



Lunar New Year Biosecurity

January 2022



Important biosecurity information

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

If you are arriving from overseas or expecting overseas visitors, it is important that you, your family and visitors are aware of Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

If you are expecting Lunar New Year gifts through the mail, tell your family and friends overseas to check that the products are allowed into Australia before mailing them.

How we stop biosecurity risk goods entering Australia

Baggage and international mail articles are assessed to identify items that could bring in pests and diseases. This may include biosecurity officers questioning travellers, or screening using X-ray, detector dogs and/or manual inspection.

Products that present a biosecurity risk

Lunar New Year gifts that may pose a biosecurity risk include:

- meat products, including chicken, beef and pork sausages whether fresh, frozen, dried, preserved or cured
- whole eggs and products containing eggs, including duck eggs and mooncakes
- dairy products such as milk and yoghurt
- fresh and dried fruit including citrus, persimmons, lychees and longans
- other plant products including banana leaves and fresh bamboo shoots
- traditional herbal medicines containing ganoderma fungus or cordyceps
- rice.

Help protect Australia from pests and diseases

- Purchase your Lunar New Year gifts in Australia.
- Before bringing or mailing a product to Australia, check that it is allowed into Australia by visiting awe.gov.au/mailing-bringing-goods.
- Tell your family and friends overseas to check if the gifts they intend to bring or mail to Australia are allowed into Australia.



Travelling to Australia

When travelling to Australia you must:

- truthfully declare on your incoming passenger declaration if you are carrying food, plant material or animal products. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. Failure to declare items can result in serious penalties.
- mark "Yes" for any food, plant material or animal products you may be carrying.

You should pack any products, including gifts, that need to be declared at the top of your baggage ready for inspection by a biosecurity officer.

Declared items may need to be treated (at your expense), exported or destroyed. Goods that do not pose a biosecurity risk will be returned to you.

If you provide false or misleading information to a biosecurity officer or on your incoming passenger declaration, or if you fail to answer questions about the goods or comply with directions given by a biosecurity officer, you may be:

- given an infringement notice specifying a penalty amount of up to A\$2,664
- subject to civil penalty proceedings, and/or
- prosecuted for a criminal offence. If convicted, you could face a maximum penalty of A\$1.1 million and/or be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

Your visa may also be cancelled and, if so, you will be refused entry into Australia.

You will not be penalised under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* if you declare and present all goods, even if they are not allowed into Australia.

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



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

Facebook: Australian Biosecurity
Twitter: @DeptAgNews