



# Raksha Bandhan (Rakhi)

## Biosecurity

May 2024



### Important biosecurity information

Food, plant material and animal products from overseas could introduce some of the world's most damaging pests and diseases to Australia. This could devastate our unique environment and valuable agriculture and tourism industries.

If you are arriving from overseas or expecting overseas visitors, it is important that you, your family, and visitors are aware of Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

If you are expecting Raksha Bandhan gifts through the mail, tell your family and friends overseas to check that the products are allowed into Australia before mailing them. The postal declaration label on mail articles must accurately list all contents, so that they can be assessed at the border.

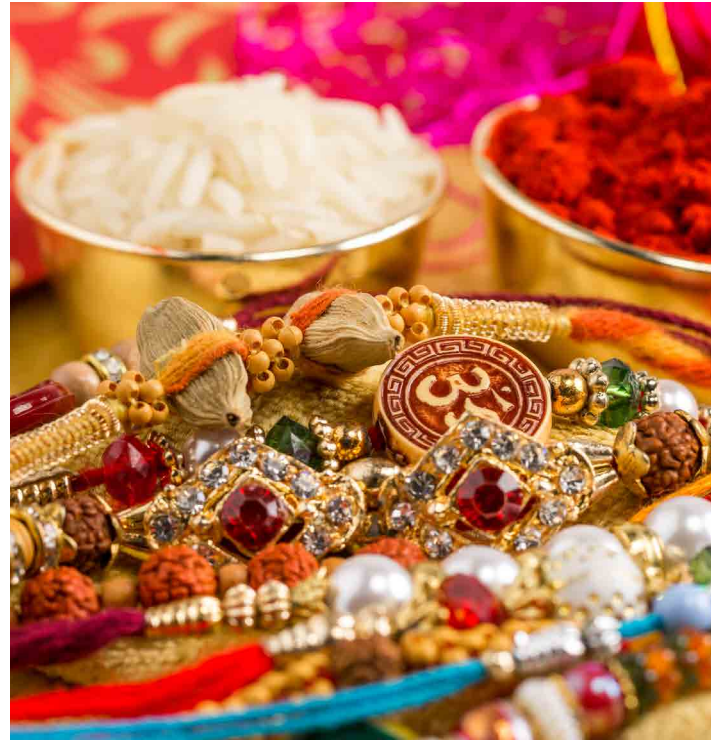
### How we stop biosecurity risk goods entering Australia

Baggage and international mail articles are assessed to identify items that could bring pests and diseases into Australia. This may include biosecurity officers questioning travellers, or screening goods using X-ray, detector dogs and/or manual inspection.

### Products that present a biosecurity risk

Raksha Bandhan gifts that may pose a biosecurity risk include:

- Rakhi threads made with seeds or flowers
- traditional Indian sweets (mithai) which contain milk, such as barfi, mysore pak, gulab jamun, rasgulla, pedas or soan-papdi
- biscuits, cakes and bread requiring refrigeration
- nuts
- tea and herbs
- grains and pulses including rice, wheat, lentils, chickpeas and beans.



## Help protect Australia from pests and diseases

- Purchase your Raksha Bandhan gifts in Australia.
- Before bringing or mailing a product to Australia, check that it is allowed by visiting [agriculture.gov.au/mailling-bringing-goods](http://agriculture.gov.au/mailling-bringing-goods).
- Tell your family and friends overseas to check if the gifts they intend to bring or mail are allowed into Australia.

## Travelling to Australia

When travelling to Australia you must:

- truthfully declare on your Incoming Passenger Card if you are carrying food, plant material or animal products. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. Failure to declare items can result in serious penalties.
- mark “Yes” for any food, plant material or animal products you may be carrying.

If you are unsure, mark “Yes” on your Incoming Passenger Card to speak to a biosecurity officer.

You should pack any products, including gifts, that need to be declared at the top of your baggage ready for inspection by a biosecurity officer.

Declared items may need to be treated or exported (at your expense), or destroyed. Goods that do not pose a biosecurity risk will be returned to you.

If you provide false or misleading information to a biosecurity officer or on your Incoming Passenger Card, or if you fail to answer questions about the goods or comply with directions given by a biosecurity officer, you may be:

- given an infringement notice
- subject to civil penalty proceedings, and/or
- prosecuted for a criminal offence.

Your visa may also be cancelled and, if so, you will be refused entry into Australia and you may not be able to return to Australia for up to three years. You will not be penalised under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* if you declare and present all goods, even if they are not allowed into Australia.



Phone 1800 900 090 or  
+61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia)



For more information  
[agriculture.gov.au/travelling-mailing](http://agriculture.gov.au/travelling-mailing)

Facebook: Australian Biosecurity  
Instagram: @australianbiosecurity