



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine  
and Inspection Service

# AQIS Fact Sheet



## Important quarantine information about moon cakes

Originally, moon cakes carried secret messages from rebel leaders to their supporters. Today, moon cakes containing egg yolk and meat fillings can carry destructive pests and diseases.

That's why the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) prohibits moon cakes that contain egg yolk or meat fillings, because they could be contaminated with diseases such as avian influenza, Newcastle disease, foot and mouth disease or classical swine fever. They may be ok to eat, but could still damage our livestock industries.

Australia doesn't have these highly contagious diseases: if they became established here they would pose a serious threat to Australia's native birdlife, environment and our poultry, livestock, meat and egg industries — which employ tens of thousands of people and are worth billions of dollars a year.

Many people choose to bring these delicacies from overseas or have them mailed to Australia, without realising most varieties of moon cakes are already available in Australia.

### What other products need to be declared?

As well as moon cakes, there are many other items that aren't allowed into Australia.

Some pork, chicken, beef, egg and dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables, plant cuttings, seeds and wooden items are restricted.

All food, plant, animal and wooden items must be declared on your Incoming Passenger Card or on the declaration label when mailing items to Australia.

### How can I help reduce the risk of new pests and diseases entering Australia?

AQIS works to help keep pests and diseases out of Australia, but we need your help.

Please find out what can and can't be brought into Australia and pass this information on to your friends and family overseas.

If you don't declare quarantine risk items, you could receive an on-the-spot fine of up to \$AUD220. For more serious breaches of Australian Quarantine laws, you could be prosecuted and face a fine of up to \$AUD66,000 or 10 years imprisonment which may result in a criminal record.

### For more information about quarantine:

- Visit [www.aqis.gov.au/chinese](http://www.aqis.gov.au/chinese)
- Ask your travel agent for a copy of the brochure *What Can't I Take Into Australia?* and *What Can't Be Mailed To Australia?* in traditional and simplified Chinese
- Call AQIS on 1800 020 504 (free call in Australia)