



AUSTRALIA

Section 1 of this document gives a brief overview of the country, whilst section 2 contains the customs requirements.

Section 1 – AUSTRALIA OVERVIEW

Australia offers a mixture of sandy beaches, amazing places to visit, a temperate climate and a generally laid back attitude, Australia has becoming one of the most popular countries for expats who are relocating. Australia is a unique country, where you can choose from a variety of lifestyles and landscapes. You can move to one of the big metropolitan areas, where the beach might just be on your doorstep, or choose the outback, home to a diverse array of animal species, and where your closest neighbour might be living hundreds of miles away.

Australia is the world's smallest continent situated in the Southern Hemisphere, comprising the mainland and numerous small islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Until the Europeans settled in the 18th century, it was only inhabited by the indigenous people. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world and at the same time the most sparsely populated. Its economy is currently one of the strongest, and it also ranks as one of the best countries for quality of life, health care, life expectancy and public education.

While Australia might not have such a long history and as rich a cultural heritage as some European countries, it is nonetheless unique with many areas of outstanding natural beauty, low levels of unemployment, and a rich diversity of lifestyles and cultures.

Tips About Moving To And Living In Australia

- To move permanently to Australia and to be able to work you will need a visa.
- Unemployment in Australia is low, but the labour market can be very competitive. The main industries are agriculture, mining and commodities, whilst just 6% of the population works in tourism related professions.
- Life expectancy in Australia is relatively high and there is universal public health care.
- The Australian education system is publicly funded and open to all as are most of Australia's universities.

To find out if your TV and other appliances will work in Australia, click <http://www.aussiemove.com/whattotake/>

Section 2 – A GUIDE TO IMPORTING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS INTO AUSTRALIA

REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER

Household and related effects can be imported free of duty and GST (Goods and Services Tax) provided all of the requirements listed below are met:-

- you must have recently travelled or intend to travel to Australia; and
- the goods must be your own personal property; and
- you must have owned and used the items for 12 months or more*

Goods that are owned for less than 12 months will be subject to duty and GST assessment.

*Personal clothing, footwear and grooming items (excluding fur apparel and perfume concentrates) do not need to be owned and used for 12 months if you are a permanent resident. **The one exception to the rule is the State of Western Australia.** WA Customs are charging for all items declared as having been owned for less than 12 months.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO IMPORT ITEMS AS UNACCOMPANIED PERSONAL EFFECTS?

- a migrant who is coming to Australia to take up permanent residence for the first time
- a person returning to resume permanent residence
- temporary residents
- a returning Australian citizen

- an Australian citizen who is residing overseas that has returned to Australia temporarily

Unaccompanied personal effects **DO NOT** include the following items:

- motor vehicles
- motor vehicle parts
- commercial goods
- alcohol and tobacco products

HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE OWNER

Goods may be cleared ahead of the arrival of the owner. Simpson's destination agents will be able to pre-clear consignments imported via sea freight as the "nominate". Airfreight consignments will require a nominated family member or a friend to clear your goods, they are required to produce your completed B534 form (see below 'Required Documentation'), packing list and shipping documents.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation must be presented to Customs to clear your goods:

- completed Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement (B534 form)
- a detailed packing list of all the goods
- an Arrival Notice or Delivery Advice (sea cargo) or Air Waybill (air cargo) (this will be supplied by Simpsons or their agents)

MOTOR VEHICLES, MOTOR CYCLES, BOATS & CARAVANS

All motor vehicles, whether motorised or not, must have an import permit issued by the Australian authorities prior to arrival in Australia. If a vehicle arrives without a permit the owner is liable to a penalty of AU\$13,000.00 and the vehicle either re-exported or destroyed at the owners expense. Import duty and GST are payable to Customs in Australia on all vehicles at the time of importation. Examination and inspection charges **will** be payable at the time of importation in addition to the duty and GST payable. The requirements for importation are as follows:-

- The vehicle must have been owned for a period of 12 months prior to the date of shipment
- At the time the vehicle is imported the applicant must be either an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident, or, a person who has applied to become an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- The applicant is old enough to hold a driving licence for a vehicle of the type being imported.
- The vehicle to be thoroughly cleaned by steam cleaning with particular attention given to the underside and wheel arches.
- Any alterations or amendments to the vehicle that are required to be carried out in order for the vehicle to comply with Australian requirements will be carried out by the applicant, and,
- Must not have imported another vehicle within the 12 months preceding the current vehicle importation.

Please note: current maritime legislation introduced in January 2012 requires that all vehicles shipped overseas are drained of fuel and the battery disconnected and insulated to prevent potential damage to the vessel and its cargo.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Import permit
- Registration documents
- Purchase invoice and payment receipt
- Service and log books
- B534 import declaration
- Vehicle condition report
- Copy passport
- Bill of Lading (supplied by Simpsons)
- Refrigerant compliance form if fitted with air conditioning or climate control.

INHERITANCE, DECEASED ESTATES

Inherited or deceased estates maybe imported into Australia free of duty and GST tax providing the following is presented:-

The information contained in this document is intended for guide purposes only and Simpsons Removals can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Clients are advised to make their own enquiries through the appropriate authorities to avoid potential difficulties and costs at destination.

- statutory Declaration (Statutory Declaration is obtained in Australia prior to Customs inspection)
- copy of the will or a copy of the relevant part of the will
- copy of Death Certificate (may be requested by Customs)
- inventory, Customs B534 Unaccompanied Personal Effects Statement
- duty free entry provided legatee is permanently domiciled in Australia and will not use the goods for trade business purposes

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Duty free concessions that apply to alcohol and tobacco products that you carry with you when you arrive in Australia do not apply to unaccompanied goods. Alcohol and tobacco products imported with your unaccompanied personal effects will be subject to duty, GST and/or Wine Equalisation Tax (WET). If you decide to import alcohol or tobacco products, Simpsons will provide a specific inventory form to list quantities/volume/brand/alcoholic percentage, but please be aware that all alcohol and tobacco importations are examined by Australian customs and you will be responsible for their costs in doing so. There is also the possibility of bottles containing alcohol breaking in transit so causing damage to the other goods in the container and for that reason we do not recommend shipping alcohol or tobacco products.

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE (AQIS)

All consignments imported into Australia are subject to inspection by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). There are strict controls on the importation of all plant and animal products and your shipment will be subjected to screening which will take place at an approved AQIS facility. We recommend that you allow up to 14 working days for clearance through AQIS. Clients will be charged in accordance with the time taken to carry out the process. Where fumigation or cleaning is required there will be an additional cost for this. If any item or consignment has to be destroyed the client will also be charged by AQIS for this process to be completed.

An indication of the potential quarantine charges are shown below:-

20' Container AU\$400.00 – 40' container AU\$720.00 – Groupage/Part Load AU\$25.00 per cubic metre with a minimum of AU\$150.00

All of the above are subject to GST at 10%

FIREARM AND WEAPON IMPORTATION

The importation of firearms and weapons is strictly controlled and a Police permit to import is required to import (see Useful Contacts for further information).

PROHIBITED ARTICLES

The following are examples of goods that are prohibited and should not be imported:-

Articles manufactured from wildlife (including but not limited to)

- elephants, rhinoceros, zebras, antelope, deer, reptiles/snakes, whales, dolphins, feathers, coral and members of the cat family

Weapons (including but not limited to)

- firearms or parts (including air pistols or air rifles), daggers, ammunition, replica firearms, martial arts equipment, spring bladed knives, knuckle dusters

Objectionable material (including but not limited to)

- child pornographic material, child abuse material, material which may promote, incite or instruct in matters of crime or violence or misuse of a drug or sexual material (including bestiality)

Agriculture Products (including but not limited to)

- all meat products, fresh fruit and vegetables, seeds, bulbs, honey, egg products, straw, wicker-cane and raw wooden products

RESTRICTED ARTICLES

The following goods are prohibited unless a permit is obtained *(including but not limited to):-*

- ivory in any form, including jewellery, and carvings (except with *CITES certificate)
- tortoise or sea turtle shell jewellery, and ornaments (except with *CITES certificate)
- most herbs and spices
- dried flowers, pine cones or seeds
- used vacuum cleaner bags
- outside equipment- tents, lawnmowers and gardening tools (OK to import but must be free of soil and plant material)
- skins, furs, hunting trophies and animal derived products
- equestrian equipment-saddles etc (OK to import but will require disinfection treatment)
- artefacts (antiques) masks, wooden carvings etc

The information contained in this document is intended for guide purposes only and Simpsons Removals can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Clients are advised to make their own enquiries through the appropriate authorities to avoid potential difficulties and costs at destination.

*CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

WOODEN PACKAGING

All wooden packaging including crates, pallets, over cases and chocks must be stamped with ISPM15 for AQIS purposes. If items do not comply with this requirement, the items may be destroyed, re-exported, or fumigated at the owner's expense.

DESTINATION DELIVERY

All shipments arriving in Australia, whether in a sole use container (20' or 40'), LCL (scheduled part load), groupage/part load or as airfreight cannot be delivered direct to the client's residence. All freight has to be de-vanned at our destination partner's warehouse for formal inspection by AQIS and Australian Customs before the shipment can be released for delivery.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Simpsons Removals & Storage Ltd

+44 (0) 1322 386969

enquiries@simpsons-uk.com

www.simpsons-uk.com

Australian Customs Service

+66 (0)2 6677880

information@customs.gov.au

www.customs.gov.au

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

+61 (2)6272-3999

treat.inspect@aqis.gov.au

www.aqis.gov.au

Weapon Import Information

www.customs.gov.au/site/page4372.asp

Vehicle import information

www.customs.gov.au/site/page4371.asp