

At the border

Thanks to our strong biosecurity system, Australia is free from many serious pests and diseases. Every day, agricultural products arrive in Australia that could carry pests and diseases. To protect Australia, we have import conditions. These conditions vary because different products pose different levels of biosecurity risk.

BICON, the Australian Government's Biosecurity Import Conditions system, tells you what you can and can't bring into Australia. BICON also lists any import conditions you'll need to meet. Always check BICON before bringing agricultural products into Australia.

At the border, supporting documents need to be checked. The documents needed depend on the product being imported. Documents can be an invoice, an import permit or a plant health certificate, known as a phytosanitary certificate. This certificate is an official government-to-government document that states the plant product meets our conditions.

When a plant product arrives in Australia, whether it be via ships, planes, travellers or mail, we first check that it is allowed to enter and that it meets our import conditions.

If it does meet our conditions, we will inspect the product and packaging to check for any unwanted plant parts, dirt, insects and diseases. These are known as biosecurity risk material. If we find something of concern, we will hold the product until the risk can be identified and addressed. If the product doesn't meet conditions, it will be treated, exported or destroyed.

If we find the product is free of biosecurity risk material, and all the documents are correct, the product will be released.

We work hard to keep pests out. But if they do enter Australia, we have an established system to manage them. You can learn more about this in our 'Exotic plant pests' video.