



Food safety management certificates for imported food

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Introduction

A food safety management certificate is required for certain imported foods.

The certificate is evidence that the imported food has been produced through a food safety management system. This system must have appropriate controls in place to manage food safety hazards of concern during the production and processing of the food.

All biosecurity requirements must be met before food safety requirements apply. Check our [Biosecurity Import Conditions system \(BICON\)](#) for biosecurity import conditions.

Scope

Imported foods which currently require a food safety management certificate are:

Berries

This includes ready-to-eat, fresh, chilled and frozen [berries](#).

For ready-to-eat dried berries, a food safety management certificate is not required, but can be voluntarily lodged, instead of referral for *Escherichia coli* testing.

Pomegranate arils

This includes ready-to-eat, fresh, chilled and frozen [pomegranate arils](#).

For ready-to-eat dried pomegranate arils, a food safety management certificate is not required, but can be voluntarily lodged, instead of referral for *E. coli* testing.



Process to submit a food safety management certificate

Importers of food that require a food safety management certificate for importation to Australia must supply a food safety management certificate recognised by the department. A [recognised third-party food safety management certificate](#) must:

- be issued by an accredited certification body
- be limited to one food producer
- confirm that the food producer's food safety management system identifies and effectively controls the food safety hazards of concern during primary production and processing of the food, and
- be able to be validated by us through a web-accessible database administered by the relevant Accreditation Body or Certification Program Owner that accredited the certification body.

Read the [guidelines](#) for further information on a recognised food safety management certificate.

We advise importers to provide us with the food safety management certificates they intend to lodge with future consignments, at least four weeks prior to shipment, for pre-verification ([Step 1](#)). This is to verify and maintain a record of these certificates which are then referred to when assessing import documents of consignments at the border ([Step 2](#)).

Step 1. Pre-verification of the certificate

Submit all food safety management certificates before lodgement that have not been verified before to ifis-certification@aff.gov.au. Title the email subject field as 'FSMC - <<insert producer name>>'.

In addition to meeting the department's food safety management certificate guidelines, the certificate must also meet our minimum documentary requirements, set out in the [Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy](#). The certificate is not consignment specific; however, it must be valid at the time the consignment is exported.

The certificate should contain:

- the name and address of the certified business
- the standard against which the business is certified
- a relevant scope statement
- a description of the food covered by the certificate
- the certificate number
- certificate issue date, expiry date and audit date
- name, position, and signature of person authorising the certificate
- name, address, and logo of the certification body
- logo of the accreditation body.

Ensure the certificate held by the department is current and provide a new certificate at least four weeks before the expiry date.

Step 2. Lodgement of the certificate

A [Full Import Declaration](#) (FID) must be completed and lodged on the Department of Home Affairs' [Integrated Cargo System](#) (ICS) for imported food.

Select 'FSMC' as the 'Document type' and enter the certificate number as the 'Document number'.

Ensure the relevant food safety management certificate(s) is lodged as part of the import documentation uploaded through the [Cargo Online Lodgement System](#) (COLS).

Notify us immediately if the certificate is no longer valid by emailing ifis-certification@aff.gov.au.

Further information

Learn more about the [Imported Food Inspection Scheme](#).

