



Australian Government

**Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service**

Questions and Answers Guide Quarantine risks in the lead up to Autumn Moon

Q How does a much celebrated event like Autumn Moon Festival impact on the Australian environment?

- A**
- Celebrating the joyous occasion of Autumn Moon is a deep tradition.
 - This is a time for renewal of friendship, family gatherings and the exchange of mooncakes which are enjoyed by the Asian community around the world.
 - High risk items, if let into Australia, could introduce pests and diseases which may have devastating effects on Australia's environment, import and export industries.
 - Australia is free from many pests and diseases which are present in other countries—and we want to keep it that way. That is why we have strict quarantine laws prohibiting high risk items from entering Australia.
 - Friends and family overseas might not know about these laws and the risk some items pose to Australia, so they might unknowingly send you gifts containing risk items.

Q Along with the traditional mooncakes, what are some of the items AQIS will be looking out for?

- A**
- Mooncakes and other items synonymous with the Autumn Moon Festival are sent to you with the very best of intentions, however, some of these items may be deemed as high risk.
 - Mooncakes are high risk as some varieties may contain egg yolk, meat or nut fillings.
 - Items such as fresh pomelo, fresh star fruit and fresh taro are also enjoyed during Autumn Moon celebrations and are classified as high risk.
 - All of these items could carry potentially devastating pests and diseases not currently found in Australia.

Q	What is the process for risk items that are brought into Australia?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQIS does not provide any treatment options for risk items seized through international mail. • These items will be destroyed or returned to sender who has to bear the cost. • All international mail is x-rayed or checked by detector dogs. • Packages containing risk items are opened and inspected. • Mooncakes or other risk items intercepted at international airports will be confiscated or destroyed.
Q	What can listeners do to ensure their Autumn Moon gift arrives?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listeners only need to tell friends and family overseas not to send you gifts containing risk items—such as mooncakes containing egg yolk, meat or nut fillings. • Mail not containing risk items is processed much faster. • You should also encourage them to correctly fill out the Postal Declaration Label.
Q	For listeners travelling overseas, where should they buy their mooncakes?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passengers returning to Australia from overseas are reminded to declare all risk items. • The Australian markets stock a large variety of mooncakes and travellers are encouraged to purchase mooncakes in Australia instead of bringing them in from overseas which may contain high risk items.
Q	Where can our listeners find out more information?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the AQIS website www.aqis.gov.au • Download the brochures <i>What Can't be Mailed to Australia?</i> and <i>What Can't I Take into Australia?</i> in Vietnamese • Call AQIS on 1800 020 504 (free call in Australia and is in English).
Q	Thank you [insert AQIS officer Name]
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you. And on behalf of AQIS I urge all listeners to tell their loved ones overseas not to send gifts containing risk items in order to avoid disappointment. • I wish you and your listeners all the best for Autumn Moon.