



Kava—Import and labelling requirements

September 2026

Since 1 December 2021 certain kava products are permitted as food for sale in Australia.

The kava products permitted are:

- dried or raw kava (Piper methysticum) root. This includes kava root chips, kava root powder and whole kava root
- beverages consisting of kava (Piper methysticum) root suspension in cold water (no organic solvent) and
- kava products that do not contain any food additive or processing aid, either as an ingredient or as part of the final product
- kava products derived from the peeled root or peeled rootstock of a Noble variety of kava.

See the requirements for kava in Standard 2.6.3 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

Conditions for import



Before importing kava you must have an import permit granted by the Australian Government Department of Health (Office of Drug Control).

When kava imports arrive at the border they are checked to ensure:

1. they meet biosecurity import conditions in our Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON)
2. they meet labelling requirements in the Code and country of origin food labelling requirements. This is checked under our Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS).

Labelling requirements



Labelling and other information requirements for food are in Part 1.2 of the Code. Standard 2.6.3 also requires mandatory warning statements to be on kava products.

Name of the food

The name of the food, such as **kava root** or **kava root powder**, must be displayed on the package.

Mandatory warning statements

The product label must include these statements:

- Use in moderation
- May cause drowsiness

Country of origin

A statement of where the food was made or produced must be displayed on the package in a clearly defined box. For example:

Product of Country X

Lot identification

A lot identification is used to identify **where** and **when** the food was packed or prepared to enable products to be traced.

A lot identification (normally a series of letters and numbers) must:

- refer to a particular production/packing lot/batch prepared or packed under the same conditions, usually not exceeding a 24-hour period
- identify the premises where the food was packed, prepared or produced.

Name and street address of the supplier (importer)

The name and street address of the location of the Australian (or New Zealand) supplier/importer must be on the label. A PO Box number is **not** permitted.

Date marking

The label must include a best before date to indicate how long the food can be kept, before it deteriorates.

For example:

Best before dd/mm/yyyy

Ingredient list

Single ingredient foods do not need an ingredients list provided the label includes the name of the food to make it clear to consumers what the food is.

Directions for use and storage

The label must include directions for use and storage for reasons of health and safety. For kava powder, this means including directions for how to safely make and consume the kava drink.

Nutrition, health and related claims

A nutrition content claim or health related claim must **not** be made on kava and kava products.

Example of a nutrition claim:

'low in sugar'

Example of a health claim:

'helps to lower anxiety'

Bulk imported kava not for immediate retail sale

Bulk imports of kava to be re-packaged for retail sale in Australia must include on the outer carton:

- the name of the food
- lot identification
- the name and street address of the overseas supplier (unless this is included in import documentation).

More information

Documentary requirements must be met in accordance with the minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy.

Food products must be labelled with accurate weights and measures. For information on other general labelling requirements, including weights and measures, see
Truth in labelling, weights and measures and legibility | Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Email foodimp@aff.gov.au

Web www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food/type/kava

Web www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/food

© Commonwealth of Australia, 2026.

This publication is licensed by Commonwealth of Australia under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

AGR038.0626