



June
2016

Diwali or Festival of lights

Biosecurity



Important biosecurity information

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

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources works with state and territory governments, industry and the community to maintain Australia's clean and wholesome food supply—at home and abroad. Australia's biosecurity system protects our human, animal and plant health by reducing the risk of unwanted pests and diseases arriving in the country. We all benefit from a strong biosecurity system so we all have a role to play.

How we stop biosecurity risk goods entering Australia

Biosecurity risk goods are assessed by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources biosecurity officers using X-rays, detector dogs and manual inspection. Any packages or luggage containing biosecurity risk goods are opened and inspected by biosecurity officers.

Diwali gifts that can present a biosecurity risk

- sweets such as burfi, ras malai, rasgulla and pedas
- products containing dairy
- fresh fruit and dried fruit
- raw nuts, seeds and herbs
- flowers and plant material.

Diwali gifts that are permitted into Australia

- artificial flowers
- fabric, gold or silver beads and coins
- personalised photo items.



Bringing or mailing Diwali gifts to Australia

If you are travelling to Australia and bringing Diwali gifts you will be given an Incoming Passenger Card before you arrive in Australia. You must mark YES if you are carrying certain food, plant material or animal products. You must declare or dispose of any goods with a biosecurity risk before inspection. If you are expecting to receive Diwali gifts through the mail, make sure your family and friends correctly list the contents of all mail articles and fill out any postal declaration labels or forms. If your goods require treatment, you will be given the option to pay for the treatment. It may take several weeks for the goods to be sent to you. Where treatment is not an option, the goods will not be permitted into Australia and you will be notified.



Contact 1800 900 090
(free call in Australia and is in English)

Outside Australia +61 3 8318 6700



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

Facebook: Australian biosecurity
Twitter: @DeptAgNews