



Importing General Cargo Into Australia

Fact Sheet



IS YOUR PRODUCT GENERAL CARGO?

A quick way of identifying if your goods are general cargo is to ask the following questions:

Are my goods perishable or can they be consumed?

Are my goods made of wooden articles, plant materials or feathers?

Is my cargo hazardous? Does it contain a hazardous label or is it batteries?

YES

Your product may need extra documentation and processing before export.

Check our articles below for:

[Food](#)

[Furniture](#)

[Dangerous Goods](#)

NO

It is likely your goods are classed as general cargo. Some examples of general cargo include, retail items and homewares, building materials and packaging.

STANDARD DOCUMENTATION NEEDED

If your commodity seems to come under the general cargo umbrella you will need to ensure you have the below documentation for your import **as a minimum**:

Commercial invoice – a detailed invoice which outlines the price and the amount of the purchased goods.

Packing List – your supplier will give you this. It contains information about how your goods are packed, including the weight and dimensions.

Packing Declaration – required if you're shipping your goods via ocean freight. Customs will need this to see the packing material of your goods.

Certificate of Origin – If you're importing from a country with a free trade agreement with Australia, this document may help you avoid duty charges. Make sure your supplier supplies you this document.

***Fumigation Certificate** – If importing from a stink bug high target risk country you may need to ensure your cargo is treated prior to import. ICE can help you with this.

WHAT IMPORTERS CAN EXPECT

- If you are new to importing or have just changed forwarders to ICE, you can expect an initial customs hold on arrival. This is standard practice and customs will normally check your documentation to ensure all is in order.
- For sea freight, expect your goods to take a few days to be delivered after arrival at the port.
- At any time before goods are released, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry may direct your cargo for a quarantine inspection and unpack. Ensure you provide any documentation requested as quickly as possible to aid this process.

