

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.



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



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

Live insects or biosecurity risk material found



Inspection

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

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

Not a biosecurity risk

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



A biosecurity risk

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

Flowers not released

Flowers sent for destruction or export are not released into the Australian market



No live insects or biosecurity risk material found



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

