco leaf must be licensed under the Excise Act. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

A Customs warehouse licence is issued under Section 79 of the Customs Act. Anyone intending to use imported goods in excise manufacture must enter those goods for warehousing in a Customs licensed warehouse. Those goods must then be administratively transferred to an entity holding a tobacco manufacture or dealers licence issued by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) under the Excise Act. There is no administrative discretion – imported tobacco leaf must be entered for warehousing. The control cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) The ATO standard for issuing manufacturer licences, dealers' licences or permissions is 28 days from receipt of all required information. The same standard is applied to the issuing of ATO issued warehouse licences under S79 of the Customs Act.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, the application for an Excise licence and a permission is considered in its entirety by the ATO. From 1 July 2010, the ATO took over the administration of excise equivalent goods (EEGs) under delegation from the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs). As imported tobacco leaf can only be imported into Australia by entering it into a warehouse licensed under the Customs Act, the ATO has responsibility for licensing any warehouse that would store this product.

8. Failure to meet the ordinary criteria, as described in sections 39, 39A, 39B & 39C of the Excise Act, are grounds for refusing to grant a manufacturer or dealer licence. These grounds include where the applicant is not deemed fit and proper, the applicant does not have the skills and experience to carry out the activity, or the applicant does not have a market for the goods. When a licence is refused, the applicant is provided with reasons for the decision in writing. Applicants have a right to object under section 39Q of the Excise Act.

Sections 80 and 81 of the Customs Act are the key requirements that are considered when assessing an application for a Customs warehouse licence. These grounds are similar to those listed in the Excise Act. When a licence is refused, the applicant is provided with reasons for the decision in writing. Applicants have a right to object to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal under section 273GA(1)(b) of the Customs Act.

Regulation 4D of the PI Regulations states that consideration must be given to the applicant's compliance with the Excise Act and any other relevant matters when assessing a permission to import unmanufactured tobacco leaf. The same regulation allows a person who is dissatisfied with a decision to object to it in the manner set out in Part IVC of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. Yes. As long as the person or business has a site to be licensed in Australia they can apply. Excise and Customs licences are linked to sites as well as the individual or company applying. Each site operated by a single entity must be licensed separately so that the licence application can be assessed in terms of appropriateness of site security, plant and equipment, and stock recording for each site.

In relation to the permission, the entity must hold either an Excise manufacturer or dealer licence, and the site where imported tobacco is to be dealt with must be licensed under the Customs Act.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. An application for a Licence to Manufacture or deal in Tobacco must be made in writing to the ATO. Information can be found at: [Types of excise licences - tobacco | Australian Taxation Office \(ato.gov.au\)](#)

If an applicant is applying for the first time, that applicant will be required to complete a Consent to a Criminal Record History Check and a Declaration of criminal history.

Applicants are also required to supply the following information:

- Name, address, ABN and other contact details;
- Details of the premises where the activity will occur including certified copies of the floor plan of the proposed licence site;
- Supplier's name and address;
- Quantity of product.

Finally, during the review process the applicant may be required to send additional documents in support of their claims - for example, a business plan, evidence of a market, details of security arrangements or insurance policy details.

There is no specified application form for the import permission, although a written application must be lodged providing the Commissioner with any information they reasonable require to make his decision.

11. The original permission from the Commissioner or authorised person must be produced upon importation in addition to the normal importation documentation required by Home Affairs.

12. There are no fees associated with the Excise licences or the permission. There are fees associated with the customs warehouse licence. The initial application fee is A\$3000 and the grant charge is A\$4,000. There is an annual renewal fee of A\$4000.

13. No.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. A licence to manufacture or deal in tobacco is valid for three years and must be renewed before the end of the three-year period. The validity of a licence can be extended if it is approved for renewal by the ATO. The associated permission is valid for the same period as the licence although, rather than being renewed, it must be re-issued. This is an administrative requirement only.

In contrast, a warehouse licence is valid for one year only and must be renewed annually. The validity of a licence can be extended if it is approved for renewal by ATO staff operating under Customs delegation.

15. No.

16. Excise manufacturer, dealer or customs warehouse licences are not transferable. Although the ATO licenses the site, the licence cannot be transferred and any change in ownership would require a new licence application. The permission also is not transferable.

17.(a)Not applicable.

(b) Section 39D of the Excise Act and section 82 of the Customs Act allow the ATO to apply conditions to a licence to protect the revenue or to facilitate compliance with the relevant Acts. There are no limitations on the conditions that can be applied on a permission under Regulation of the Customs PI Regulations.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

Links to legislation:

- [Excise Act 1901](#)
- [Customs Act 1901](#)
- [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#)
- [Taxation Administration Act 1953](#)

## 30 VIABLE MATERIAL DERIVED FROM HUMAN EMBRYO CLONES

### Outline of System

1. The *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* (section 23C) required the Minister who administers the *Customs Act 1901* to make regulations "permitting, subject to appropriate conditions or restrictions, the import and export of human embryonic stem cell lines which have been derived from human embryo clones using practices consistent with Australian legislation".

The relevant regulation is regulation 5L of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. The regulations prohibit the import of viable material derived from human embryo clones unless the Minister administering the *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002*, or an authorised person has granted permission in writing and the permission is produced at or before the time of import.

Although the first embryonic stem cell lines from human embryo clones were reported in May 2013, a request for permission to import such material has not yet been made. Details of the permit system will be developed as required and prospective importers can contact the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for information.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The permit system relates to the import or export of viable material derived from human embryo clones and is necessary to give effect to the legislative requirements of the *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* and the related *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002*. Viable material means living tissues and cells.

3. The system applies to any viable material derived from human embryo clones originating in Australia or coming from other countries.

4. The *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* is intended to prohibit the import or export of viable material derived from human embryo clones unless the Minister or an authorised person has granted permission.

5. The relevant legislation is cited above at question 1.

Obtaining a permit under the legislation is a statutory requirement in all circumstances. All materials covered by the definition of "viable material" derived from a "human embryo clone" will require a permit. This is not subject to administrative discretion. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) An application for a licence should be made well in advance of the proposed import or export. As the details of the system have not been finalised it is not possible to provide specific

information. However, the time taken to consider an application for a licence will vary depending on the circumstances of the import or export and the completeness of information provided.

- (b) It is unlikely that immediate granting of a permit will be possible given the information required and the time needed to assess it.
- (c) No.
- (d) The NHMRC will have responsibility for administering the permit system and will provide advice to Home Affairs on any permits issued.

8. An application that meets the criteria will be granted a permit. Where an application is refused, reasons are provided and applicants have a right of appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. In addition, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

- 9.(a) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes. However, a person or organisation seeking an import permit must satisfy the Authorised Person specified in the regulations that they are capable of complying with any conditions attaching to the permit.

In relation to persons or organisations applying for an export permit it is expected that only the person or organisation that derived the viable material in Australia would be eligible to apply. Such persons or organisations would need to hold a licence issued under the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* authorising the creation of the human embryo clone and derivation of viable material from it.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. As noted above the details of the permit system have not been finalised. However, the importer or exporter will be required to demonstrate that the viable material has been obtained using practices consistent with Australian legislation. This will include providing evidence that the viable material has been derived or obtained legally and ethically. Information and application forms will be available from the NHMRC website (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>).

11. An approval under the Legislation, such as a permit, must be obtained prior to import or export and is required to be produced at the time of import or export.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge.

13. There is no deposit or advance payment requirement associated with the issue of permits.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. The period of validity of a permit will be the period set out in the permit. Details are not yet available.

15. No.

16. Given the requirements for obtaining the permit, it is unlikely that the system will allow for transfer of permits between importers or exporters.

17. The regulations allow for conditions to be attached to permits. The details of such conditions have not yet been finalised. Failure to comply with the conditions can lead to revocation of the permit.

### Other procedural requirements

18. Customs and quarantine controls may be relevant.

19. Not applicable.

## 31 WEAPONS AND CROWD CONTROL GOODS

### Outline of System

1. The importation of weapons including, daggers, crowd control goods and laser pointers are regulated by the *Customs Act 1901* and the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (PI Regulations).

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. The goods covered are weapons, crowd control goods and laser pointers as specified at Schedule 13 of the PI Regulations, and firearms, firearm accessories, firearm parts, firearms magazines, ammunition, components of ammunition and imitation firearms as specified in Schedule 6 of the PI Regulations.

The importation of goods specified in Schedule 13 of the PI Regulations is prohibited unless the written permission of the Minister for Home Affairs, or an authorised person, is granted. Permission to import Schedule 13 of the PI Regulations weapons may be granted on the basis that certain conditions or requirements are met, such as the goods will only be supplied to law enforcement agencies and the importer holds the appropriate state or territory licence to possess the goods. Applications for permission to import Schedule 13 weapons are processed through the Australian Border Force (ABF). Some goods specified in Schedule 13 may be imported with certification from the police in the state or territory of residence.

The importation of goods specified in Schedule 6 of the PI Regulations is prohibited unless the conditions, restrictions or requirements specified are complied with and the written permission of the relevant authority is granted. Applications for the import of firearms and firearm-related articles are processed either by the Attorney General's Department (where import permission can be granted by the relevant Commonwealth Minister or their delegate) or the relevant State or Territory policing agency. Generally speaking, firearms and firearm-related articles falling to lesser import controls can be imported with police certification, while the more highly controlled items require a Commonwealth (Attorney-General's Department) import permit.

3. The regulations apply to importations from all countries.

4. The PI Regulations are not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of imports. Importers must specify the quantity of goods when seeking to apply for single import permission. Ongoing permits can be issued for Schedule 13 goods for projects requiring multiple shipments of goods over a specified period of time.

Controls on importation have been introduced as a community protection measure. The monetary value is not a criterion for control.

5. The control on importation of the specified goods is a statutory requirement under the PI Regulations made under the *Customs Act 1901*. The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### Procedures

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Application must be made in advance of arrival of the goods.



- (b) Applications for permission to import can be processed immediately provided all information is available and the application is considered to be urgent. Permission itself cannot be granted immediately, as the decision-maker must consider whether the importation meets the requirements specified in the Regulations before giving written permission.
- (c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.
- (d) Where the Commonwealth is the relevant authority for issuing an import permit, the Minister or their delegate may also require state or territory approval for the possession and sale of the goods. Applications for import permits required under Schedule 13 are processed by the ABF or the relevant state or territory Police where appropriate. Applications for import permits required under Schedule 6 are processed by the Attorney-General's Department, or the relevant State or Territory policing where appropriate.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused at the discretion of the relevant Minister, (or their delegate) or police representative. Reasons for refusal are given to applicants. Applicants refused permission to import may appeal the decision-making process under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9. All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications must be made in writing to the relevant authority. The application must include supporting documentation showing the importation complies with the relevant conditions, restrictions or requirements specified. This generally includes confirmation that the goods can be possessed or sold in the relevant State or Territory.

The application form for Schedule 13 goods can be found at: <https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/b710.pdf>.

The application form for Schedule 6 goods can be found at: <https://firearms.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

This application form is currently being moved across to the Attorney-General's Department website, noting that the firearms import function moved across to the Attorney-General's portfolio, from the Department of Home Affairs portfolio, under Administrative Arrangements Orders issued on 1 June 2022.

Importers must contact their state or territory police firearms registry when importing items under police certification.

11. A copy of the permission from the relevant authority is required upon importation.

There is no licensing fee for applying to the Attorney-General's Department for an import permit. There is similarly no charge when an import application is subsequently approved or denied.

12. The relevant authority that grants import permission may specify a time period for the validity of the permission.

13. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of an import permit.

### **Conditions of licensing**

14. Permits and licenses are not transferable between importers.

15. Conditions may be imposed on the import permit, and exact quantities subject to the import are specified.

16. No.

17. The importation of a weapon or weapon part is also subject to the conditions (if any), set out in Part 3 of Schedule 13. Similarly, the importation of a firearm or firearm-related article is also subject to the conditions (if any), set out in Part 3 of Schedule 6.

### **Other procedural requirements**

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## **32 WOOLPACKS**

### **Outline of System**

1. The importation of woolpacks is prohibited under regulation 4K of the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#), unless an original test certificate has been issued or permission has been granted.

To import woolpacks, an importer needs either:

- an original test certificate stating that the unused woolpack conforms to the Australian Wool Exchange Standard as described in the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956; or
- permission granted by the relevant Minister or an authorised person.

A valid test certificate or permission to import must be produced to the Australian Border Force at the time of importation. (Source: [ABF website](#))

Regulation 4K(3) describes the relevant standard that woolpacks must conform to as the Australian Wool Exchange Standard No. 3, published on 1 July 2013.

There are currently five [woolpack prescribed testing authorities](#), which were approved for the purposes of the regulation in 2014.

### **Purposes and coverage of licensing**

2. Unused woolpacks to be used for greasy wool require a test certificate issued by a prescribed testing authority, certifying that the woolpacks conform to Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) standard No. 3.

Unused woolpacks to be used for purposes other than greasy wool, require an import permission from the Minister for Agriculture or an authorised person. Import conditions (conditions of use) may be applied to these woolpacks.

Second-hand woolpacks require an import permission from the relevant Minister or an authorised person. The importation of second-hand woolpacks for use as containers of greasy wool is not permitted. Conditions of use (see 17.) may be applied to second-hand woolpacks.

3. The regulations apply to the importation of woolpacks from all countries.

4. The importation of woolpacks is regulated to ensure adequate pack strength and to minimise fibre contamination of the Australian wool clip. Regulation 4K of the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#) is not intended to restrict the quantity or volume of woolpack imports.

5. The control on importation of woolpacks is a statutory requirement under Regulation 4K of the [Customs \(Prohibited Imports\) Regulations 1956](#), made under the *Customs Act 1901*.

The designation of products to be subjected to licensing under this framework does not allow administrative discretion: woolpacks are a prohibited good that cannot be imported without permission.

The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Applications should be made in advance of arrival of the goods. This does not preclude import permission being sought for goods which have inadvertently arrived at a point of entry.

(b) Permits may be issued promptly if a genuine requirement exists.

(c) Permits may be issued at any period of the year.

(d) Importers only need to approach the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to seek consideration of their application to import woolpacks. The DAFF and the Minister for Agriculture are the only entities that consider applications for permission to import woolpacks.

Where relevant (i.e., for unused woolpacks intended to store greasy wool), importers may separately need to seek an original test certificate from an Australian or international prescribed testing authority, to certify that the woolpacks conform to Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) standard no 3.

8. Application for permission to import can be refused at the discretion of the Minister for Agriculture or an authorised person, if the ordinary criteria are not met. There is no right of appeal against the Minister's (or authorised person's) decision. However, an appeal may be made on the decision-making process itself under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Not applicable.

(b) All persons, firms and institutions are eligible to apply for permission to import.

### **Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications for permission to import woolpacks should be made in writing to the DAFF. The application should include the following information:

- Manufacturer
- Product name
- Number/pieces
- Use
- AWEX certificate
- Importer name and details
- Vessel
- Place of loading
- Bill of lading number
- Place of arrival
- Date of arrival.

11. Proof of authorisation or a Test Certificate is required on importation. A valid test certificate or permission to import must be produced to the Australian Border Force at the time of importation.

12. There is no licensing fee or administrative charge. The DAFF does not impose a licensing fee or administrative charge for considering applications for permission to import woolpacks.

13. Not applicable. The DAFF does not impose a licensing fee or administrative charge for considering applications for permission to import woolpacks.

### Conditions of licensing

14. Permission to import woolpacks is considered and granted per consignment.

15. There is no penalty for the non-utilisation of a license or a portion of a license. The [Customs Act 1901](#) (see s50(4)) imposes a penalty of 100 penalty units where a person's conduct contravenes the conditions or requirements of a permit issued to them. This is considered an offence against the Act and is subject to the Criminal Code.

16. Permission to import woolpacks is not transferable between importers.

17. Conditions may be applied regarding the custody, use, disposal or destruction of the imported woolpacks for the purpose of ensuring that they are not used otherwise than for the purpose for which the permission is granted.

### Other procedural requirements

18. No.

19. Not applicable.

## 33 ELEMENTAL MERCURY

### Outline of System

1. The importation of elemental mercury as per the definition under Subregulation 2(1) of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956, is prohibited under Regulation 4AC of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 unless permission has been granted.

Import of mercury is also prohibited without approval under the following legislation. Permission to import mercury may be granted under the relevant legislation by the relevant Minister or authorised officer, if it meets the requirements under Article 3 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

- The *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995* – for agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines.
- The *Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019* – for industrial chemicals.
- The *Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990* – for therapeutic chemicals and goods, where the mercury is for use as an ingredient or component in the manufacture of a therapeutic good, e.g. dental amalgam.

Importers are responsible for ensuring that permit requirements and any applicable exemptions are met before importation. A valid permit or exemption to import mercury must be produced to the Australian Border Force at the time of importation.

### Purposes and coverage of licensing

2. Mercury is a highly toxic heavy metal that can have harmful effects on people, ecosystems, and wildlife. Australia is a party to The Minamata Convention on Mercury which aims to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of the anthropogenic releases of mercury and mercury compounds, in part by restricting the manufacture, trade and use of mercury at a global level. The Minamata Convention is named after "Minamata disease", which occurred in Japan during the mid-20th century. Mercury-tainted industrial wastewater released into Minamata Bay poisoned thousands of people, with crippling, irreversible effects.

The Minamata Convention aims to control and reduce mercury across a range of products, processes and industries. This includes mercury mining, manufacture and trade of mercury products containing mercury, disposal of mercury waste and mercury emissions from industrial facilities.

3. The control applies to non-parties to the Minamata Convention. Parties to the Minamata Convention are required to seek written prior import consent from the importing country's Minamata Convention Authority – which is a separate process to the above border control. Parties to the Minamata Convention may still be required to show their written import consent to the Australian Border Force.

4. The importation prohibition of mercury is not intended to restrict the quantity or value of the imports. The controls are in place as Australia's measures to implement the obligations of the Minamata Convention.

5. The control on importation of mercury is a statutory requirement under the following legislation.

- The Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956
- The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Regulations 1995
- The Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019
- The Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990

The system cannot be abolished without legislative approval.

### **Procedures**

6. Not applicable.

7.(a) Measures for mercury with industrial uses apply to the import of mercury from non-Parties and export of mercury for industrial uses. Mercury refers to elemental mercury and mixtures of mercury (including alloys of mercury) with a mercury concentration of at least 95% by weight for an industrial purpose. Excluded from this is mercury used for laboratory-scale research or as a reference standard, naturally occurring trace quantities in metals, ores or mineral products and subsequently derived products, and unintentional trace quantities in chemical products. Permission is required under AICIS for the importation of mercury for industrial uses, before introduction from countries that are not Party to the Convention.

(b) There are no statutory timeframes in which to consider applications for the import of mercury for industrial uses.

(c) Licensing to import mercury as an industrial chemical may be issued throughout the year.

(d) Permits can be issued by one of the following regulatory agencies, depending on the purpose and use of the mercury.

- Office of Chemical Safety, Department of Health and Aged Care – industrial purposes
- Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of Health and Aged Care– therapeutic purposes
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – agriculture and veterinary purposes

8. If approval is not granted for the import of mercury for industrial uses a person whose interests are affected may request the Executive Director to reconsider the decision. An application may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review of a reconsidered decision

### **Eligibility of importers to apply for licence**

9.(a) Every person who introduces mercury as an industrial chemical in Australia must be registered with the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS). Registration is required for anyone who introduces (manufactures or imports) industrial chemicals.

(b) N/A.

**Documentation and other requirements for application for licence**

10. Applications for permission to import mercury as an industrial chemical should be made in writing to the DAFF. The application should include the following information:

- If importing from a non-Party to the Minamata Convention, you must provide certification from the exporting country that the mercury was not sourced from primary mercury mining or excess mercury from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities. These requirements are set out in Article 3 paragraphs 3 and 5(b) of the Convention.
- You must supply a copy of the importing party's written consent to import the mercury or mercury-containing chemical (upload with your application form)
- Your and the importer's contact details, including an ABN (if applicable)
- AICIS registration number (if applicable)
- Common name and trade name of the mercury containing chemical
- The intended use of the mercury or mercury-containing chemical. Under the Minamata Convention, you can only import mercury into Australia for environmentally sound interim storage or an allowed use. In your application, you'll need to tell us if your purpose is interim storage or industrial use.
  - If it's for interim storage, you'll need to describe the intended storage for the mercury, including the facility address and relevant controls
  - If it's for industrial use, you'll need to describe what the intended industrial use is
- Approximate date of importation
- Quantity to be imported
- Container size

You do not need our approval to import mercury from a country that is a party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The exporting country's government must seek written consent from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

11. The written permission of the relevant Minister or authorised officer is required to be produced to the Australian Border Force prior to or on import.

12. There is no fee for the import of mercury for industrial use.

13. There are no fees for any Minamata import applications.

**Conditions of licensing**

14. Approval to import mercury as an industrial chemical is for a single consignment. Separate approval must be gained for further import.

15. There is no penalty for not utilising permission to import mercury for industrial use.

16. Approval to import mercury as an industrial chemical is not transferable between importers.

17. N/A.

**Other procedural requirements**

18. There are no other procedural requirements for the import of mercury as an industrial chemical.

19. N/A.

---