



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

If your project involves importing goods; or containers, vessels and aircraft entering Australian territory, you must obtain approvals in accordance with this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

An import permit may be required to import goods into Australia. To determine if an import permit is required, or if alternative conditions apply to the goods, search the Department's online [BICON portal](#).

Containers and conveyances (vessels and aircrafts) must meet specified requirements prior to import, such as cleaning and pre-arrival reporting.

Goods entering Australian territory (12 nautical miles from the Australian coastline) are automatically subject to biosecurity controls. All conveyances are required to arrive at a First Point of Entry location when entering Australian territory unless an exemption is approved before arrival. Conveyances which are exposed to *any* other conveyance outside of Australian territory are subject to biosecurity control, unless exempted.

Vessels operating in Australian waters have obligations to manage ballast water under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and other related delegated legislation, such as carrying a ballast water management plan and certificate and the maintenance of ballast water records.

2. Who provides approvals?

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department) regulates imported goods, containers and conveyances under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, which replaced the *Quarantine Act 1908* on 16 June 2016.

3. How do I get Commonwealth approval?

Guidelines and applications for import permits are available on the Department's online [BICON portal](#).

Standard applications are usually processed within 10-20 days. The Department has a maximum of six months to process applications.

Guidelines and applications for non-First Point of Entry arrivals are available on the Department's [website](#).

Obligations in relation to the management of ballast water are outlined on the Department's [website](#).

4. More information

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For more information, visit the [agriculture.gov.au website](#) or contact 1800 900 090 or +61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia).

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Email: mpfa@industry.gov.au