

## Relocating to Australia – Customs & Quarantine Clearance Guide

(Information provided is to be used for general guidance only, please contact us directly if further clarification or details are required)

### Air Shipments

Air shipments are collected from the Airport once Australian Custom Services have issued their release, then transported under bond to the destination agents facility. From there Australian Quarantine Inspection Services will physically inspect each shipment. The average time for clearance and delivery after arrival is approximately 5-7 business days. For delivery services outside an 80 kilometer radius further time should be allowed for.

### Sea Shipments

All sea shipments are collected from the port once Australian Custom Services have issued their release. Shipments are then transported under bond to the destination agents facility. Each consignment is completely unloaded from the shipping container. Australian Quarantine Inspection Services will physically inspect each shipment. The average time for clearance and delivery after arrival is approximately 10-14 business days. For delivery services outside an 80 kilometer radius further time should be allowed for.

### **Required documentation for importing Household and Personal Effects:**

- Full descriptive inventory / packing list in English
- Airway Bill or Ocean Bill of Lading
- Customs Form B534 (**version 11/09 only**) completed by the owner
- Copy of Passport photo ID and signature page for all persons named on Customs B534 form
- Copy of Visa page of Passport, if it is an electronic Visa, a hard copy is required
- Owner packed cartons, suitcases and plastic totes or containers require a full descriptive list of the unit's content in English, provided by the owner.

B534 Unaccompanied Customs forms can be obtained from:

<http://www.customs.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/b534.pdf>

**Important:** The shipper's name and address in Australia must be provided to obtain clearance. **A Work Address or Post Office Box is unacceptable.** If the importer has been in Australia for longer than 12 months, the consignment may be required to be cleared via formal custom entry. Extra charges will apply.

### New Furniture

New items are subject to goods and services tax and duty. New items must be declared if not owned and used for 12 months by the importer. Owners will be required to produce purchase receipts or other evidence of purchase price.

### Inheritance, Deceased Estates Imports

Duty free entry is allowed provided the legatee is permanently domiciled in Australia and will not use the goods for trade or business purposes, and that the required documents are presented proving inherited status. A copy of the death certificate, the will or a letter from the Executor is sufficient. It may be required to clear the consignment via formal custom entry. Extra charges will apply.

### Diplomat Removals

In general, duty free status is applied however shipments are still subjected to Quarantine Examinations and potential treatments. Associated cost will be passed on to the booking agent for direction of payment.

### **Required documents:**

- Customs Form B615 completed by Embassy or Consulate in Australia
- Full descriptive inventory / packing list in English
- Copy of Passport photo ID and signature page
- Airway Bill or Ocean Bill of Lading

### Importing Vehicles (powered or unpowered)

All vehicles are subject to goods and services tax, duty and Luxury Car Taxes (where applicable).

Vehicles cannot be cleared without an Import Vehicle Approval. Shippers must lodge their application with the Department of Infrastructure and a hard copy of the approval to be received prior to shipping. Approvals can take approximately 4 weeks to be issued. It is strongly advised that vehicles are **not** shipped without receipt (in hard copy) of this approval. Doing so may subject the shipper to high re-exporting or destruction cost, fines are also applicable. Import Vehicle Approvals must be presented to Australian Customs at the time of clearance.

The latest publication of the vehicle approval application and vehicle safety standards are available from the following link:

[http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle\\_regulation/bulletin/importing\\_vehicles/general/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/importing_vehicles/general/index.aspx)

### **Minimum criteria to meet:**

- Use and ownership of vehicle for over 12 months
- Be an Australian Citizen or a permanent resident of Australia, or a person who has applied to be an Australian Citizen.
- Importer being of age to hold a license
- The vehicle complies with Australian Vehicle Standards

### **Required documentation for importing a vehicle:**

- Copy of owner's passport
- Service or log books (not mandatory)
- Previous registration and insurance papers
- Official Sales Invoice or Purchase receipt
- Car condition report
- Vehicle Import Approval
- Ocean Bill of Lading
- Customs Form B534 (**version 11/09 only**) completed by the owner (if shipped with personal effects only)
- Copy of Passport (Photo ID and signature page only)
- Refrigerant Compliance form (if a vehicle is fitted with air conditioning system)

Australian Quarantine Inspection Services inspect all vehicles on arrival. The vehicle must be clean and free of soil and vegetation matter, particularly from the underside and wheels. Treatment may be ordered after inspection and all charges will be directed to the booking agent for direction on payment.

### Importing Water Vessels (powered or unpowered)

One water vessel can be imported per family member every 3 years. The owner must be taking up permanent residency and the vessel owned for 12 months. One water vessel (sailing, motor and other) will be admitted entry without payment of goods and services; tax and duty, providing the importation meets certain criteria:

- Sailing boats - do not exceed 1,000 kilograms (2,205Lbs) unladen weight, do not incorporate any device for propelling the boat by power and are not deep keel type.
- Power boats - must not exceed 7 metres in length, 2.5 metres in width and 1,250 kilograms (2,757Lbs) unladen weight when imported with driving units or transmission, or 800 kilograms (1,764Lbs) when imported without driving units or transmissions.
- Financial Security is paid to Customs (where applicable), and the boat will not be disposed of within two years of importation. Security would be returned after this 2 year period.

If the imported boat is carried on a boat trailer, the trailer will require an Import Vehicle Approval to enter Australia (refer to the motor vehicle section).

### **Required documentation for importing a water vessel:**

- Formal custom entry is required, additional charges will apply
- Registration documents
- Purchase and insurance receipts
- Vehicle Import Approval (if vessel on a trailer)
- Ocean Bill of Lading
- Custom Form B534 (**version 11/09 only**) completed by the owner (if shipped with personal effects)
- Copy of Passport (Photo ID and signature page only)

For further details and information on importing vehicles and/ or water vessels into Australia, please contact our office.

[sales@johnmason.com](mailto:sales@johnmason.com)

### **Alcohol**

All consumable alcohol will be subject to goods and services tax and duty. The shipper/owner will need to provide a complete list of all bottle(s) depicting the following:

- Alcohol type and style
- Size of bottle (ozs. Or mls.)
- % alcohol content per bottle (even if not full)
- Alcoholic content of liquor as a % of volume
- Country of production
- Value per bottle

As a **guide only** the average duty and goods and service tax applied on wine/beer is approximately 50% of the value of the purchase price. For liquor the average duty and goods service tax is approximately 150% of the value of the purchase price.

### **Antiques**

Bona Fide Antiques (i.e. 100 years and over) can enter duty free where documented proof is provided, if owned for 12 months or more. If the documentary evidence provided is insufficient, Australian Customs Service will direct verification via an approved Antiquity expert. Verification fees will apply and will be directed to the booking agent or shipper for payment.

### **Importing Dogs, Cats and Birds etc.**

Permit to import, veterinary tests, examinations and certificates are all required as part of the import process for animals. A Quarantine period will be determined based on several mitigating factors. Quarantine of animals will occur in Australia at an appointed Quarantine facility. Specific information can be sourced here:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/cat-dogs>

### **Foods (of any type)**

Meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, seeds, certain herbs and spices, and food items containing these ingredients are prohibited entry into Australia. These foods **should not** be included in personal and household effects shipment. Further details can be sourced from the Australian Quarantine Website:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/food/private-consumption>

### **Plant & Vegetable Products**

Untreated timber, plant matter and such items will be ordered for treatment or destruction. Further details can be sourced from the Australian Quarantine Website:

[http://www.agis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex\\_querycontent.asp](http://www.agis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp)

### **Animal Products**

Certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks and items/ products manufactured of or from animals will fall under the protected species regulations. All animal products are subject to inspection and treatment where ordered. Importation of products from endangered species is prohibited. Full details are available on:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/index.htm>

### **Solid Wood Packaging or Dunnage**

Australia applies the ISPM 15 standard related to the treatment of solid wood packaging and dunnage (i.e. wooden bulkheads, vehicle blocking). All arriving solid wood packaging must carry the ISPM 15 mark; indicating that all timber has received the appropriate treatment. Failure to comply will result in the timber being ordered for mandatory treatment. Associated cost will be passed on to the booking agent.

### **Firearms**

Firearms may only be imported with prior written approval of the Australian Attorney-General's Department. All firearms require State Police licensing, from the State in which the person intends to reside in. Duty free entry is allowed providing all the relative licenses have been issued and the firearm(s) passes ballistic and safety inspections. **Not all firearms** are allowed entry into Australia, i.e. handguns and automatic weapons (including some semi-automatic fire arms). Pre-checking by the owner with the relative authorities is advised prior to shipping.

**Note** - All firearms or weapons of any kind must be easily located and accessible for customs examination should it be ordered to avoid additional charges being incurred. Full details are available on:

<http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4372.asp>

### **Drugs and Prescription Medication**

Illegal Narcotics and Drugs of Dependence import is prohibited. Prescription medication should not be transported with personal effect shipments; they should be carried with the shipper when entering Australia.

### **General**

All personal effects need to be free of any soil and vegetation prior to arrival in Australia. This is the Owner's responsibility.

Food must be individually packed and descriptive information of the food type(s) provided on each carton, in English.

Keys to locked items must be made available by the owner prior to inspections

There are six different types of quarantine treatments that may be ordered. Each varies in cost and time frames for treatments to be completed. In most cases treated items will require a second delivery from the main shipment and additional charges will apply.

### **Note:**

- Fumigation at origin is not recognised by Australian Quarantine and treatment of shipments may still be ordered. It is strongly recommended that fumigation treatment is not performed at origin.