Preserved and fixed animal specimens

Case Description

Effective: 30 November 2015

This case describes the requirements for the importation of animal specimens that are preserved or fixed. This may include specimens such as phytoplankton, zooplankton, preserved or fixed specimens, preserved or fixed invertebrates and dead or preserved bees.

For the import of fixed specimens on glass or plastic slides, please refer to the BICON case Microscope slides.

For the import of animals and invertebrates (including bees) embedded in resin, please refer to the BICON case Animal trophies, articles and handicrafts.

Import Destination: Australia

People bringing chemically fixed animal specimens into Australia should contact their carrier/postal agent for information on any specific transport restrictions that may apply to these goods.

This commodity or species may be subject to the Australian Government Department of the Environment legislation under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Commodities/species known to be, or considered to be covered by CITES will be referred to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service on arrival to Australia, in addition to their need to satisfy biosecurity import conditions.

CITES queries can be directed to the Department of the Environment on the details below:

Phone: +61 2 6274 1900
Email: wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au
Web: www.environment.gov.au

Alerts

There are no current alerts applicable to this import case. Users should be aware that alerts can have significant impact on import conditions and, as such, should check this import case on the BICON website regularly.
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Import Scenario Definition

1. Invertebrates excluding Apis bees — Preserved or fixed in liquid

1.1. Import Requirements

a. A Department of Agriculture import permit is not required.

b. **Conditions of Administration**

1. Documents must be provided with each consignment which:
   1.1. identify the consignment e.g. entry number.
   1.2. identify all goods being imported as part of this consignment e.g. invoice or waybill or importer’s manifest.
   1.3. describe the goods being imported (where not clear). Example 1: Product XRab = Purified protein derived from rabbits. Example 2: Product AX = Synthetic antibiotic. Example 3: Comte = Cheese.

2. For further information please contact:
   Canberra - Administrative assistance or technical assistance: email imports@agriculture.gov.au ([See Attachments](#)) or phone 1800 900 090

   ![](Image)
   It is the importer’s responsibility to provide any additional information which is requested in order to demonstrate that the import permit covers all goods being imported.

   c. The scientific name and the preparation method must be specified.
   To demonstrate compliance with this requirement you must present the following on a Supplier declaration:
   The following information:
   1. The specimen's scientific name,
   2. The method in which the specimen was killed,
   3. The method in which the specimen was prepared and fixed.

   d. The goods must be preserved correctly by a department approved method.
   To demonstrate compliance with this requirement you must present the following on a Supplier declaration:
   A statement that the specimens were preserved or fixed in one of the following:
   1. 60-100% ethanol, methanol or isopropyl alcohol (specimens preserved in 60-100% alcohol may be drained off prior to export to comply with transport of dangerous goods requirements)
   2. Glutaraldehyde (1-2%)
3. 10% formalin, formaldehyde or paraformaldehyde (2-4% if used in ethanol)
4. RNAlater
5. Bouin’s fixative (picric acid, formaldehyde and glacial acetic acid in the ratio of 15:5:1)
6. Propylene glycol and ethylene glycol (only permitted when used at ambient temperature; not permitted if used as a cryoprotectant)
7. Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO; only permitted when used at ambient temperature; not permitted if used as a cryoprotectant).

e. The goods must be clean and free of prohibited seed, soil, animal and plant debris and other biosecurity risk material prior to arrival in Australia.
f. All consignments must be inspected upon arrival to ensure that they are free of contamination and/or infestation by extraneous materials.
g. All consignments must be imported in sealed containers.
h. It is the importer’s responsibility to ensure imported specimens comply with dangerous goods requirements and any other transport requirements that may apply to articles of this nature.
i. Specimens must be inspected by a biosecurity officer to ensure they are clean and free of extraneous material.
j. Consignments not meeting the required import conditions will be ordered into quarantine.
k. Following inspection, and provided the import conditions have been met, the consignment may be released from quarantine.
l. Under the Quarantine Service Fees Determination 2005, fees are payable to the Department of Agriculture for all services. A list of all quarantine & export fees is available on the Department of Agriculture’s website.
m. Non-commodity information requirements for imported cargo also apply, please refer to the BICON case Non-Commodity Cargo Clearance.

![Warning]
Containers, timber packing, pallets or dunnage associated with the consignment will be subject to inspection and treatment on arrival, unless certified as having been treated by a Department of Agriculture approved method.

All documentation presented to the Department to assist in determining the level of biosecurity risk posed by transportation pathways and packaging must also meet the requirements of the non-commodity case.
Appendix 1: Documentation Requirements

The information below describes the requirements for documentation presented to the Department of Agriculture to support the risk assessment of imported goods.

Supplier declaration

A declaration provided by the supplier of the goods. These are to include name and contact details of the supplier, details of the goods and any necessary declarations. The declaration must be signed, dated and link to the consignment.

   a. **Complete** - All prescribed information required to be on a document must be present and complete. Additional prescribed information below:
      1. The document must contain the correct statement/s as required by the import conditions.
      2. The document must be on the issuing company’s letterhead and include their name and address.
      3. The document must have been issued and dated within the last six months, unless otherwise specified.
      4. The document must be specific to the product(s).

   b. **Legible** - All prescribed information required to be on a document must be legible.

c. **Valid** - Many documents, such as import permits, are valid for a certain period. Presented documents must comply with the validity requirements specified for that class of document.

d. **In English** - All information required to be on a document must be in English. Exceptions to this rule include:
   1. company letterheads that do not need to be translated into English but must be in English characters
   2. commercial, transport and government certification that are required to comply with international standard formats
   3. signatures and names of individuals.

Where a document cannot be provided in English, an affidavit will be accepted from either:
   1. that country’s consulate in Australia
   2. the Australian embassy in the country of origin
   3. a translator accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd.

e. **Free from erasures and non certified alterations** - All prescribed information on the document must be free from erasures and alterations unless endorsed by the issuer of the document. The only acceptable endorsement is a company stamp or seal signed by the company employee (including printed name) or a government stamp or seal signed by a government employee (including printed name) applied adjacent to the alteration.

f. **Multiple page documents** - Multi page document must:
   - include individual reference numbers/numerical link on ALL pages of the document.
For example, commercial invoices (or similar) must contain the documents individual reference number or numerical link on each page of the document.

- contain an endorsement on the final page of the document, following the information that is being endorsed.

Note: where a document has noted attachments, the attachments can follow the endorsement.

g. **Endorsed** - All documents must be endorsed by a representative of the organisation or corporation issuing the document. An endorsement must:
   1. be an acceptable signature or stamp as defined in the Definitions section of this policy
   2. appear after the information that the signatory is endorsing.

Where a document has noted attachments, the endorsement can be made before the attachments.

h. **Date of issue** - All documents must indentify the date of issue and is to include the day, month and year. Packing declarations may contain vessel/voyage number which can be used in lieu of the date of issue.

i. **Consignment specific link** - All documents presented to the department for assessment must have a unique consignment-specific link. Examples of consignment identification include:
   - container numbers
   - bill numbers
   - commercial invoice numbers
   - lot codes
   - preferential tariff certificate numbers
   - health certificate numbers
   - packing list numbers
   - letter of credit numbers.

Where a document does not contain one of the accepted forms of consignment identification, a numerical link to another document that does contain appropriate consignment identification must be present.

Examples of acceptable numerical links include:
   - order numbers
   - reference numbers
   - any other internal reference numbers used by overseas companies
   - vessel/voyage references.

Numerical links alone cannot be used as consignment identification links.

Unacceptable numerical links are references that could be present in previous or subsequent consignments and relate to a model, type or standardised item number.

Examples of unacceptable numerical links include:
   - number of packages
• weights
• dates
• stockkeeping unit
• item codes.

Annual packing declarations are exempt from having consignment-specific links.

For further information, please refer to the Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy.
# Appendix 2: Document Options

## Context & Inclusions

**User Context:** External

- □ Appendix - Annexes
- □ Appendix – Documentation Requirements
- □ Appendix - Glossary
- □ Appendix – Questions and Answers
- □ Appendix – Rationale
- □ Appendix – References (Files and URLs)
- □ Appendix – Scientific Names
- □ Element Identifiers
- □ What’s Changed
- □ Onshore Management
- □ Main Processing Path Only
- □ Procedures

## Authoring Aids & Outputs

**Output Format:** PDF

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Import Services Team contact details

Import Services Team

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Email: imports@agriculture.gov.au