



June  
2016

# Rakhi (Raksha-Bandhan)

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.

If you are expecting Rakhi gifts through the mail it is important to ensure that your family overseas are aware of Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

## How we stop biosecurity risk goods entering Australia

Mail articles containing biosecurity risk goods are assessed by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources biosecurity officers using X-rays, detector dogs and manual inspection.

## Rakhi gifts that can present a biosecurity risk

Rakhi gifts (containing animal or plant material) that may pose a biosecurity risk include:

- Rakhi threads made with seeds or flowers
- traditional Indian sweets (mithai) which contain milk, such as barfi, mysore pak, gulab jamun, rasgulla, pedas or soan-papdi
- grains and dried fruits.

## Rakhi gifts that are permitted into Australia

Help us protect Australia from pests and diseases by sending alternate gifts that do not pose a biosecurity risk:

- cotton Rakhi threads with plastic, fabric, gold or silver beads
- gold or silver coins
- personalised photo items
- artificial flowers.



## How to ensure your Rakhi gift arrives on time

To ensure your Rakhi gift arrives on time please send gifts that do not pose a biosecurity risk. If your gift does pose a biosecurity risk and requires treatment, you will be given the option to pay for the treatment and it may take several weeks for the gift to be sent to you. Where treatment is not an option, the gift 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](http://agriculture.gov.au/travelling-mailing)

Facebook: Australian biosecurity  
Twitter: @DeptAgNews