



November 2025

Final approach series

Aircraft release from biosecurity control

This fact sheet explains when and how an international aircraft is released from biosecurity control after arriving in Australian territory.

Under s191 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act), all international aircraft arriving in Australian territory become subject to biosecurity control. They remain under control until officially released by a biosecurity officer.

Restrictions for aircraft subject to biosecurity control

Under s237(1) of the Act, aircraft that remain subject to biosecurity control must only land at subsequent determined first points of entry, unless:

- granted permission to land at a landing place not determined to be a first point of entry under s239(2) of the Act
- directed under s240 or s242 of the Act to land at a specific location

Operators intending to operate domestically must notify biosecurity at the first landing place.

Risk assessment requirements

A biosecurity risk assessment includes:

- unused catering is unloaded and managed by a department approved third-party provider
- international waste is unloaded and managed by a department approved third-party provider
- all international cargo and baggage are unloaded.

Official release

An aircraft is officially released from biosecurity control when:

- a biosecurity officer formally notifies the operator verbally, in writing, or electronically (s219 of the Act), or
- the aircraft departs Australian territory.

Note: Once an aircraft is released and subsequently departs Australia, it will again be subject to biosecurity control on its return to Australian territory.

More information

Learn more about

- [On arrival in Australia](#)
- [Entering the domestic network after arriving in Australia](#)
- Contact the relevant [Biosecurity Airport Contact](#) for location-specific advice.

Email Conveyance.Aircraft@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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