



Australia

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

All goods entering into Australia are subject to Customs inspection and clearance. Unaccompanied baggage and household goods may be imported into Australia free of customs duty providing the personal and household effects have been owned and used overseas for (12) twelve months or more preceding the customer's departure for Australia. Items not in this category, which have been owned and used for less than twelve months, will be subject to duty. The rates applicable vary and purchase receipts, invoices or the like will be required to substantiate values involved. All alcohol is dutiable and must be declared, even partly used bar stock.

MOTOR VEHICLES

When importing a motor vehicle, motorcycle, trailer, new or second hand, the client must obtain an import permit from the Federal Office of Road Safety in Canberra. This permit must be obtained prior to shipping.

QUARANTINE

Australia is very dependent upon primary industries such as livestock and agriculture. Australia is fortunate, indeed unique, in its freedom from many diseases of humans, animals and plants which affect other parts of the world. As a result, quarantine regulations are strict and, if in any doubt, please check with the Destination agent at the port of entry into Australia prior to shipment.



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Internationale Qualitätsumzüge

While live animals are the greatest risk, animal products such as fresh and tinned MEAT, SALAMI, EGGS and DAIRY PRODUCTS are risk items. Many such articles or goods are prohibited, as are plants, soil, seeds, skins, shells and the like. When importing a motor vehicle, motorbike, caravan or trailer the quarantine authorities will inspect the vehicle on arrival and may require it to be steam cleaned. Clearance will be assisted if all soil, etc., is removed from the vehicle (including underneath) before shipment. This also applies to any item which comes in contact with soil, e.g., lawn mowers, garden tools, garden furniture and bicycles.

WARNING: Making a false or misleading statement to the Authorities is an offence and may involve heavy penalties. Drug trafficking is against the law and severe penalties apply.

QUARANTINE REGULATION

Please note that the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) implemented the full requirements of ISPM15 on all consignments arriving into Australia. All solid timber packaging and dunnage are required to be compliant with ISPM15 and accordingly be treated and stamped and compliant.

Non compliant timber arriving into Australia after that date is subject to treatment, destruction or re-export at the importers expense.

CARGO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All cargo intended to be landed at any port or airport in Australia must be reported before the ship or aircraft arrives at its first Australian port or airport. The current requirement to report cargo before the port or airport

Confido Gruppe Limited & Co. KG

Moerser Landstraße 555-557 • D- 47802 Krefeld

Telefon: +49 (0) 2151 – 789 23 82 • Fax+49 (0) 2151 – 789 23 81 • Freecall 0800-CONFIDO
Internet: www.confido-gruppe.de • Email: info@confido-gruppe.de • Skype: Confido Gruppe

Amtsgericht Krefeld HRA 5530 • Ust-IdNr.: DE254816375

Komplimentärin: Confido Gruppe Ltd • 69 Great Hampton Street • Birmingham B18 6EW • England



at which it will be landed is being changed by the Customs Legislation Amendment (Airports, Ports and Cargo Security) Act 2004 (the amending Act).

The amending Act will also allow the minimum periods for lodging impending arrival, cargo and passenger reports for ships to be prescribed by regulation. For the time being, the current reporting periods of at least:

- 48 hours before arrival for voyages likely to take 48 hours or more; and
- 24 hours before arrival for voyages likely to take less than 48 hours will be maintained by current regulations.

IMPORTATION OF CFC REFRIGERANT AND OTHER PRECHARGED SYSTEMS

The importation into Australia of household freezers and refrigerators or refrigeration or air- conditioning equipment that is charged with a CFC (R12) refrigerant is prohibited (totally banned) under the Ozone Protection and Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 and such equipment must be removed prior to shipment to AUSTRALIA. This includes air-conditioning units in motor vehicles (usually those built before 1996).

A revised Australian Customs Services Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement (B534 form) is expected shortly which will include a specific question and a declaration required from importers to meet the requirements of the Act. Documentary evidence is required to show that the refrigerant has been evacuated and the relevant system parts have been removed.



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Any importer who does import any of this equipment may be subject to prosecution, seizure of equipment, fines and other monetary sanctions. Following further discussion with the Department of Environment and Heritage it has been confirmed that there is an exemption in place for any items being imported as personal effects by immigrants and individuals arriving on a temporary entry permit or returning Australian residents who are importing pre charged equipment that they originally sent out from Australia.

The only restriction relates to Australian residents who have purchased the equipment whilst overseas and are importing that equipment into Australia for the first time.

PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED GOODS

Drugs of dependence, for example, narcotics, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, and tranquillisers must be declared to Customs (they should not be included in any shipment of household goods and personal effects). Goods such as dangerous weapons (including spring-bladed knives, daggers, swordsticks and knuckledusters), are prohibited. Firearms including air, gas, flame and starting pistols and spear guns are subject to import restrictions and will be subject to release on approval from the Police authorities. All firearms and ammunition imported in Australia must be declared to Customs. Any article made from wildlife species must be checked with the Destination agent, before shipping, as they may be prohibited.

Important: This information is intended for general guidance only. We cannot however take responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any loss or damage that may occur from its use. As such it is advisable to contact the nearest customs office for full and current information prior to importation.