# Importing cut flowers and foliage into Australia

## Flowers produced and prepared for export to Australia

Australia’s import conditions require that consignments:

* only contain permitted species and plant parts
* are treated with an approved pest management measure
* are devitalised if they are propagatable species
* are sealed in pest-proof packaging.

An Australian importer may also require an import permit depending on the country

they source from and the pre-export phytosanitary treatment method used.

## Pre-export inspection

Australia’s import conditions require the exporting country’s National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) to inspect the flowers and confirm if they are free from live insects, disease symptoms, weed seeds and other contaminants

## NPPO certification

If the NPPO is satisfied that the flowers meet Australia’s import requirements they will issue a phytosanitary certificate

## Flowers arrive in Australia

## Document verification

A Department of Agriculture biosecurity officer checks the importer’s documentation including the phytosanitary certificate and permit paperwork (if a permit is required). Where valid documentation is not supplied, the consignment will be held until the correct paperwork is provided to the department

## Inspection

1. A biosecurity officer or someone authorised by the department checks the packaging for damage and secures the non‑compliant consignment if necessary

2. The consignment is then moved to a biosecurity inspection point where it is inspected for live insects, weed seeds, diseases and other biosecurity risk material

## If no live insects or biosecurity risk material found, flowers are released

Biosecurity officer will release flowers from biosecurity control into the Australian market

## If live insects or biosecurity risk material is found, Insects and biosecurity risk material sent for identification

The live insects and biosecurity risk material is sent to the department’s laboratory for identification to determine if they are a biosecurity risk for Australia

## If not a biosecurity risk, flowers are released

Results confirming the live insects and material are not a biosecurity risk are provided to the biosecurity officer.

## If a biosecurity risk is found

Where live insects and biosecurity risk material are found to be a biosecurity risk, the results and management action options are delivered via the biosecurity officer to the importer for decision.

Depending on the risk posed, options for addressing the biosecurity risk may include:

* Importer arranges for the flowers to be fumigated or reconditioned so they are safe to enter the market, or
* The department directs the whole shipment or just the contaminated part to be destroyed or exported out of Australia

## Post treatment verification

Once the flowers have been fumigated or reconditioned a biosecurity officer will verify the treatments have been completed

## Flowers released

Biosecurity officer will release flowers from biosecurity control into the Australian market