

Australia Country Guide

Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport (photo and signature page)
- Completed Australian Customs form B534
- Copy of visa or e-visa approval (non-citizens)
- Detailed inventory / packing list (in English)
- Alcohol inventory, if applicable
- Original bill of lading if no telex release / waybill issued (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)

Specific Information

- The OBL must be received 7 days prior to arrival at first entry port into Australia.
- The AWB must be received 48 hours prior to arrival at first entry airport into Australia.
- Sea freight clearance times vary from 12-15 working days depending on mode of sea freight and the destination location.
- Airfreight clearance takes approximately 5-7 working days depending on documentation received and destination location.
- An inventory of alcohol is required for Australian Customs to assess the duty and taxes payable, which are generally 50% of the alcohol's purchase value for wine and 150% for spirits.
- The signature on the Australian Customs form B534 must match the passport page.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Vehicle import approval (VIA)
- Import declaration (prepared by Customs broker)
- Registration papers from country of origin
- Proof of ownership and purchase receipt

Specific Information

- A VIA must be obtained prior to the importation of motor vehicles.
 - VIA will take 3-6 weeks to approve.
 - Application for VIA may be found at:https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/how_to_apply.aspx
- The restrictions for documents and Customs regulations must be met for the importation for privately owned motor vehicles.
- Customs clearance is required at the port of entry.

- Customs duties and goods and services taxes (GST) must be paid at the time of vehicle import with the exception of returning Australian vehicles when GST only applies.
 - GST only is payable on motorcycle imports
- Contact the Australian Taxation Office to determine if and when luxury car taxes (LCT) must be paid.
 - <https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Luxury-car-tax/>
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Pets

Documents Required

- Import application
- Import permit
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Specific Information

- All animals imported to Australia must meet the requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and will be quarantined upon arrival.
- Import permits take approximately 10 business days from the date receipt by Department of Agriculture to be approved; however, incomplete or incorrect applications may take longer.
- Owners of the goods must select a quarantine station for the animal prior to import.
- Animals may be visited by only the person identified as the importer during the quarantine period

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- Alcohol:
 - Customs duties plus goods and services tax (GST) will apply to alcohol imported into Australia.
 - Duty is calculated on the type of alcohol, the volume contained per bottle, the alcohol % per bottle and the value per bottle.
 - Ten percent (10%) GST is then added to the duty calculated.
- Anabolic and androgenic substances (those that enhance muscle and bone growth and may include health supplements)
- Antibiotics
- ANZAC and any related advertising material
- Items bearing an image of the Australian national flag and coat of arms
- Items bearing an image of the Australian state or territory flags and coat of arms
- Asbestos
- Cat and dog fur products
- Glazed ceramic ware (specific to lead content)
- Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises)
- Chemical weapons

- Chewing tobacco and snuff in quantities greater than 1.5 kg
- Cigarette lighters (up to five lighters acceptable if over 18 years or older on a ship or aircraft)
- Cosmetics and toxic materials (cannot contain more than 250 mg/kg of lead but may contain more than 250 mg/kg of lead acetate designed for use in hair products)
- Counterfeit credit cards
- Crowd control equipment (antipersonnel sprays, body armor, extendable batons, electric shock devices, etc.)
- Cultural heritage goods from Papua New Guinea (permission from the Trustees of the Papua New Guinea Public Museum and Art Gallery is required)
- Diamonds (only rough diamonds in tamper proof container from a country participating in the Kimberley Process may be imported and require a Kimberley Process Certificate)
- Dog collars designed to puncture or bruise an animal's skin
- Passengers arriving on board a ship or aircraft do not need a permit for the import of drugs and narcotics required for personal use if:
 - The drugs and narcotics are prescribed by a medical practitioner or veterinarian, and quantity does not exceed a 3 month's supply at the maximum prescribed dosage,
 - The drugs / narcotics are carried as accompanied baggage;
 - Prescription must be in English or translated to English.
- Kava may be imported in root or dried form in amounts not to exceed 2 kg and is carried as accompanied baggage by a passenger 18 years or older.
- Firearms and accessories, parts, magazine, ammunition, components of ammunition, and replica
- The following items are embargoed goods and are restricted and require permission to import. Contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for additional information:
 - Eritrea – weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts
 - Iran – weapons, ammunition, military vehicle and equipment and spare parts
 - North Korea – weapons ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts
 - Libya – weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts
- Endangered animal and plant listed in the appendices to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
 - A search tool for CITES endangered species is available at <https://checklist.cites.org/#/en>
- Novelty erasers (resembling food in scent or appearance)
- Plastic explosives formulated as a mixture, malleable or flexible at room temperature or with:
 - One or more high explosives which in pure form have a vapor pressure less than 10.4 PA at a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius
 - A binder material
 - Fish and tooth fish
 - Electronic flyswatters and mosquito bats
 - Growth hormones and substances of human or animal origin

- Hazardous wastes (explosive flammable, poisonous, toxic, exotoxic or infectious, clinical wastes, waste oils, waste residue from manufacture or household waste as defined by the Basel Convention)
- Hydrofluorocarbons
- Incandescent lamps
- Knives and daggers
- Laser pointers
- Novelty money boxes coated with material containing more than 90 mg/kg of lead
- Ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases
- Pencils and paintbrushes with a coating that contains excess amounts of toxic compounds such as lead, arsenic and barium
- Pesticides and other hazardous chemicals
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Terphenyls and Polyphenyls
- Pornography and other objectionable materials
- Radioactive substances
- Therapeutic drugs and substances (abortifacients, aphrodisiacs, etc.)
- Unmanufactured tobacco (not stemmed or stripped or in whole form)
- Toys containing excess amounts of toxic compounds such as lead, arsenic and barium
- Woolpacks
- Weapons (military goods and other weapons including blow pipes, crossbows, martial arts equipment, knuckle dusters, slingshots, maces and flails)
- Trade Practices Act goods

Prohibited Items

- Rough diamonds
- Dogs (dangerous breeds including Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terrier or Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario and advertisements referencing these breeds)
- Embryo clones and viable materials, and any related advertising matter advertising these items
- Suicide devices

Cultural and Other Information

CIA World Factbook Entry for Australia
 Wikipedia Entry for Australia