



Understanding dairy export requirements

What is a prescribed dairy product?

Under Australian export legislation, a prescribed dairy product is generally any milk or milk product obtained from a bovine (cow) it does not normally include colostrum, buffalo, sheep or goat milk products, ice-cream (in frozen form) or cheesecake.

Examples of prescribed dairy products include infant formula, milk powders, liquid milk, cream, butter, buttermilk, casein, cheese, whey, milk protein powder, condensed milk, dips containing a yoghurt or cream cheese base and any other like-milk products where milk is the largest ingredient.

Do exporters need the department's approval to send milk products overseas?

Exporters must be registered with the department to export prescribed dairy goods from Australia, which must be sourced from an export registered manufacturer.

Consignments greater than 10 kg can only be exported from Australia once the department has approved (export permits and health certification). An export permit enables product to leave Australia and the health certificate enables the product to enter the importing country.

Approval is not required for:

Consignments where the goods are legally imported into Australia which have not been further processed or repacked before re-export do not fall under export requirements. These can be exported in any quantity without further involvement from the department.

Consignments less than 10 kg. The export legislation does not apply to consignments of less than 10 kg. For example, you can purchase dairy products from the supermarket and send them overseas. However there are some countries like the European Union member states which require the department to provide certification to clear the goods, regardless of the quantity. In these cases you will need approval to export prior to the goods being shipped.

Consignments being exported to New Zealand are exempt from the export requirements (regardless of quantity).

Consignments of non-prescribed dairy products (sheep, buffalo or goat milk products) or products like colostrum, ice-cream or cheesecake. However some countries including the European Union member states and China require departmental certification to clear the goods before export.

Do facilities need to be export registered?

Prescribed dairy goods intended for export in quantities greater than 10 kg per consignment, which are received, handled, stored or loaded, must be export registered.

What is meant by the term consignment?

The term consignment means the specific lot of goods being sent to a single consignee in the destination country at a particular time. For example; if you are arranging a shipment of 100 x 8kg cartons of infant formula and each 8 kg carton of infant formula is clearly identified as being consigned to a different consignee/customer, then the shipment would satisfy the requirement

for 'less than 10kg per consignment' and no export requirements apply (if accepted by the importing country).

To meet the 'less than 10kg per consignment' criteria, each consignment within the shipment must be clearly distinguishable as containing less than 10 kg of prescribed dairy product and must be clearly consigned to different consignees.

If the 100 x 8 kg cartons of infant formula were consigned to just one consignee/customer, then it would be an export shipment to which the export legislation applies and for which an export permit is required. This applies to any consignee/customer who receives the shipment and intends to distribute those cartons to 100 different people.

Can prescribed dairy products purchased from the supermarket or chemist be exported?

There are two occasions where dairy products purchased outside the export chain, such as a supermarket or a non-export registered establishment can be exported:

- when each consignment is under 10 kg (importing country dependant)
- where the dairy product is imported from another country, for example, infant formula manufactured in New Zealand and then sold in Australia. The department only certifies product manufactured in Australia. If you wish to export this type of product, you will need to ask your overseas buyer what documents they need to clear the goods and, if any is required, you will need to contact the manufacturer in the country of origin.

Contact the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#) for approval to export any product overseas, regardless of quantity, product type or destination.

How do you know if the dairy products were produced in Australia?

Product manufactured in Australia will be identified as 'Made in Australia' or 'Product of Australia'. In these cases product greater than 10 kg requires an export permit and the full export requirements apply. Examples of Australian infant formula or milk powder include Bellamy Organic Infant Formula, Mamia Infant Formula, Heinz Nurture and Devondale skim and full cream milk powder.

Imported product will have the country of origin on the label and carton. If a product is identified as not of Australian origin then the export requirements do not apply and the products can be exported in any quantity. Examples of imported infant formula include Karricare, Aptimal, Aptimal Gold, S26 and A2 infant formula.

How do export products become classified?

All goods exported from Australia (whether prescribed or not) must be accurately described and classified as part of the customs declaration.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is responsible for the Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Codes (AHECCs) assigned to each classification of product. For example infant formula is usually classified as 04022110 or 04022910. AHECC codes are linked to the department's export permit system and flag when a permit is required to clear customs.

What documents need to be provided by the exporter when being sent to a freight forwarder?

- A customs declaration including an accurate description and classification of the products being exported.
- If prescribed dairy products and greater than 10 kg, a copy of the export permit to verify export eligibility.

What to do if you suspect the goods being exported have been misdeclared or are a prescribed dairy product greater than 10 kg?

If at any time you suspect the goods which have entered your establishment have been misdeclared or may be a prescribed dairy product greater than 10 kg and not eligible for export, contact the department via email at dairy@agriculture.gov.au.

How do exporters get the department's approval to export prescribed dairy products?

To gain approval to export dairy products, the conditions below must be met before export:

- A request for an export permit (RFP) must be submitted to the department before the date of departure and must be submitted for each individual shipment.
 - All RFPs must be completed electronically through the Electronic Export Documentation system (EXDOC). If you do not have the software please see the [department's website](#) for details of costs and process involved.
 - To be listed as the exporter on your export documents, you must be registered in the [EXDOC](#) system.
- Prescribed dairy goods and their ingredients must be sourced from and stored in an export registered dairy establishment. If the goods are dispatched from the manufacturer then they can only be moved to an export registered warehouse, store, freight forwarder or the point of departure (wharf/airport).
- The manufacturer of the dairy goods must issue the exporter with a declaration of compliance, which is a statement identifying the dairy products being exported are eligible for export.
- All importing country requirements must be met prior to export, some countries have additional requirements, for example additional labelling or product testing. For further details, use the Manual of Importing Country Requirements (MICoR).

Does the exporter need to submit supporting documents (product test results, declarations of compliance) with their export permit application?

In some circumstances you will need to present documents to verify the prescribed dairy products are eligible for export. Some countries, such as the European Union member states or Algeria require these documents for each export permit application.

Regardless of when they are requested, you must always have evidence of compliance before you apply for the export permit.

What is the cost involved in obtaining an export permit and health certificate?

The details of fees for dairy export documentation, inspection, auditing and other in office services are provided at www.agriculture.gov.au/export/food/dairy/fees-charges.

Further information

For further information, visit the dairy export section on the department's website www.agriculture.gov.au/export/food/dairy or contact the Dairy Export team via email at dairy@agriculture.gov.au.