



**Australian Government**

**Australian Quarantine  
and Inspection Service**

## Questions and Answers about moon cakes

<b>Q</b>	<b>Why are moon cakes a quarantine concern in Australia?</b>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some of the moon cakes brought or sent back from family and friends overseas could pose a risk to Australian agricultural and farming industries.</li><li>• Moon cakes containing eggs or poultry meat could carry bird flu and those containing pork or ham could carry foot and mouth disease.</li><li>• Due to this risk, moon cakes containing whole egg yolk or meat are prohibited by Australian quarantine law.</li></ul>
<b>Q</b>	<b>How do Quarantine officers scan for moon cakes?</b>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At mail centres, moon cakes containing whole egg yolk or meat are generally identified by x-ray, checked by detector dogs or inspected by Quarantine officers. Mail recipients are notified of the removal or seizure of any items from their parcel.</li><li>• At international airports, luggage may also be x-rayed; inspected or checked by detector dogs. If moon cakes are found, Quarantine officers may ask permission to look inside them to make sure they don't pose a quarantine risk.</li></ul>

<b>Q</b>	<b>What happens to moon cakes identified as a quarantine risk?</b>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently no quarantine treatment for moon cakes, so they must be seized then either; destroyed under quarantine supervision or returned to the sender at your expense.</li> <li>• Last year Quarantine officers seized more than three tonnes of moon cakes with whole egg yolk and more than 200 kilograms of them with meat. They have already begun seizing moon cakes in advance of this year's festival.</li> </ul>
<b>Q</b>	<b>How do travellers and those mailing packages to Australia ensure they comply with quarantine laws?</b>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before landing in Australia you will be given an Incoming Passenger Card. You must mark 'Yes' if you are carrying any food, plant material and animal products including whole egg yolk and meat filled moon cakes. This is a legal document and there may be penalties if you don't fill this in correctly.</li> <li>• People expecting mail items from overseas should remind friends and family to accurately list the contents of each parcel on the declaration, and not to send moon cakes containing whole egg yolk or meat.</li> <li>• Failing to declare quarantine risk items could result in an on-the-spot fine of \$AUD220. For more serious breaches you could be prosecuted and face a fine of up to \$AUD66,000 or 10 years in prison which may result in a criminal record.</li> </ul>
<b>Q</b>	<b>How can we keep the tradition of eating moon cakes at the Moon festival?</b>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One way to keep the tradition of eating moon cakes during the Autumn Moon Festival is to buy locally made moon cakes.</li> </ul>