

Importing bulk grain to Australia

Assessing and managing the biosecurity risks



Deciding to import

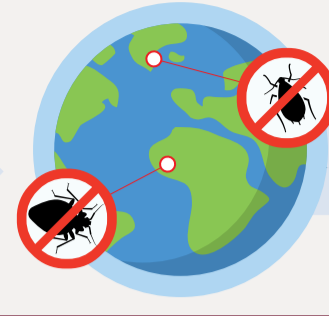
An Australian business may choose to import bulk grain for a range of commercial reasons, for example product specifications or to meet shortfalls due to low domestic production.



Applying for a permit

After contacting the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), the importer **applies for a permit**, where they are required to:

- submit a completed **Process Management System** document
- provide details of proposed storage and processing facilities onshore (approved arrangements) and submit a completed **Site Operations Manual** for those facilities.



Assessing the offshore risks

DAWE scientists undertake a pathway risk analysis of the proposed source country to verify the presence or absence of pests or diseases of biosecurity concern, pest control practices, and the systems in place for the production, harvesting, storing, transporting and processing of grain destined for export. The scientists make recommendations for reducing any risks to provide the **appropriate level of protection (ALOP)** for Australia.



Application decision

If DAWE is confident that the applicant's proposed management strategies can reduce the biosecurity risks along the entire import pathway to a very low level, a permit will be issued. The permit includes conditions the importer must meet to manage those risks, including the requirement to source from low risk countries; ensure cleanliness; and control any spillage and dust during transport, storage and processing. Permit conditions are **legally enforceable**.



Assessing the application

DAWE audits the proposed onshore facilities, systems and processes to verify that the **proposed strategies can manage the associated risks to a very low level** and provides feedback to the applicant. The applicant may need to update their proposed Process Management System and Site Operations Manual accordingly.



Regulating the import

Once a permit is issued, DAWE will verify that the importer is meeting the requirements of the permit at each step during the importation. DAWE may **intervene at any time** to stop activity or require it to be done differently. We can also suspend, vary or cancel the permit or approved arrangement at any time.



Sourcing

The grain must be sourced from the **area and country stated in the permit** issued by DAWE.

HIGHER RISK*



Handling and transport

The equipment and transport systems used to move the grain from the farm to the point of loading at the port must be **free from pests and animal material of biosecurity concern**; and the grain must be loaded at the port stated in the permit. Importer must provide a supplier's declaration and government certification to show they have met these conditions.



Storage

The grain must be **stored under biosecurity control** at a facility authorised by DAWE (**approved arrangement**). A **DAWE-approved Site Operations Manual** must be in place for the approved arrangement outlining the processes for managing the grain within the site.



Arrival in Australia

The grain must remain **secured in the ship's hold** until a DAWE biosecurity officer has inspected and taken samples of the grain. The biosecurity officer will only allow the grain to be discharged from the ship if it meets **Australia's import requirements**.

Australian border



Pre-export

Both the grain and the ship used for transporting must be **inspected** by the exporting country's government and certified as free of live insects and foreign materials of biosecurity concern. The importer must provide **this certification** as evidence they have met this condition.



Onshore transport

The grain must be **transported along DAWE-approved routes** and tracked from discharge at the port to the processing facility. The grain must be **securely transported** to minimise leakage and dust in accordance with the importer's **Process Management System** document. The importer must **record all grain movements** and provide **daily grain weight reconciliations** to DAWE.



Processing

The grain must be handled and processed to **reduce plant and animal biosecurity risks** as outlined in the importer's Site Operations Manual. The processed product can be released only after the approved arrangement has **demonstrated that the conditions of the permit have been met** and it can only be used for **purposes approved by DAWE**.

LOWER RISK*



Decommissioning

At the end of the import program, the storage and processing facilities must undertake **comprehensive DAWE-approved cleaning processes** to prevent future cross contamination from the imported grain. The storage and processing of domestic grain can only commence once DAWE has **inspected and approved the decommissioned facilities**.