



April
2022

Kava—Import and labelling requirements



From 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
- must not contain as an ingredient or a component any substance used as either a food additive or a processing aid
- must be 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 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.

The main labelling requirements for kava products packaged for retail sale are listed here.

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

The label must have information that can identify when it was prepared or packed. For example:

Packed on XX/MM/2022

or

Lot No. 2022.XY

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 XX/MM/20YY

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.

No nutrition content and health claims

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

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

Email foodimp@awe.gov.au

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



1800 900 090 or
+61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia)



Facebook: Australian Biosecurity