

Traceability

Keep records. You must have records to show where your food comes from (traceability).

You will need to be able to provide information about the food you import. This information must include:

- contact details of your suppliers or customers
- a description of the food and batch or lot identification
- date of transaction
- how much of the food you have received or will be supplied.



Find out more

For more information about importing food, food inspection and compliance, visit the department's website at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food, email foodimp@agriculture.gov.au or call 1800 900 090.



Contact

General enquiry: 1800 900 090
or (61 3) 8318 6700 (from outside Australia)

Switchboard: (61 2) 6272 3933



foodimp@agriculture.gov.au

agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food

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Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

Importing food

what you need to know



To import food into Australia you must meet the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the *Imported Food Control Act 1992*.

You need to know what your responsibilities are under Australian law and only import food that is allowed into Australia and is safe for consumers.

The information in this brochure will help you to better understand your responsibilities.



State and territory laws

To find out if your business needs to be registered or licensed, contact your state or territory food enforcement agency.

Under Australian state and territory food safety laws, if you import food or food ingredients for sale in any form into Australia you are considered a food business and you may need to be registered or licensed.

For more information see www.foodstandards.gov.au/about/foodenforcementcontacts.



Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON)

Before importing your food you must check Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON) to see if the food can be imported.

Food that does not pass biosecurity laws cannot be imported into Australia. You need to know what import conditions are in place for your food and if you need an import permit.

Check the department's BICON system at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/online-services/bicon.



Source safe food

You are legally responsible for ensuring the food you import is safe and meets Australian food standards.

Take steps to check that your food is safe and meets Australian food standards before you import it.

To do this you should:

- seek assurances from your supplier that the food is safe
- ask for ingredient information documents, product specification sheets and sample labels.

The food you import must meet the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (see www.foodstandards.gov.au/code). Make sure the food only contains ingredients or additives that are permitted in Australia, meets compositional requirements and is correctly labelled.



Check the label

Ensure the food has a label printed in English and includes all necessary information.

Your food label must meet Australian labelling standards. The label must include a description of the food, an ingredient list, allergen information, nutrition panel, importer name and address, lot coding and date marking.

You must also provide information about the country of origin (see www.accc.gov.au/business/advertising-promoting-your-business/country-of-origin-claims/country-of-origin-food-labelling).



Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS)

Imported food is inspected under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS).

Check the rules for the food you want to import.

IFIS classifies food for inspection based on the food safety risk. Your food may be inspected and tested. Some food may need a foreign government certificate.

Food safety management certificates may be required for certain foods to help assure their safety.

For more information see agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food/inspection-testing/ifis.



Inspection and testing

If your food is selected for inspection, you will be issued with a Food Control Certificate.

If your food is selected for inspection you must allow an authorised officer access to it. You must also provide enough information about the food so it can be identified.

At the inspection, an authorised officer:

- will check if your food is properly labelled
- may take samples of the food for testing
- will let you know what you need to do next.

If testing is necessary, you will need to choose a laboratory before inspection. Learn more about appointed laboratories and food testing here: agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food/inspection-testing.

If your food fails inspection it will not be released. You will be given options for treatment, disposal or export from Australia.