



June
2016

Chinese New Year

Biosecurity



Important biosecurity information

Food, plant material and animal products from overseas could introduce some of the world's most damaging pests and diseases into Australia. This could devastate our valuable agriculture and tourism industries and unique environment.

Biosecurity protects our human, animal and plant health by reducing the risk of unwanted pests and diseases arriving in the country. We all benefit from a strong biosecurity system so we all have a role to play. If you are expecting Chinese New Year gifts through the mail or are travelling overseas or expecting overseas visitors, it is important to ensure that you and your family are aware of Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

How we stop biosecurity risk goods entering Australia

Mail articles containing biosecurity risk goods are inspected by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources biosecurity officers using X-rays, detector dogs and manual inspection.

How to ensure your Chinese New Year gift arrives on time

Make sure your family correctly lists the contents of all mail articles and fill out any postal declaration labels or forms. Declaring items does not automatically mean they will be confiscated – in many cases goods will be of low risk and will be sent on after inspection.

Chinese New Year gifts that present a biosecurity risk

Chinese New Year gifts (containing animal or plant material) that may pose a biosecurity risk include:

- chicken and preserved pork sausages and dried beef
- products containing eggs, especially duck eggs
- citrus, persimmons, and fresh bamboo shoots
- fresh and dried fruit including lychees and longans
- dairy products such as milk and yoghurt
- Chinese herbal medicines containing ganoderma fungus or cordyceps.

Help protect Australia from pests and diseases

- Purchase your Chinese New Year gifts in Australia.
- Tell your family and friends overseas to consider Australia's biosecurity requirements before mailing gifts to Australia.



When returning to Australia after visiting your family and carrying gifts through the airport, pack any gifts that you will be declaring at the top of your luggage ready for inspection by a biosecurity officer.

When you arrive in Australia you are required to:

- correctly complete an Incoming Passenger Card. You must comply with the requirement to provide this information. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.
- mark “Yes” for any food, plant materials or animal products you may be carrying.

If your goods present an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk, and requires treatment, you will be given the option to pay for the treatment and it may take several weeks for the item to be sent to you. Where treatment is not an option, the item will not be permitted into Australia and you will be notified.



Contact 1800 900 090
(free call in Australia and is in English)

Outside Australia +61 3 8318 6700



For more information
agriculture.gov.au/travelling-mailing

Facebook: Australian biosecurity
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