

AQIS fact sheet

Your guide to importing Christmas goods



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service

If you are importing goods in preparation for Christmas, it is important that you are aware of Australia's strict import conditions.

Australia has some of the most stringent import conditions in the world, and if your products do not comply with quarantine requirements they will be stopped at the border or recalled from sale.

This may result in your goods being exported, treated or destroyed, and can cost your business money. It can also mean that delivery of your goods may be delayed.

Make sure you are familiar with what products and materials can be imported into Australia and what items may require an import permit or will need to be declared to AQIS for treatment on arrival.

You can do this by checking AQIS' import conditions database ICON.

ICON is available at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/icon-icd> and contains all the quarantine information you'll need to make informed decisions when purchasing goods for importation.

There is a wide range of high-risk quarantine items capable of carrying foreign pests and diseases. These may threaten Australia's unique environment and have serious consequences for our import and export industries.



Some items of particular concern in Christmas-related products include:

- decorations and wreaths – often made from seeds, bark, pine cones, leaves, coral and shells, flowers and other plant material
- Christmas trees
- hampers which often contain high-risk foods such as cheese, dairy, meat, and egg products
- gifts stuffed with straw, seeds, wool or feathers, and
- handicrafts made from wood, bamboo, rattan or cane.

You can also help your suppliers to provide products that are compliant with Australia's import requirements by making them aware of the import conditions listed on ICON.

If you are storing imported goods watch out for signs of pest infestations and insect activity.

If you do find an infestation or have any other inquiries, call 1800 020 504.

Remember: Awareness and prevention is more efficient and less costly to your business.