

This guide is compiled from the FIDI Customs Guide for reference only. Customs regulations change frequently; please consult your Seapoe relocation consultant for the latest requirements before shipping.

Updated 2026

Removal goods

Documents Required

- OBL or AWB.
- Fully completed Customs Form B534. (Version from link below only).
- Scanned copies are OK in all States however electronic signatures will not be accepted.
- Passport ID and signature page/s required for clearance and signature on the B534 must match passport. Any changes must be initialled.
- A blank copy of the current Unaccompanied Personal effects Statement (B534 form) can be downloaded from the Australian Customs website
- Inventory of goods in English.
- Owner-packed goods require list of contents (in English) from owner.
- Copy of Identification page from owner's passport including signature page and Visa copy.
- Passport photo page of owner of goods who is completing B534 is required.
- Passport photo page of other persons travelling with owner are not required.
- Visa grant letter where visa stamp is not in passport for non-Australian citizens.
- Full name and Australian residential address of Owner
- Must be provided to obtain clearance.
- Please note a Post Office Box or Business address is not acceptable.
- If importer is arriving in Australia after vessel ETA into Port, a travel itinerary is required for Customs as proof of owner's intention to ultimately travel to Australia.

Customs Prescriptions

- Who may import Unaccompanied Personal Effects Consignments into Australia:
- Returning Australian citizens or noncitizens with long stay/permanent residence visa only who are entering Australia to take up residence after a period of residence of more than 12 months outside Australia.
- Unless the shipment qualifies to be considered as Unaccompanied Personal Effects, then it will be subject to formal entry, tax and duty.
- The goods must arrive within 6 months of the owner's arrival to be cleared as personal effects.
- If not, customs entry for clearance will be requested and duty/tax may be applicable for the shipment.
- More information at <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-andleaving-australia/moving-toaustralia/upe>
- All household and personal effects entering Australia are subject to a physical examination by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
- This examination is conducted at DAFF approved premises and will cause delays
- of up to 14 working days after the arrival of the consignment into Australia.
- The Quarantine examination also means that full containers cannot be delivered direct to the importer's residence in Australia.
- Items of interest to DAFF include all items that may have come into contact with soil and

vegetation such as gardening equipment, bicycles, scooters etc, sporting and camping equipment e.g. golf clubs and buggies, cleaning equipment, brooms, mops, vacuum cleaner waste bags and the like. These items should be thoroughly cleaned before despatch.

- Prior cleaning and other treatment (fumigation, steam cleaning etc.) does not ensure automatic clearance. DAFF will order further treatment if in their opinion the items being imported present a quarantine risk.
- Be conscious of festive decorations and wreaths containing dried vegetable matter, including pinecones and the like. If imported these items will be subject to further treatment or destruction.
- Further information is available at this link

Remarks

- The customs B534 may be completed by the owner abroad prior to the shipment of his goods, or in Australia upon their arrival. Original customs forms are not required for clearance purposes. All sections must be completed and each page signed and dated.
- The owner's goods may be cleared through customs in advance of the owner's arrival.
- In all states, the Australian Border Force (ABF) require a photocopy of the ID and Visa pages of the importer's passport (or Visa grant letter). Under some circumstances the importer may be required to submit copies of all pages of their passport, including both front and back covers.
- ABF require all cargo to be reported to customs before the goods arrive. The specified time frame for reporting sea shipment is 48 hours prior to arriving at the first port of call in Australia, and no less than 2 hours before an airfreight shipment arrives at the destination airport. Failure to do this will result in the consignee being fined by the Australian Border Force.
- Ensure pre advice notification including
- owner's full name and Australian residential address together with all documents are sent to the consignee in sufficient time to allow the correct reporting to be completed.
- Further information can be obtained from the Customs fact sheet
- All personal and household effects consignments are subject to Quarantine examination and fees. The fees cover DAFF Inspectors' attendance and entry processing, removalist's costs of licensing, software, administration, audit compliance, warehousing as well as the unpacking and repacking items designated for inspection. Fees should be obtained from your designated Australian destination agent in advance.

Diplomat's removals

Documents Required

- All clearances can be prepared electronically. ABF do not need to sight original yellow B615. Embassy completes the form and sends to ABF who will check, stamp and return to Embassy who will then provide a copy to Bond. For DAFF
- inspection need to ensure copies of the LOA, B615 and stamped packing list are sighted by officer.
- All correspondence to ABF and DAFF needs to have DIPLOMATIC noted in the subject line. This will see an efficient turnaround for clearances from ABF and DAFF.
- OBL or AWB.
- Inventory of goods.
- Copy of ID page of Passport.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry (if for personal use).
- Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country.

Remarks

- Subject to Quarantine examination and inspection fees.
- All Australian Ports of Arrival will require letter of authority on Diplomatic Letterhead to allow Quarantine examination.

Inheritance, Deceased Estates

Documents Required

- Copy of will or certified relevant extract of will.
- Copy of death certificate (optional) OR
- Copy of the Death Certificate and Letter from the Executor.
- Fully completed Customs Form B534 (this must be completed as best the receiver can do).
- Passport of beneficiary.
- Full origin address of goods.
- Statement explaining that the goods are the outcome of a deceased estate, the estimated value of the goods, the list of the goods and that they are not for re-sale.
- Customs Broker will require cost of freight and insurance premium paid for marine transit insurance.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry provided legatee is permanently domiciled in Australia and will not use the goods for trade or business purposes.
- A processing fee will be applicable.

Remarks

- Bequeathed goods are required to be formally entered through Customs (additional charges may apply).
- B534 is used for assessment for quarantine inspection.

Pre charged refrigeration equipment included in Personal and/or Household effects consignments

Documents Required

- Customs Form B534.

Customs Prescriptions

- The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 prohibits the importation of pre-charged refrigeration and air conditioning equipment containing CFC's, HFC or HCFC gases however one-off personal imports can be exempt from this Act and the import may meet the requirements for a low volume import exemption or other exemption.
- Further details at this link

Remarks

- Pre charged equipment containing CFC's, HFC's or HCFC's that are being imported as Personal/Household effects by an immigrant or an individual arriving on a temporary entry permit or is being reimported by an Australian Resident (i.e. the equipment has been previously exported from Australia by the importer) are provided an exemption under the act and can be imported.
- Equipment containing CFC, HFC or HCFC's that was purchased overseas by an Australian resident and is being imported to Australia for the first time will be required to have the system evacuated and altered to accommodate a different refrigerant.
- This work will need to be performed by a qualified/authorised technician at the expense of the importer.

- Motor Vehicles are NOT considered as personal and/or household effects.

Antiques

Documents Required

- Customs Form B534.
- Lapada or BADA certificate of authenticity.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry for Bona Fide antiques (i.e. 100 years old or over).
- 10% GST is applied.
- If documentary evidence is insufficient Australian Border Force may direct verification via an approved Antiquity expert. Verification fees apply and will be directed to the importer.

Remarks

- Owned and used by the importer for 12 months or longer overseas and the goods are not intended for sale; antiques can be imported without restriction as personal and household effects.
- See Fact Sheet

Precious metal objects

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry as Household and Personal effects.

Motorcycles (With reciprocating internal combustion piston engines only)

Documents Required

- Formal Customs Entry required.
- Vehicle import Approval.
- Registration and/or other proof of ownership documents as described in Motor Vehicles section.
- LCL Packing declaration must be completed by the packer or supplier of the goods (in English) on their letterhead and must include that packer's/supplier's company's name and address on the letterhead. See sample Packing declaration

Customs Prescriptions

- All motorcycles are exempt Customs Duty and Luxury Car Tax but will attract 10% GST.
- The GST will be calculated on the VOTI as described in the Motor Vehicles section.

Remarks

- Refer remarks in Motor Vehicles section.

□ E Bikes / E Scooters

Documents Required

- Advisory notice required via the ROVER application process
- Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement (B534e)
- Passport

Customs Prescriptions

- If the power of your used e-bike, e-scooter, e-skateboard or e-hoverboard exceeds 200 watts or your Pedelec (power-assisted pedal cycle) exceeds 250 watts of power, you will need to apply for a permit from the Department of Infrastructure.
- This certificate ensures your vehicle meets Australian Design Rules and safety standards.
- If your vehicle doesn't sit within these power limitations, your e-items can't be considered 'non-road vehicles' and will be classed alongside mopeds or motorcycles.
- You need to apply for this certificate before your e-vehicle is shipped and arrives in Australia.
- It is an easy process; just follow these steps:
- Provide Vehicle Information: gather details about your e-vehicle make, model year and specification.
- Submit your application: complete your application via the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts website. Make sure all details are correct to avoid any unnecessary hold-ups.
- Pay Fees: Costs will depend on the type of e-vehicle you are declaring.
- Click to find out more here

Remarks

- To make sure your E-bike or E-Scooter is compliant and meets local safety standards, there are some key considerations:
- If Importing an E-Bike: For your e-bike to be considered a bicycle rather than a motorbike, it must fit within the specific power and speed limitations.
- Pedal-Assist e-bikes (Pedelecs): These must have a maximum continuous power output of 250 watts and not exceed a speed of 25km/h when assisted by the motor.
- Throttle-controlled e-bikes: These must have a maximum continuous power output of 200 watts if the throttle provides power without pedalling.
- If Importing an E-Scooter Regulations around e-scooters can vary significantly between states. For example, you can't use your personal escooter outside your private property in NSW. So, please check with the specific state transport rules you are moving to for details.

Other motorised vehicles

Documents Required

- Vehicle Import approval:
- All motorised (on and off-road including kids' scooters, quad bikes, e-Bikes and the like) including Australian return vehicle require import approval. Apply prior and
- get approval prior to shipping.
- Click here for Application to import road vehicle into Australia

Customs Prescriptions

- There is a wide variety of motorised equipment or vehicles that are exempt from Import Approval requirements however Customs will insist on the submission of the Import Authority for the vehicle in question,
- verifying the exempt status of the item.
- This requirement extends to items such as ride on mowers, farm equipment, motorised trikes, quad bikes, motorised scooters (including children's electric powered scooters) and the like.
- Much of this equipment falls under the Household effects category and can be imported Duty and GST free however the Import Approval should be submitted with the Vehicle Safety Standards Bureau.

Remarks

- DO NOT SHIP UNTIL APPROVAL IS GRANTED.
- The latest information on the importation of motor vehicles can be obtained from the
- following web sites:

- Australian Border Force
- Vehicle Safety Standards

Sailing boats, Motor boats, Boats

Documents Required

- Registration documents.
- Purchase receipts.

Customs Prescriptions

- Sailing boats, motorboats or boats will be admitted without payment of customs duties and GST, on the basis of one vessel per family per 3 years, only if client is able to satisfy the collector of customs at the port of entry that:
- The importer comes to Australia with the intention of taking up permanent residence, and
- The importer has personally owned and used the vessel overseas for the whole of the period of 12 months immediately preceding his departure for Australia, and
- Security is given to Customs that the vessel will not be sold or otherwise disposed of in Australia, by or on behalf of himself within 2 years after the date of importation into Australia, and
- The vessel is of a kind designed principally for Sporting purposes or recreational use in sheltered waters, and conforms to one of the following specifications: 1. Boats of a kind propelled by manual or pedal power. 2. Sailing boats that, in the sailing condition, do not exceed 2.5 metres in width at any section; do not exceed 1000 kilograms unladen weight; do not incorporate any device for propelling the boat by power, such as an auxiliary motor; and are not of the deep keel type; or 3. Powered boats that do not exceed 7metres in length overall; do not exceed 2.5 metres in width at any section; do not exceed 1250 kilograms all up, unladen weight (i.e. with driving units and transmissions) or 800 kilograms unladen weight without driving units and transmissions. Boats in this category will not be sold or otherwise disposed of in Australia by or on behalf of the arriving person within two years after the date of importation of the goods.

Remarks

- If the imported boat is carried on a boat trailer, the trailer is required to have a valid Authority to Import from the Australian Vehicle Safety Standards Office.
- Please see details on Caravan/Trailer section.

Non-Motorised Caravans and Non-Motorised Box, Boat or similar Trailers

Documents Required

- Registration documents.
- Purchase receipts.
- Vehicle Import Approval.

Customs Prescriptions

- You may obtain free admission of a nonmotorised caravan, and a non-motorised box, boat or other similar trailer on the basis of one article per family per 3 years, only if you are able to satisfy the Collector of Customs at the port of entry that:
- You have come to Australia with the intention of taking up permanent residence, and
- The goods have been personally owned and used overseas for the whole of the period of 12 months immediately preceding your departure for Australia.

Remarks

- Refer remarks in motor car section.

- An 'Application For Vehicle Import Approval' must be lodged with the Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development office in Canberra, prior to the arrival of the vehicle in Australia. This action must be undertaken as early as is possible as motor vehicles are unable to be cleared in Australia until an approved application has been obtained. Vehicles that arrive in Australia without an approval will have to be re-exported or destroyed and the importer may face a fine of up to A\$13,000.00. Import approvals cannot be issued for vehicles after they have been imported.
- An application form can be sourced from the office of Vehicle Safety Standards website

Firearms

Documents Required

- Most firearms require Police authorisation from the State in which the person intends to reside or visit.
- Firearms permit is required.
- Certain firearms i.e. pump action shotguns, self-loading rim fire rifles and automatic firearms may only be imported with the PRIOR written approval of the Federal Attorney-General

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty free entry provided the relative firearm licence is issued, and the firearm passes a ballistic/safety inspection.

Remarks

- The Australian Border Force will forward all firearms to the Commonwealth Police for ballistics/safety inspection.
- As State regulations vary in Australia, it is strongly recommended that the client writes to the Police department in the intended State/Territory of residence, for approval prior to shipping the firearm.
- Firearms will be released to the owner upon presentation of the appropriate licence/s.

Foodstuffs, meat, plants & vegetable products

Customs Prescriptions

- Meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products, seeds, herbs and spices, and many other food products containing these, are prohibited items, or have special import conditions. They should NOT be included in personal and household effects shipments.
- Timber items containing bark will be ordered for treatment or destruction at the importer's expense.

Remarks

- DO NOT use fruit boxes for packing.
- Christmas or festive decorations containing pinecones and other plant matter will be inspected and are subject to confiscation and possible destruction.
- Artificial trees that utilise real timber as the trunk/branch will be ordered for treatment or possible destruction. It is possible that the treatment could irreversibly damage the item. Dried floral arrangements should not be sent.
- Water Hyacinth requires an import permit to allow importation. Items manufactured from this material should not be shipped until the import permit has been issued.
- Further details can be sourced from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Alcoholic beverages

Documents Required

- A complete list of all bottles, depicting the following:
- Alcohol type and style.
- Size of bottle (ozs. or mls.).
- % of bottle content if bottle not full.
- Alcoholic content of liquor as a % of volume.
- Value.
- Country of production.

Customs Prescriptions

- All alcoholic beverages will be subject to customs duty and GST.
- Beer, Wine and Spirits all attract extremely high levels of duty and GST.
- Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats but limited to annual quota agreed by the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies in the country.

Remarks

- Actual duty rates will be based on the nature of the liquor, and the alcoholic strength. If liquor is included in a consignment, ensure it is clearly labelled and accessible so as to facilitate customs examination.
- If a fully documented list, describing alcohol is provided (as shown under documents required section) then in many instances physical inspection of the liquor may be avoided.

Narcotic Drugs & Drugs of Dependence

Customs Prescriptions

- Import prohibited.

Tobacco

Documents Required

- Permit from Home Affairs.
- Tobacco description, quantity, make/brand, type of tobacco, weight content, country of make, date of purchase, purchase price (\$AUD).

Remarks

- Effective July 1, 2019, new law prohibiting the importation of tobacco products without written permission.
- The related permit is issued by the Department of Home Affairs.
- [Click here for more information:](#)

Cats and Dogs

Documents Required

- Permit to Import.
- Veterinary Certificates.

Customs Prescriptions

- Cats and dogs may only be imported from DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), approved countries, and must be accompanied by a valid Permit to Import.
- Dogs and cats must have been resident in any of the approved countries for at least 6 months (or from birth), and during the period of 30 days preceding export they must not

have been in Quarantine in the country of export.

- In all cases except New Zealand, a permit must be obtained before a dog or cat will be permitted to enter Australia.
- Enquiries concerning the importation of dogs and cats should be directed to the Animal Quarantine Station where the animal will be boarding.
- In the case of dogs and cats from New Zealand, any enquiries should be made to the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the nearest New Zealand city. Dogs and cats entering Australia without prior approval will be destroyed on arrival or re-exported to their country of origin.

Remarks

- Application forms for import permits can be obtained from the relevant Animal Quarantine Stations.
- Specific information can be sourced from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Birds

Customs Prescriptions

- The importation of birds is currently prohibited, with the exception of pigeons from approved countries and household pet birds from New Zealand.

Remarks

- Full details can be sourced from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks etc. and items/products manufacturer of/from animals coming under the protected species regulations

Customs Prescriptions

- Importation of products from endangered species is prohibited.
- Other products are subject to inspection and treatment if necessary.

Remarks

- Full details on wildlife trade law for restricted and prohibited imports and import conditions are available from the Wildlife Protection Authority web site

Aircraft of all types, having not more than one propulsion motor

Documents Required

- Registration documents.
- Purchase receipts.
- Customs Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement (B534e)
- Passport

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty and Tax free entry.

Remarks

- The goods must be imported by an arriving person who is an adult permanent resident. If the person is part of a family, only one aircraft will be allowed for the family. If the person is not part of a family, only one aircraft will be allowed for the person.
- The person must have personally owned and used the goods overseas for the six months

preceding the person's departure for Australia.

- Security shall be given by the person to an officer of Australian Border Force and to the satisfaction of that officer that the goods will not be sold or otherwise disposed of in Australia by or on behalf of the arriving person, within two years after the date of importation of the goods.

Solid Wood Packaging and Dunnage

Customs Prescriptions

- Australia applies the ISPM 15 standard related to the treatment of solid wood packaging and dunnage.
- All arriving solid wood packaging and dunnage must carry the ISPM15 mark indicating that all the timber has received appropriate treatment.
- Failure to include the ISPM15 mark will result in either the timber being ordered for examination or mandatory treatment.
- Any solid wood packaging and dunnage that is directed for inspection and found to have live insects, bark or other quarantine risk material will be subject to onshore treatment, re-export or destruction at the importer's expense.

Fumigation BMSB Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Customs Prescriptions

- Goods from certain countries are subject to inspection and possible fumigation due to the risk of BMSB - see latest information

Remarks

- Containers may require fumigation or be delayed for a seal's intact inspection. This could result in detention charges.