

Moving to Australia

Importing your goods into Australia

This guide is for anyone sending household and personal effects to Australia that arrive separately from them. Email the papers it lists to info@impactandslick.com. How to fill in the B534 is covered by the B534 download at impactandslick.com/resources, so this guide does not repeat it.

01 Papers for every shipment

PAPER	WHAT IT IS FOR
Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement (B534)	Completed in English and signed by the owner of the goods. You must complete and lodge it to clear your goods, and it is a legal declaration to both the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
Identity documents worth 100 points	The Evidence of Identity (EOI) check. This should include one primary identity document, such as a full birth certificate or your passport, one identity document containing a photograph and one document indicating your primary residence. Our Evidence of identity form lists them.
Shipping documents	The airway bill or bill of lading, or a delivery order, that identifies the owner of the goods and your address.
A list of all the goods in the shipment, such as a packing list	DAFF reviews it with the B534 to find goods that could carry pests or diseases. Number each box, and record what is in it and what the goods are made from, for example a wooden chair or a cane basket.

Australian Border Force, Unaccompanied Personal Effects, abf.gov.au, updated 4 September 2026, and the Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement it links, form B534e (JUL15). Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Moving to Australia or importing personal effects/household goods, agriculture.gov.au, updated 23 June 2026.

02 Extra papers for what you are sending

IF YOUR SHIPMENT HAS	ALSO SEND
Goods you have owned and used for less than the required period (6 or 12 months)	Receipts or evidence of value for those goods.
Prohibited goods	The required permits for those goods.
Non-motorised caravans or trailers, boats, aircraft, or machinery, plant and equipment	The ABF may require evidence that you have owned them for the required period (12 months; an aircraft, 6 months) immediately before your arrival, such as receipts, photographs or a statutory declaration. Other conditions apply.

02 Extra papers for what you are sending, continued

IF YOUR SHIPMENT HAS	ALSO SEND
Items made from or containing parts of animals or plants, including timber, such as wooden furniture, or items that have been in contact with animals, plants, water, food or soil	Any valid offshore treatment certificates. Some items require treatment before they arrive in Australia.
Antiques	A Certificate of Antiquity. To prove your goods are antiques, you must provide one, and it must state the goods are over 100 years old. Importing an antique is free of duty if proven to be that old. It is important that you obtain the certificate before arranging to import them.
Someone else lodging the B534 or clearing your goods for you, such as a friend or relative	A copy of their passport photo page showing their signature. DAFF also needs them to sign a statutory declaration saying they are clearing the goods on your behalf.

Australian Border Force, Unaccompanied Personal Effects, abf.gov.au, updated 4 September 2026, and form B534e (JUL15). Australian Border Force, Importing antiques, abf.gov.au, updated 28 September 2026. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Moving to Australia or importing personal effects/household goods, agriculture.gov.au, updated 23 June 2026.

03 Not covered as personal effects

You will not have to pay customs duty and goods and services tax (GST) on your Unaccompanied Personal Effects (UPEs) if both you and your goods meet the ABF's criteria. To meet the criteria, your goods must not be commercial goods (for sale, lease or in unreasonable quantities), items passed on to you in a will (bequeathed goods), alcohol beverages and tobacco products, motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts, or items arranged to be sent to you after your arrival in Australia.

Where alcohol and tobacco products arrive as UPEs, the ABF assesses them for duty, GST and/or wine equalisation tax. Tobacco in your UPEs needs no import permit if you are at least 18 years of age and arrive in Australia as a passenger or crew member of a ship or aircraft. It must be correctly declared and duty paid on entry.

If you or your goods do not meet the criteria, your goods may be liable for customs duty, GST and other charges. The ABF will not release your goods until you have paid all applicable duties, taxes and charges.

Tell us early if your shipment has any of these.

Australian Border Force, Unaccompanied Personal Effects, abf.gov.au, updated 4 September 2026. Australian Border Force, Tobacco, abf.gov.au, updated 23 September 2026.

04 Biosecurity

Every UPE shipment undergoes a biosecurity assessment by DAFF. DAFF reviews the B534 and the packing list to find goods that could carry pests or diseases.

If your goods contain a biosecurity risk item at inspection, it may need to be cleaned, treated, exported or destroyed. The costs of treatment, export or destruction are at your expense. The ABF cannot release your goods until DAFF has assessed, inspected if required, and cleared them.

Australian Border Force, Unaccompanied Personal Effects, abf.gov.au, updated 4 September 2026. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Moving to Australia or importing personal effects/household goods, agriculture.gov.au, updated 23 June 2026.