

Moving to Australia: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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THE ART OF MOVING

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Certificate No. FS23942



TELEPHONE:	Country code (61) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	Australia spans 3 time zones: North-East: GMT +10, Central GMT +9.5 West: GMT +8
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	240/250v AC, 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No special requirements
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 3, 26. Mar 25, 28. Apr 25. May 2, 30. Jun 13. Aug 29. Oct 3. Dec 25, 26 (lieu days if on a weekend)
OFFICE HOURS:	0930-1730 Mon - Fri
BANK HOURS:	0930-1600 Mon-Thurs. 0930-1730 Fri. Hours vary across the nation
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	000-Police/Ambulance/Fire
UK EMBASSY:	UK Embassy Commonwealth Avenue 2600 ACT Tel: (6) 270 6666 Web: http://ukinaustralia.fco.gov.uk/
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Australia Tourist Commission Level 3, 80 William Street Woolloomooloo, Sydney 2011, NSW Tel: (2) 360 1111
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION:	Australia House, Strand, London WC2B 4ZA Tel: 0870 1620 822 Fax: 02072 405 333 Web: http://www.uk.embassy.gov.au

Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Australia. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to dispatch.

Household Goods

Documents required:

You will be required to supply the following, prior the departure of your effects from our warehouse, which should be submitted either prior to, or upon completion of packing at residence:

- Original bill of lading or airway bill
- Fully completed Customs form B534. Scanned copies are ok in all States. A blank copy of the current Unaccompanied Personal effects statement can be downloaded from the Australian Customs website at www.customs.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/b534.pdf however electronic signatures will not be accepted.

Passport ID and signature page/s required for clearance and signature on the B534 must match passport. Any changes must be initialised.

- Inventory of goods in English
- Owner-packed goods require list of contents (in English) from owner
- A copy of identification page and visa from owners passport. NOTE: Passport photo page of owner of goods who is completing B534 is required. Passport photo page of other persons travelling with owner are not required
- Full name and Australian residential address of Owner must be provided to obtain clearance

Please note a Post Office box or Business Address is not acceptable.

- If importer has been in Australia longer than twelve months, it may be required to clear the consignment via a formal Customs Entry

Duty free entry provided that removal goods consist of household and personal effects, which have been owned and used for twelve months or more preceding owner's departure for Australia.

- This does not apply to personal clothing, footwear and grooming items, (excludes fur apparel and perfume concentrates), if you are a permanent resident

Unaccompanied Personal Effects DO NOT include the following items:

- Motor vehicles
- Motor vehicle parts
- Commercial goods
- Alcohol
- Bequeathed items
- Internet Purchases

All household and personal effects entering Australia are subject to a physical examination by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS). This examination is conducted in AQIS approved premises and will cause delays of up to 14 working days after the arrival of the consignment into Australia. The Quarantine examination also means that full containers cannot be delivered direct to the importers residence in Australia.

Items of interest to Quarantine include all items that may have come into contact with soil and vegetation such as gardening equipment, bicycles, scooters etc, sporting equipment e.g golf clubs and buggies, cleaning equipment, brooms, mops, vacuum cleaner waste bags and the like. These items should be thoroughly cleaned before despatch.

Please note however prior cleaning and other treatment (Fumigation, steam cleaning etc.) does not ensure automatic clearance. AQIS will order further treatment if in their opinion the items being imported present a quarantine risk. Please also be conscious of festive decorations and wreaths containing dried vegetable matter, including pine cones and the like. If imported these items will be subject to further treatment or destruction. Further information is available at www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/travel/moving-emigrating

The customs B534 may be completed by the owner abroad prior to the shipment of their goods, or in Australia upon their arrival. Original customs forms are not required for clearance purposes. All sections must be completed and each page must be signed and dated.

The owners' goods may be cleared through Customs in advance of the owner's arrival.

In all states, the Australian Customs Service requires a photocopy of the ID and Visa pages of the importers passport. Under some circumstances the importer may be required to submit copies of all pages of their passport, including both front and back covers. Australian Customs require all cargo to be reported 48 hours prior to the first Australian Port of call of the carrying conveyance. No less than 2 hours before an airfreight shipment arrives at the destination airport. Failure to do this will result in the consignee being fined by the Australian Customs Service. Please ensure pre advice notification including owner's full name and Australian residential address together with all documents are sent to the consignee in sufficient time to allow the correct reporting to be completed. All personal and household effects consignments are subject to Quarantine examination and fees. The fees cover DOA Inspectors' attendance and entry processing, removalist's costs of licensing, software, administration, audit compliance, warehousing as well as the unpacking and repacking items designated for inspection. Fees should be obtained from your designated Australian destination agent in advance.

Further information can be obtained from the Customs fact sheet at www.border.gov.au/busi/imp/send

Diplomats' Removals / documents:

Documents Required:

- Original Bill of Lading / Airway Bill
- Customs form B615 completed by Embassy / Consulate in Australia
- Inventory of goods
- Copy of ID page of passport

Duty free entry

Subject to Quarantine examination and inspection fee.

Some Australian Ports of Arrival will require letter of authority on Diplomatic Letterhead to allow Quarantine examination.

Inheritance, deceased estates

Documents required:

- Copy of will or certified relevant extract of will
- Copy of death certificate (optional)

Duty free entry provided legatee is permanently domiciled in Australia and will not use the goods for trade or business purposes.

Bequeathed goods are required to be formally entered through Customs (additional charges may apply) if they have a value over AUD1000. If the goods are valued under AUD1000 a SAC entry is required (additional entry charges may apply).

Perth only: The above documents required plus letter from solicitor or executor of Will confirming the shipment of goods to the receiver and a value. Copy of consignee's photo page of passport and Australian visa where applicable and packing list.

Customs impediments: If value is under \$1000, Customs will accept the shipment under the self-assessed clearance (SAC) criteria which means client will not be subject to further charges for clearance.

If the value exceeds \$1000, Customs will require a formal entry to be lodged. Customs brokers fees and associated charges will be incurred and billed to client at this end. Note: Bequeath goods do not attract any duty or tax.

New Furniture and Household Goods

Documents required:

- Customs form B534
- Purchase Invoices

Items are subject to Customs duties and Goods Services Tax (GST).

Items must be declared if not owned and used for 12 months by importer. Owner may be required to produce original purchase receipts or other evidence of purchase price.

Perth only:

Complete shipment of new goods or complete shipment of gifted items to consignee.

Documents required for clearance:

- Customs form B534 to be completed by consignee
- Packing list
- Invoices (for new purchases) & letter from sender (if gifted items) including value/s
- Copy of consignee's photo page of passport and Australian visa where applicable

Customs impediments

If value is under \$1000, Customs will accept the shipment under the self-assessed clearance (SAC) criteria which means client will not be subject to any further charges for clearance.

If the value exceeds \$1000, Customs will require a formal entry to be lodged. Customs brokers fees and associated duties and taxes will be incurred and bill to client at this end.

Pre charged refrigeration equipment included in Personal and /or Household effects consignments

Document required:

- Customs form B534

The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 prohibits the importation of pre-charged refrigeration and air conditioning equipment containing CFC's, HFC or HCFC gases however one off personal imports can be exempt from this Act and the import may meet the requirements for a low volume import exemption or other exemption.

Further details can be sourced from the Australian Customs website at: www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/licences/importing-cars-boats-caravans

Pre charged equipment containing CFC's HFC's or HCFC's that are being imported as Personal/Household effects by an immigrant or an individual arriving on a temporary entry permit or is being re-imported by an Australian Resident (i.e the equipment has been previously exported from Australia by the importer) are provided an exemption under the act and can be imported. Equipment containing CFC, HFC or HCFC's that was purchased overseas by an Australian resident and is being imported to Australia for the first time will be required to have the system evacuated and altered to accommodate a different refrigerant. This work will need to be performed by a qualified/authorised technician at the expense of the importer.

Motor vehicles are NOT considered as Personal and / or Household effects.

Wedding Trousseaux

Documents required:

- Customs form B534
- Statutory Declaration
- Copy of marriage certificate (optional)

Antiques

Documents required:

- Customs form B534
- Lapada certificate of authenticity

Duty free entry for Bona Fide antiques (i.e 100 years old or over).

If documentary evidence is insufficient Australian Customs Service may direct verification via an approved antiquity expert. Verification fees apply and will be directed to the importer.

If owned and used by the importer for 12 months or longer overseas and the goods are not intended for sale, antiques can be imported without restriction as personal and household effects.

Precious Metal Objects

Duty free entry as household and personal effects

Dogs and Cats

Documents required:

- Permit to Import
- Veterinary Certificates

Cats and dogs may only be imported from the Department of Agriculture (DOA) approved countries and must be accompanied by a valid permit to import.

Cats and dogs must have been resident in any of the approved countries for at least 6 months (or from birth), and during the period of 30 days preceding export they must not have been in Quarantine in the country of export.

In all cases except New Zealand, a permit must be obtained before a dog or cat will be permitted to enter Australia.

Enquiries concerning the importation of dogs and cats should be directed to Animal Quarantine Station where the animal will be boarding.

In the case of dogs and cats from New Zealand, any enquiries should be made to the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the nearest New Zealand city.

Dogs and cats entering Australia without prior approval will be destroyed on arrival or re-exported to their country of origin.

Application forms for import permits can be obtained from the relevant Animal Quarantine Stations.

Specific information can be sourced from the Department of Agriculture web site at www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs and follow links to 'Quarantine and Export Services' and then select the 'A guide to importing dogs and cats to Australia' option.

Birds

The importation of birds is currently prohibited, with the exception of pigeons from approved countries and household pet birds from New Zealand.

Full details can be sourced from the Department of Agriculture website:

www.apps.daff.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent

Certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks etc and items/ products manufactured of / from animals coming under the protected species regulations.

Importation of products from endangered species is prohibited.

Other products are subject to inspection and treatment if necessary.

Full details on restricted and prohibited imports are available from the Wildlife Protection Authority website:

www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/index.html and www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/cites/index.html

Motor Vehicles

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government has recently made changes to the arrangements for the importation of road vehicles that were previously classified as returning Australian goods by the Australian Custom and Border Protection Service.

The changes mean that people shipping such vehicles must have a valid vehicle import approval, a valid carnet or be subject to an intergovernmental agreement such as a Status of Forces Agreement before the vehicle may be cleared for entry into Australia.

If you ship your vehicle before receiving an approval and your vehicle arrives before the application is processed, you may incur storage costs from the shipping company / freight forwarder. If the import application is not approved, you will have to either export the vehicle or have it destroyed at your own expense.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you do not ship your vehicle to Australia until such time as you are issued with an Import Approval.

Documents required:

- Formal Customs Entry required
- Copy of passport

- Registration papers
- Sales invoice
- Paid receipt
- Vehicle Import Approval
- Original Bill of Lading
- B534
- Refrigerant Compliance form (if vehicle fitted with refrigeration/air conditioning system)

An 'Application For Vehicle Import Approval' must be lodged with the Vehicle Safety Standards office in Canberra, prior to the arrival of the vehicle in Australia. This action must be undertaken as early as is possible as motor vehicles are unable to be cleared in Australia until an approved application has been obtained.

N.B. The latest publication from the Vehicle Safety Standards office is available from the following websites:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/process_overview.aspx

The appropriate application form is available from the following address: **[www.infrastructure.gov.au/ vehicles/ imports/online_form.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/imports/online_form.aspx)**.

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service: and select the "Quarantine and Export services" option.

Vehicles that arrive in Australia without an approval will have to be re-exported or destroyed and the importer may face a fine of up to A\$13,000.00.

Import approvals cannot be issued for vehicles after they have been imported. A vehicle is deemed to have been imported as at the arrival date of the carrying vessel.

The latest information on the importation of motor vehicles can be obtained from the following websites:

Australian Customs Services:
[www.customs.gov.au/webdata/?resources/files/importguideprivownmv.pdf](http://www.customs.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/importguideprivownmv.pdf)

Vehicle Safety Standards:
[www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/ bulletin/importing_vehicles/general/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/importing_vehicles/general/index.aspx)

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service:
www.affa.gov.au select the "Quarantine and Export Services" option, click on the "importing goods to Australia" option and then select the "Importing motor vehicles/motorbikes" option.

All motor vehicles are subject to Customs Duty and / or GST.

Certain value for vehicles purchased for the sole purpose of export to Australia can be based on the purchase price, for other vehicles an expert valuation will need to be done by an authorized independence valuer in Australia, and will be required to determine the customs value.

- The customs duty is 5% of the FOB value
- The GST payable is 10% on the VOTI VOTI is the sum of (Customs Value + Duty + Overseas Freight + Insurance)
- There is a 33% Luxury Car Tax (LCT) payable on high value vehicles. The current LCT threshold 1st July 2014 is Motor Vehicles with a "...luxury car value..." exceeding A\$61,884.00 (for specified fuel efficient vehicles \$75,375)
- The LCT of 33% is payable on the amount exceeding the threshold, e.g Car having customs value of A\$80,000.00 The LCT will be calculated as A\$80,000 minus the threshold A\$61,884.00. The LCT of 33% is then applied
- Vehicles over 30 years of age are Duty Free, if the vehicle has not been so substantially modified as to constitute a newly manufactured vehicle

Certain vehicles on which duties were paid when first imported into Australia, that have been exported from Australia and are being returned to Australia, are Duty Free and GST Exempt when meeting specified requirements.

Certain Free Trade agreements will also reduce the Duty payable.

The current rates of duty applicable are as follows:

Passenger vehicles less than 30 years (new or used) including sedans, station wagons and four wheel drive vehicles

- Customs Duty @ 10% - Duty = 5%
- GST @ 10% + LCT if applicable

Passenger vehicles of 30 years of age or more

- Customs Duty None
- GST @ 10% + LCT if applicable

Other vehicles (including "off road" 4 wheel drives)

- Customs Duty @ 5%
- GST @ 10% + LCT if applicable

Campervans & Mobile Homes

- Customs duty @ 10% - Duty = 5%
- GST @ 10% + LCT if applicable

Motorcycles

- Customs duty None
- GST @ 10%, LCT None

Australian manufactured vehicles are not subject to customs duty, but are liable to GST, unless GST was paid prior to original exportation, and no refund or drawback of GST was obtained when the vehicle was exported. Also subject to LCT if applicable.

The duty rates and Luxury Car Tax threshold value are subject to change. The most current information is available from the Australian Border Force website at: **www.border.gov.au/bus/imp/imp-1#duty**

This part also applies to Motorcycles

The importation of motor vehicles into Australia is strictly controlled and there are no duty/GST free concessions available. This means that all vehicles will be subject to duty and/or GST, which will be calculated on the value of the vehicle. In addition high value vehicles will attract a Luxury Car Tax. There are also strict regulations for the registration of motor vehicles, including motorcycles for road use in Australia.

All vehicles must comply with Australian Design Regulations, which in almost every case will require modification to be undertaken to the vehicle to bring it up to the required standard. It is possible that in some instances a vehicle may not be able to be modified, or alternatively may require extensive modification so as to allow registration.

All such modifications must be undertaken and certified by an accredited automotive engineer and can be a very costly undertaking. It can often result in an uneconomical situation arising in preparing a vehicle for road use.

There is some relief given to these compliance regulations if a vehicle is imported as a personally imported vehicle. These concessions will, however, still require that the imported vehicle attains a basic level of safety requirements relating principally to lighting, seat belts, child restraint anchorages and glazing. To be eligible for a personally imported vehicle, an importer must meet the following criteria:

1. The vehicle has been owned and used by the applicant for a continuous period of at least 12 months.
2. At the time the vehicle is imported, the applicant is:
 - a) An Australian Citizen or an Australian Permanent resident or;
 - b) A person who has applied to become an Australian Citizen or an Australian permanent resident.
3. The applicant is of an age that entitles him or her to hold a licence or permit to drive a road vehicle of that type.
4. The applicant undertakes to comply with any requirements as to road safety that is imposed in respect of the vehicle by the Administrator of Vehicle Standards.
5. Have not imported a road vehicle owned by him or her within the year ending on the day on which the vehicle in respect of which the application is made is landed in Australia.

An 'Application For Vehicle Import Approval' must be lodged with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development in Canberra, prior to the arrival of the vehicle in Australia. This action must be undertaken as early as is possible as motor vehicles are unable to be cleared in Australia until an approved application has been obtained.

Vehicles that arrive in Australia without an approval will have to be re-exported or destroyed and the importer may face a fine of up to A\$13,000.00.

Import approvals cannot be issued for vehicles after they have been imported. A vehicle is deemed to have been imported as at the arrival date of the vessel.

Enquiries concerning the personally imported vehicle application should be directed to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601.

Enquiries relating to the registration requirements of a motor vehicle should be directed to the appropriate registration authority in the intended State/Territory of use of the vehicle.

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) inspect all vehicles on arrival, and require them to be properly cleaned. This is usually affected by steam cleaning. You should remove all soil and any other matter from your vehicle (including and especially the underside) prior to its exportation to Australia.

For further information please refer to

www.agriculture.gov/import/vehicles-machinery/motor-vehicles

Motor vehicles (and other equipment such as boats, caravans etc) equipped with an air conditioner or a refrigeration system may require an import licence under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989. This Act controls the manufacture, import and export of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Synthetic Greenhouse Gases (SGG) in Australia. These substances are listed in Schedule 10 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. It is an offence to import controlled ODS/SGG equipment without a licence.

Before importing a road vehicle with an air-conditioner or refrigeration system, you must find out the type and quantity of gas contained in the equipment (if gassed) so that you can complete licensing and reporting requirements that are detailed at The Department of Environment and Heritage website at **www.deh.gov.au**. Specific requirements are available at **www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/licences/vehicle-import.html**. You may not need to apply for an ODS / SGG equipment licence if the road vehicle is kept by you or a member of your household, and the road vehicle is owned by you (the importer) for at least twelve months prior to importation and is principally for your private use, or the air-conditioning or refrigeration system is degassed prior to being shipped to Australia.

If you claim one of these exemptions you may be required to present documentary evidence to support your claim. These records should be kept for audit purposes.

Motorbikes (with reciprocating internal combustion piston engines only)

Formal Customs Entry required

- Vehicle Import Approval
- Registration and/or other proof of ownership documents as described in Motor Vehicles section above

All Motor Cycles are exempt Customs Duty and Luxury Car Tax but will attract 10% GST. The GST will be calculated on the VoTI as described in the Motor Vehicles section above.

Also refer to Motor Vehicles.

Other Motorised Vehicles

Document Required:

- Vehicle Import Approval

All motorised (on and off road including kids scooters, quad bikes and similar) including Australian return vehicle require import approval. Apply prior and get approval prior to shipping. **DO NOT SHIP UNTIL APPROVAL IS GRANTED.**

There is a wide variety of motorised equipment or vehicles that are exempt from Import Approval requirements however Customs will insist on the submission of the Import Authority for the vehicle in question, verifying the exempt status of the item.

This requirement extends to items such as ride on mowers, farm equipment, motorised trikes, quad bikes, motorised scooters (including children's electric powered scooters) and the like.

Much of this equipment falls under the Household effects category and can be imported Duty and GST free however the Import Approval should be submitted with the Vehicle Safety Standards Bureau.

The latest information on the importation of motor vehicles can be obtained from the following website:

www.border.gov.au/busi/imp/imp-1. The Vehicle Safety Standards is available from the following website:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx.

Sailing Boats and Motor Boats

Documents required:

- Formal Customs Entry required
- Registration documents
- Purchase receipts

Sailing boats, or motor boats will be admitted without payment of customs duties and sales tax (GST) on the basis of one vessel per family per 3 years only if client is able to satisfy the Collector of Customs at the port of entry that:

- Coming to Australia with the intention of taking up permanent residence
- Have personally owned and used the vessel overseas for the whole of the period of 12 months immediately preceding his departure for Australia.
- Security is given to Customs that the vessel will not be sold or otherwise disposed of in Australia, by or on behalf of themselves within 2 years after the date of importation into Australia
- The vessel is of a kind designed principally for Sporting purposes or recreational use in sheltered waters, and conforms to one of the following specifications:

1. Boats of a kind propelled by manual or pedal power.
2. Sailing boats that, in the sailing condition, do not exceed 2.5 metres in width at any section, do not exceed 1000 kilograms unladen weight, do not incorporate any device for propelling the boat by power, such as an auxiliary motor, and are not of the deep keel type **or**
3. Powered boats that do not exceed 7 metres in length overall, do not exceed 2.5 metres in width at any section, do not exceed 1250 kilograms all up, unladen weight (i.e. with driving units and transmissions) or 800 kilograms unladen weight without driving units and transmissions.

If the imported boat is carried on a boat trailer, the trailer is required to have a valid Authority to Import from the Australian Vehicle Safety Standards Office.

Please see details on Caravan / Trailer section below.

Caravans and Trailers

Documents required:

- Formal Customs Entry required
- Registration documents
- Purchase receipts
- Vehicle import approval

You may obtain free admission of a non-motorised caravan and a non-motorised box, boat or other similar trailer on the basis of one article per family per 3 years only, if you are able to satisfy the Collector of Customs at the port of entry that:

- You must have come to Australia with the intention of taking up permanent residence
- The goods have been personally owned and used overseas for the whole of the period of 12 months immediately preceding your departure

Refer to remarks in motorcar section.

An 'Application For Vehicle Import Approval' must be lodged with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development office in Canberra, prior to the arrival of the

vehicle in Australia. This action must be undertaken as early as possible as motor vehicles are unable to be cleared in Australia until an approved application has been obtained. Vehicles that arrive in Australia without an approval will have to be re-exported or destroyed and the importer may face a fine of up to A\$13,000.00. Import approvals cannot be issued for vehicles after they have been imported.

An application form can be sourced from the office of Vehicle Safety Standards website as follows:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx

Aircraft of all types, having not more than one propulsion motor

Documents required:

- Formal Customs Entry required
- Registration documents
- Purchase receipts

Duty and Tax free entry

The goods must be imported by an arriving person who is an adult permanent resident. If the person is part of a family, only one aircraft will be allowed for the family. If the person is not part of a family, only one aircraft will be allowed for the person.

You must have personally owned and used the goods overseas for the six months preceding the person's departure for Australia.

Security shall be given by the person to an officer of Australian Border Force and to the satisfaction of that officer that the goods will not be sold or otherwise disposed of in Australia by or on behalf of the arriving person, within two years after the date of importation of the goods.

Firearms

Documents required:

- Most firearms require Police authorisation from the State in which the person intends to reside or visit
- Certain firearms i.e pump action shotguns, self loading rim fire rifles and automatic firearms may only be imported with the PRIOR written approval of the Federal Attorney-General

Duty free entry provided the relative firearm licence is issued and firearm passes ballistics / safety inspection.

The Australia Border Force will forward all firearms to the Commonwealth Police for ballistics / safety inspection. As State regulations vary in Australia, it is strongly recommended that the client writes to the Police department in the intended State / Territory of residence, for approval prior to shipping the firearm.

Firearms will be released to the owner upon presentation of the appropriate licence/s.

Foodstuffs, meat, plants & vegetable products

Meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, seeds, herbs and spices and many other food products containing these, are prohibited items, or have special import conditions. They should NOT be included in personal and household effects shipments.

Timber items containing bark will be ordered for treatment or destruction at the importer's expense.

They should NOT be included in personal and household effects shipments.

Do NOT use fruit boxes for packing Christmas or festive decorations containing pinecones and other plant matter will be inspected and are subject to confiscation and possible destruction.

Artificial trees that utilise real timber as the trunk/branch will be ordered for treatment or possible destruction. It is possible that the treatment could irreversibly damage the item. Dried floral arrangements should not be sent.

Water Hyacinth requires an import permit to allow importation. Items manufactured from this material should not be shipped until the import permit has been issued.

Further details can be sourced from the Department of Agriculture website at **www.agriculture.gov.au/import**

Alcoholic Beverages

A complete list of all bottles, depicting the following:

- Alcohol type and style
- Size of bottle (ozs or mls)
- % of bottle content if bottle not full
- Alcoholic content of liquor as a % of volume
- Country of production
- Value

All alcoholic beverages will be subject to customs duty and GST. Beer, wine and spirits all attract extremely high levels of duty and GST.

Actual duty rates will be based on the nature of the liquor, and the alcoholic strength. If liquor is included in a consignment, ensure it is clearly labeled and accessible so as to facilitate customs examination.

If a fully documented list describing alcohol is provided (as shown under documents required section) then physical inspection of the liquor may be avoided.

Narcotic drugs & drugs of dependence

Import prohibited.

Solid Wood Packaging and Dunnage

Australia applies the ISPM 15 standard related to the treatment of solid wood packaging and Dunnage. All arriving solid wood packaging and Dunnage must carry the ISPM15 mark indicating that all the timber has received appropriate treatment.

Failure to include the ISPM 15 mark will result in either the timber being ordered for examination or mandatory treatment.

Any solid wood packaging and dunnage that is directed for inspection and found to have live insects, bark or other quarantine risk material will be subject to on-shore treatment, re-export or destruction at the importer's expense.

Wood

Plywood crates and other packaging materials

It is important that any crates, lift vans, packaging materials for shipments entering Australia are properly documented as any costs for the destruction of materials will be charged to either origin agents or to clients in Australia. Any extra treatment for packing material as described below is also likely to be added to current charges for Quarantine Seizures and Treatments.

(For any further information please contact your own destination agent in Australia direct)

Non-Commodity for Containerised Cargo Scheme

www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/ian/09/23-2009

Some of the changes having major impacts are:

1. Treatment of Plywood and Veneer packaging

Plywood and Veneer used as packaging material will require to be treated with an AQIS approved treatment prior to import or release from Quarantine. It will no longer be acceptable to use a Newly Manufactured Plywood Products Certificate.

The ISPM 15 standards do not apply to Plywood and Veneer that has been used as packaging material (e.g. pallets and crates). And as such these packaging materials require to be treated with an AQIS approved method / standard such as methyl bromide and supported by the appropriate certification / documentation. The Packing Declaration needs to be marked that timber packaging has been used.

Failure to comply with these conditions will see consignments either ordered for an approved treatment, re-export or destruction.

Where a Packing Declaration indicates that the timber used in an import shipment is marked as being ISPM 15 compliant but there is evidence that the packaging includes Plywood or Veneer, the shipment must be referred to AQIS for further assessment.

2. Methyl bromide fumigation certificates – plastic wrapping declaration

A plastic wrapping declaration **is currently not a mandatory** requirement on all methyl bromide fumigation certificates

All treatment certificates issued for the **fumigations using methyl bromide must include a Plastic Wrap Declaration.**

More details can be found in the “Minimum Documentary Requirements Policy” which can be accessed per the web link at the top of this notice.

General Information on the Commonwealth of Australia

Background

Prehistoric settlers arrived on the continent from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years before the first Europeans began exploration in the 17th century. No formal territorial claims were made until 1770, when Capt. James COOK took possession of the east coast in the name of Great Britain (all of Australia was claimed as British territory in 1829 with the creation of the colony of Western Australia). Six colonies were created in the late 18th and 19th centuries; they federated and became the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. The new country took advantage of its natural resources to rapidly develop agricultural and manufacturing industries and to make a major contribution to the Allied effort in World Wars I and II.

In recent decades, Australia has become an internationally competitive, advanced market economy due in large part to economic reforms adopted in the 1980s and its location in one of the fastest growing regions of the world economy. Long-term concerns include an aging population, pressure on infrastructure, and environmental issues such as floods, droughts, and bushfires. Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth, making it particularly vulnerable to the challenges of climate change. Australia is home to 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity, and a great number of its flora and fauna exist nowhere else in the world.

Geography

Australia, the world's sixth largest country, occupies the smallest, flattest and driest continent. The western half of the continent is mostly arid plateaus, ridges and vast deserts. The central-eastern area comprises the lowlands of river systems draining into Lake Eyre, while to the East are the Great Dividing Range, a belt of ridges and plateaus running from Queensland to Tasmania.

It has a vast mineral deposit and various sources of energy. It is among the world's leading producers of iron ore, bauxite, nickel, copper and uranium and other minerals include lead, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tungsten and gems. A major

producer of coal; oil and natural gas are being exploited. Agriculture and food, raw materials make up one third of export value, fuel, ores and metals and manufacturers make up the remainder of exports. Japan and USA are their main trading partners.

Population

The population is estimated at more than 20.4million. It is one of the World's most urbanized countries, with about 70% of the population living in the 10 largest cities. Most of the population is concentrated along the eastern seaboard and the south-eastern corner of the continent. The capital is Canberra.

Climate

Australia's climate is mainly continental and ranges from tropical to temperate. Slightly more than half of Queensland, 40% of Western Australia and 80% of the northern territory are in the tropics. The remainder of the continent including New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, are in the temperate zone.

Australia's climate is less subject to extremes than regions of comparable size in other parts of the world because of the moderating influences of the surrounding oceans. The mainly low altitude of the land does little to obstruct the atmospheric systems, which control the climate.

Clear skies and low rainfall characterise much of the country's weather pattern. Extreme minimum temperatures are above those recorded in other continents, although extreme maximum temperatures are comparatively high.

Climatic discomfort, particularly from heat is a significant feature over most of Australia. Prolonged high temperatures and humidity around the northern coasts are recorded during the summer. For relatively short periods during the winter, low temperatures and cold winds over the interior and southern areas can be severe.

Natural hazards are cyclones along the coast; severe droughts and forest fires.

Environmental Issues

Soil erosion from overgrazing, industrial development, urbanization, and poor farming practices; soil salinity rising due to the use of poor quality water; desertification; clearing for agricultural purposes threatens the natural habitat, many unique animals and plant species; the Great Barrier Reef off the northeast coast, the largest coral reef in the world, is threatened by increased shipping and its popularity as a tourist site; limited natural fresh water resources.

Currency

The currency is Australian Dollars and comprises of:

Coins: 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, 1 and 2 dollars

Notes: 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 dollars.

Most major Credit Cards are widely accepted.

Economy

Australia's abundant and diverse natural resources attract high levels of foreign investment and include extensive reserves of coal, iron ore, copper, gold, natural gas, uranium, and renewable energy sources. A series of major investments, such as the US\$40 billion Gorgon Liquid Natural Gas project, will significantly expand the resources sector. Australia also has a large services sector and is a significant exporter of natural resources, energy, and food. The Australian economy grew for 17 consecutive years before the global financial crisis. Subsequently, the Rudd government introduced a fiscal stimulus package worth over US\$50 billion to offset the effect of the slowing world economy, while the Reserve Bank of Australia cut interest rates to historic lows. These policies - and continued demand for commodities, especially from China - helped the Australian economy rebound after just one quarter of negative growth. The economy grew by 1.5% during the first three quarters of 2009 - the best performance in the OECD. Unemployment, originally expected to reach 8-10%, peaked at 5.7% in late 2009 and fell to 5.3% by February 2010. As a result of an improved economy, the budget deficit is expected to peak below 4.2% of GDP and the government could return to budget surpluses as early as 2015. The Australian financial system remained resilient throughout the financial crisis and Australian banks have rebounded. Australia was one of the first advanced economies to raise interest rates - three times since October 2009 - and the government removed the wholesale funding guarantee for financial institutions in March 2010. During 2010, the government will focus on raising Australia's economic productivity, managing the symbiotic, but sometimes tense, economic relationship with China, passing emissions trading legislation, and dealing with other climate-related issues such as drought and devastating bushfires.

Australia is engaged in the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks and ongoing free trade agreement negotiations with China and Japan.

Education

All states provide free education in primary and secondary schools, and attendance is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years. However, children usually begin schools between four and five years of age, attending pre-school or kindergarten. Schools running an English curriculum are listed in the Directory of the European Council of International Schools which is available from ECIS Inc, 21B Lavant Street, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3EL. Tel: 01730 268 244.

Religion

Anglican 26.1%, Roman Catholic 26%, other Christian 24.3% non Christian 11%, other 12.6%

Electricity

The electricity supply is 240/250 volts AC, 50Hz. Plug fittings are 3-pin flat (Australian pattern) and lamp fittings are of the bayonet type.

Health

There are no special health precautions needed for Australia, however, increasing concern has been expressed about the high incidence of skin cancer. The medical services in Australia are good, but public hospitals are suffering from overloading and staffing difficulties, so that waiting lists are common place can be long. It is estimated that some 70% of the population is now covered by private health insurance to some extent, enabling any type of treatment to be obtained rapidly, though it is expensive.

The Australian governments health programme – Medicare – is a universal scheme covering every Australian for necessary medical and hospital treatment and eye testing by optometrists. It is funded by a levy on taxable income. All permanent Australian residents and migrants are eligible to enroll in Medicare but even if they do, it is subject to certain conditions. Health insurance premiums are tax deductible and expatriates are advised to take out private medical insurance to cover their outward and return journeys and for their stay in Australia, first insuring that the insurance company is accepted by the Australian authorities such as: BUPA, 'Life Scheme' Tel: 01273 323 563.

Television

The Australian television system uses PAL colour, System B, so sets manufactured in the UK are generally not suitable for use.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.

The following information was received from the Australian International Movers Association.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IMPORTATION OF REFRIGERANT AND OTHER PRE-CHARGED SYSTEMS INTO AUSTRALIA

Since 1996, the importation of refrigeration or air conditioning equipment/system(s) has been prohibited if the equipment is charged with a CFC refrigerant or can only operate on such a refrigerant. The importation of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment that is insulated with foam manufactured with a CFC is also prohibited. The Australian Government prohibited the importation under the *Ozone Protection and Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*. The Act is administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). The DEH is required to receive evidence and a declaration from all importers that the equipment system(s) meets the requirements of the Act.

Upon arrival in Australia any unit charged with a CFC refrigerant or any unit that can only operate on such a refrigerant containing CFC refrigerant will be subject to the recovery of the CFC refrigerant and must be converted to operate on HCFC or HFC refrigerant. Tins recovery and conversion exercise will be at the importers expense. The import into Australia of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment that is insulated with foam manufactured with a CFC has been banned. These goods will need to be disposed of in accordance with any State or Territory or Local regulations concerning waste disposal of refrigeration units and their compressors. This exercise will also be at the importers expense.

It is important that the following is understood.

- 1) The importation of refrigeration or air conditioning equipment that is charged with a CFC refrigerant, or any unit that can only operate on such a refrigerant is totally banned.
- 2) The importation of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment that is insulated with foam manufactured with a CFC is also totally banned.
- 3) All importers will be required to declare that any pre-charged refrigeration or air conditioning equipment systems(s) does not contain any CFC refrigerant or can only operate on such a refrigerant and that is not insulated with foam manufactured with a CFC.
- 4) Any importer who does import any of this equipment may be subject to prosecution, seizure of equipment, fines and other monetary sanctions.

Checks on all pre-charged refrigeration or air conditioning equipment should be carried out to ensure that it does not contain, operate on or is insulated by CFC material. If there is any doubt they should contact the manufacturer of the equipment and obtain written clarification/confirmation or the refrigerant type utilised.

The regulations for motor vehicles, boats etc that contain refrigeration/air conditioning equipment is the same. Further information can be obtained through the Department of the Environment and Heritage website:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/licenses/index.html>

or by calling the department on +61 2 6274 1237

Declaration

I. (Name) _____ have read and understood the above information. I declare that my any pre-charged refrigeration or air conditioning equipment/system(s) in my shipment does not contain any CFC refrigerant or can only operate on such a refrigerant and that is not insulated with foam manufactured with a CFC. I accept full responsibility for the payment of any fines, destruction costs or other monetary sanctions arising from the import of such goods within my shipment into Australia.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Items of quarantine concern in personal effects



Kitchen

Animal equipment including, but not limited to:

- animal naturopathic supplements
- pet food, bowls, mats, utensils and storage containers
- pet toys
- rawhide chews

All **food and pantry items** including, but not limited to:

- Chinese herbs
- cooking ingredients
- dried/dehydrated food items
- dry goods
- food offered in prayer
- herbs and spices
- medicines
- pre-packaged food
- protein shakes and supplements
- ration packs
- rice/pasta
- snacks
- teas including herbal tea

Kitchenware including, but not limited to:

- bowls, place mats and coasters which may be made of wood, leaves or other plant materials
- chopsticks
- crockery
- cutlery especially cutlery made from antlers
- cutting boards
- flat packed, prefabricated kitchens
- food containers
- large appliances e.g. refrigerators, freezers, etc
- mixing bowls and baking equipment
- pots and pans
- small appliances e.g. breadmakers, food processors, toasters, etc
- toothpicks
- utensils including knife block
- waste bins

Family room/lounge

Animal equipment including but not limited to:

- animal beds, baskets and bedding
- fish tanks and equipment/fish food/aquarium rocks

Artifacts/ornaments/souvenirs including, but not limited to items containing:

- animal products including bone, antlers, feathers, animal hair and hide
- bamboo products e.g. wind chimes
- banana products including photo albums, hats, bags, mats, baskets
- baskets
- dried flower arrangements, sphagnum moss, natural stems
- other plant products including bark, plant material, seeds
- pot pourri
- sand/seeds/soil as a filling
- shells
- statues made of clay or compressed sand
- statues made of wood, totem poles
- wooden carvings

Festive decorations including, but not limited to:

- bark on artificial Christmas trees
- blown eggs
- conifer items, pine cones
- dried holly
- seed pods
- sphagnum moss
- straw
- vines, wreaths

Furnishings including, but not limited to:

- carpets, mats, rugs
- pillows especially Thai pillows

Wooden items including, but not limited to:

- antique furniture
- furniture made of bamboo, cane, rattan, wicker, willow
- picture frames

- raw timber furniture
- souvenirs made of timber
- water hyacinth/banana leaf furniture
- wooden furniture
- wooden table legs

Bathroom

Items of plant/animal origin including, but not limited to:

- baskets
- dried flower arrangements, natural stems, sphagnum moss
- mats
- ornaments with bark or seed
- pot pourri
- sands/seeds/soil as a filling
- shells
- statues made of clay or compressed sand

Laundry

Cleaning equipment including, but not limited to:

- brooms
- dustpan and brushes
- vacuum cleaner bags
- vacuum cleaners

Wooden items including, but not limited to:

- cane/wicker laundry baskets
- wooden clothes pegs

Picnic

Picnic items including, but not limited to:

- cooler box/esky
- picnic basket
- picnic rugs
- thermos
- utensils

Cloakroom

Clothing including, but not limited to:

- farm/outdoor clothes
- footwear
- hats made of other plant material
- sporting footwear /football/cricket/golf shoes
- straw hats

Bedroom

Clothing including, but not limited to:

- ‘farm/outdoor’ clothes
- footwear
- footwear with wooden components
- hats made of other plant material
- sporting footwear /football/cricket/golf boots
- straw hats

Mineral items including, but not limited to:

- fossils
- rocks/stones
- sand
- soil

Musical instruments including, but not limited to:

- commercially manufactured instruments e.g. pianos, clarinets, oboes, violins
- non-commercially manufactured instruments e.g. rawhide drums, rainmakers, maracas

Sporting goods or equipment including, but not limited to:

- hockey sticks, cricket bats, racquets, pool cues
- sand-filled weights
- shuttlecocks

Toys including, but not limited to:

- rocking horse
- skateboards
- toys filled with sand, soil, seed, water
- toys with wooden components

Wooden items including, but not limited to:

- beads/necklaces
- brushes with wooden handles
- cane waste paper baskets
- furniture made of wood
- jewellery boxes
- picture frames
- water hyacinth/banana leaf furniture

Home office

Home office items including, but not limited to:

- picture frames
- waste bin
- wooden pencils
- wooden furniture
- ornaments
- furnishings containing plant material

Garage/attic/cellar

Animal equipment including, but not limited to:

- animal beds, baskets and bedding
- animal grooming equipment
- animal leads and/or restraints especially screw in the ground leads for pets
- pet-wear
- portable and electronic fencing
- pet food
- pet food bowls
- pet food storage containers
- pet toys
- saddlery, and other tack

Camping equipment including, but not limited to:

- back packs/day packs
- boots
- climbing implements
- hiking packs
- ground sheets
- tents, tent poles, tent pegs

Garden equipment including, but not limited to:

- fertilizer
- garden seeds
- garden tools & implements
- Gumboots/Wellington boots
- lawn mowers & catchers
- plant pots
- ride on mower
- sheds
- waste bins
- wheel barrows
- whipper snippers/weed eater
- wine barrels

Sporting goods or equipment including, but not limited to:

- children's bikes and trikes
- firearm butts
- golf clubs
- hockey sticks
- punching bags
- racquets
- sand-filled weights
- shuttlecocks
- skateboards

NOTE: Any **sporting goods or equipment** that has been **in contact with fresh water** must be dry on arrival. This includes:

- fishing equipment/fishing tackle e.g. feather fish flies/tackle boxes/ rods/ wet lines
- kayaks
- wetsuits and diving equipment

Tools including, but not limited to:

- tools with wooden handles
- tools used in a rural/farm setting
- used tools

Wooden items including, but not limited to:

- dowel
- logs
- plywood and veneer
- sawdust, wood pieces, wood shavings
- sawn timber
- timber mouldings
- tools with wooden handles

Outdoors

Outdoor furniture including, but not limited to:

- barbeque/grill
- outdoor tables and chairs
- outdoor garden statues
- umbrella stands

Farm goods including but not limited to:

- farm equipment
- non-machinery and non-fuel operated items used in around farms

Playground equipment including, but not limited to:

- cubby houses
- sand boxes/sandpits
- seesaws
- slippery dips/slides
- swings
- trampolines

Vehicles/motorised equipment

Vehicles and motorised equipment including, but not limited to:

- ATVs/quad bikes
- bikes/trikes
- carts
- horse floats
- jet skis (must be dry)
- motorboats (must be dry)
- motorbikes
- outboard motors (must be dry)
- scooters
- tyres

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous goods including:

- goods marked PBO (packed by owner)
- goods that have not been itemised
- other miscellaneous goods