



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 time-honoured tradition.
 - This is a time enjoyed by the Asian community around the world for family gathering, exchanging mooncakes, and celebrating an abundant harvest.
 - 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 quarantine risk items from entering the country.
 - Your 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 that has quarantine risks.

Q Apart from the traditional mooncakes, what are the other items AQIS will be looking out for?

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

Q	What is the process if risk items are brought into Australia?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQIS does not provide any treatment options for quarantine risk items seized through international mail. • These items will be destroyed or returned to sender – at the cost of the sender. • 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 our listeners do to ensure they can receive their Autumn Moon gift?
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simply tell their friends and family overseas not to send gifts containing quarantine risk items—such as mooncakes containing egg yolk, meat or nut fillings. • Mail not containing risk items is processed much faster. • Listeners should also remind their family and friends overseas 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"> • We remind passengers returning from overseas to declare all quarantine risk items. • The Australian markets stock a large variety of mooncakes. We encourage travellers to purchase mooncakes in Australia instead of bringing in them from overseas which may contain high quarantine 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> • 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 avoid disappointment by telling their loved ones overseas not to send gifts containing quarantine risk items. • I wish you and your listeners all the best for Autumn Moon.