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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Australia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This report provides **guidance** on export certificate requirements for a representative sample of products that have been identified as having excellent prospects in the Australian market. The information required to import into Australia is complex and changes frequently. It is therefore not possible to provide comprehensive information for every product in this report.

All sections have been revised or updated.

DISCLAIMER: This report has been prepared by the USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service in Canberra, Australia for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. Australia's quarantine regulations are constantly changing so it is impossible to provide complete detail in this report. *The information provided is for example only.* While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is *essential* that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their Australian importer, who is normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO AUSTRALIA'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

Section I: List of All Export Certificates Required By Government:

Summary

Australia has very strict quarantine requirements for imported food and agricultural products. Import Permits and certifications are required for the majority of food and agricultural products entering the country. The information required to obtain an Import Permit is different for each product and can include such things as cooking/freezing times, 'area freedom from specific pest' declarations, certification for fumigation of containers, etc. Often there are very specific requirements for U.S. products that allow entry where the product, in general, is not allowed from other countries. The information required is updated frequently so it is therefore not possible to provide comprehensive information for every product in this report.

The Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS) oversees the importation of all agricultural products entering Australia and maintains an on-line [Import Conditions \(ICON\) database](http://apps.daff.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp) that is updated constantly. This database contains very detailed information on the quarantine requirements for products coming into this market. Before deciding to export any food or agricultural products to Australia, U.S. exporters should first check with this web site to ascertain whether they can meet Australia's requirements. If a product is not listed in the database, it is likely that it is not allowed entry to Australia. The full web site address is: http://apps.daff.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp

Import Permits

Import Permits are required by AQIS for a large number of fresh and semi-processed food products and some fully processed products entering Australia. Only an Australian-based individual or company can apply for an Import Permit. Import permits are generally valid for two years and can be used any number of times during that period. The Import Permit will dictate the complete conditions under which the product may enter Australia. The information required to apply for a permit differs greatly between products and can often differ for the same products from different regions.

U.S. exporters should work very closely with their Australian importers to make sure that **all** conditions are met **before** shipping any product. Failure to do so **will** result in delays in product entering the country.

Examples of Australian Export Certification Requirements

The requirements listed in the table in the following section are provided as a **representative sample** of products that have been identified as having excellent prospects in the Australian market. Apart from these specific 'attestations' which refer only to export certification requirements, products must meet a range of other criteria specific to each commodity which may include, but is not limited to, packaging requirements, pre-clearance (if applicable), treatment options, and container conditions. A large amount of additional information may be required for each shipment. U.S. exporters are advised to consult the [ICON database](http://apps.daff.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp) and their importers for complete import conditions for individual commodities. Example copies of certificates are not available as they differ for each product.

Examples of Export Certificate Attestations Required by Government of Australia

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required
<p>Cherries – fresh (from certain counties in California, Oregon, Washington State & Idaho ONLY)</p> <p>Full details on ICON database</p>	<p>APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>Each consignment must be accompanied by an original phytosanitary certificate. The phytosanitary certificate must be endorsed with the following additional declarations:</p> <p>The following additional fruit fly declaration must be included on the phytosanitary certificate: <i>"The cherries in this consignment were grown in [name(s) of County/Countries and State], and were fumigated and packed in [name(s) of County/Countries and State]. The cherries in this consignment were grown, fumigated, and packed either in Counties that are free of fruit flies except Rhagoletis spp. or in areas that are located in excess of 15 kilometers from the epicenter of any exotic fruit fly declared areas".</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p>Additionally, for cherries that have undergone Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection (OPI) the following declaration must also be included: <i>"DAFF offshore pre-shipment inspection undertaken in {State} in accordance with the Work Plan for the offshore pre-shipment inspection of cherries to Australia."</i></p> <p>Additional information required with the phytosanitary certificate for OPI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16. For fruit inspected offshore by DAFF, the following information is also required with the phytosanitary certificate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate for OPI stating: b) <i>"DAFF offshore pre-shipment inspection undertaken in {State} in accordance with the Work Plan for the offshore pre-shipment inspection of cherries to Australia."</i> c) A photocopy of the relevant Notice of Intention to export (NOI) must be attached or forwarded with the phytosanitary certificate. Grower lot numbers or pallet card numbers of cherries that have undergone OPI included in the consignment must be marked, i.e. ticked, asterisk, or underlined. Use of a text highlighter is not

		<p>recommended, as it is difficult to photocopy or fax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NOI must be signed and stamped by DAFF officer. - The NOI must be marked as "passed" by DAFF officer. <p>d) The relevant NOI number/s must be referenced on the phytosanitary certificate to facilitate on arrival document verification.</p>
<p>Table Grapes - fresh (pre-cleared, from certain approved counties of California only (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Riverside & Tulare).</p> <p>Growers & packers must be USDA registered.)</p> <p>Full details on ICON database</p>	<p>APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>A single Phytosanitary certificate (original document) must be presented to DAFF for each table grape consignment, and must be endorsed by APHIS. It must include the following additional declaration statements:</p> <p>Fruit flies:</p> <p>a) <i>"The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in California which is free of all economically significant fruit flies."</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) <i>"The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [insert name(s) of County/Countries] which is an area free of all economically significant fruit flies",</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>c) <i>"The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [insert name of county] which is an area located in excess of 15 kilometers from the epicenter of any economically significant fruit fly declared areas."</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p>Other additional declaration statements: <i>"The grapes in this consignment have been produced in California in accordance with the conditions governing the entry of fresh table grapes from California to Australia."</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p>For fruit under OPI: <i>"DAFF Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection undertaken in California in accordance with the Work Plan for the Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection of table grapes to Australia."</i></p>

Distinguishing Marks

- The shipping container number/s and container seal number/s (mandatory), should be included on the Phytosanitary certificate under "Distinguishing marks" where these details are known at the time the Phytosanitary certificate is being prepared. If the container or seal numbers are not known at the time the Phytosanitary certificate is being prepared, they should be included on the shipping documents which should reference the phytosanitary certificate number.
- The "Distinguishing marks" section must also include NOI number, and a copy of the NOI with the correct pallet card numbers in the consignment marked, must be attached to the Phytosanitary certificate.

Note: It is not a mandatory requirement by DAFF to have the details of the pallet card numbers/grower lots under the "Distinguishing Marks" section on the Phytosanitary certificate, given that the NOI carrying this information is required to be attached to the Phytosanitary certificate.

Treatment details

SO₂/CO₂ fumigation

- The following details must be included under the treatment section in the Phytosanitary Certificate:
"SO₂/CO₂ fumigation completed."
 - The name of the treatment facility.
 - The date of treatment.
 - The dosage
 - The fumigation duration.
 - The ambient air temperature during fumigation (°C).
 - The grape pulp temperature during fumigation (°C).

Cold treatment

- 19. Fruit that has undergone preshipment cold treatment following SO₂/CO₂ fumigation must have the following details included under the treatment section in the Phytosanitary certificate:
"Preshipment cold treatment completed".
 - The name of the treatment facility.
 - The date of treatment completion.
 - The grape pulp temperature during cold treatment (°C).

		<p>- The cold treatment duration.</p> <p>Documentary requirements for consignments subject to in transit cold treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Fruit that is subject to intransit cold treatment following SO₂/CO₂ fumigation must have the following details included under the treatment section in the Phytosanitary certificate: <p>The statement, "<i>Fruit is subject to intransit cold treatment</i>" must be included in the treatment section.</p> <p>In addition to the statement on intransit cold treatment, the initial calibration details for all the probes as well as a diagram showing the probe positioning within the container must be included as attachments to the Phytosanitary certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table grapes that have undergone preshipment treatment/s and inspection must be stored, and transported under secure conditions after fumigation and in a manner that precludes re-infestation or contamination from soil or other debris. <p>Additional documentation requirement for consignments that have undergone OPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A photocopy of the relevant Notice of Intention to export (NOI) marked with the pallet card/grower lot numbers that are included in the consignment must be attached to the Phytosanitary certificate. OPI pallet card numbers included in the consignment must be clearly marked i.e. ticked, asterisk, or underlined in the NOI. Use of a text highlighter is not recommended, as it is difficult to photocopy or fax. The relevant NOI number must be referenced on the Phytosanitary certificate to facilitate on arrival document verification.
<p>Peaches & Nectarines (Fresh) Peaches and nectarines are permitted into Australia from all</p>	<p>APHIS Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>The Phytosanitary certificate must be endorsed with the following additional declarations: <i>"The nectarines/peaches in this consignments were grown, packed and fumigated in Counties in {Name of the State} that are free of fruit flies, except Rhagoletis spp., or in areas that are located in</i></p>

Counties within the State of California and from the Pacific Northwest States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho

Full details on [ICON database](#)

excess of 15 kilometers from the epicenter of any exotic fruit fly declared areas and in accordance with the operational work plan for peaches and nectarines to Australia."

AND

For fruit that has undergone DAFF Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection (OPI) the following additional declaration must be included:

"DAFF offshore pre-shipment inspection undertaken in {State} in accordance with the agreed procedures for DAFF offshore inspection of fresh nectarines and peaches to Australia."

Packaging and labeling requirements

- The peaches and nectarines must be packed in new packaging.
- Peaches and nectarines that have passed export inspection by the USA authorities or DAFF OPI must be securely stored prior to shipping, and must be segregated from any other domestic or export products at all times.
- All consignments must be identified by one of the following means:
 - a) Each individual carton marked with relevant codes and the name of the packing/treatment facility/ exporting company (the trademark).
 - b) For palletized fruit, each individual carton must be stamped with the relevant details or a similar identifying mark, OR pallet cards or stickers must be attached to each pallet. Each pallet card or sticker must be uniquely numbered to enable trace back.
 - c) When pallet cards or stickers are used to identify consignments, they must be securely fastened to the pallet to withstand handling encountered during transport and shipping.
 - d) If a pallet identified with pallet cards or stickers is broken down prior to loading into airfreight or sea freight containers, all cartons deconsolidated from the pallet must be stamped with the pallet card number. The pallet card is to remain with the unstrapped pallet and must record details of the consignment(s) dispatched.
- One of the following secure packaging options must be used to maintain the quarantine security of goods arriving in Australia.
 - a) Integral cartons - Produce may be packed in integral (fully enclosed) cartons (packages) with boxes having no ventilation holes and

		<p>lids tightly fixed to the bases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Ventilation holes of cartons covered - Cartons (packages) with ventilation holes must have the holes covered/sealed with a mesh/screen of no more than 1.6 mm pore size and not less than 0.16 strand thickness. Alternatively, the vent holes could be taped over. c) Polythene liners - Vented cartons (packages) with sealed polythene liners within are acceptable (i.e. produce packed in polythene bags - folded polythene bags are acceptable). d) Meshed or shrink wrapped pallets - Cartons (packages) with vent holes or gaps that are packed on a pallet, the pallet must be covered or wrapped with polythene/plastic/foil sheet or mesh/screen of no more than 1.6 mm diameter pore size and not less than 0.16 strand thickness. e) Produce transported in sealed containers - Cartons (packages) with holes as loose boxes or on pallets may be transported in sealed containers. The container must be transported to the inspection point intact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber packaging, pallets or dunnage in containers or on flat racks will be subject to inspection and treatment on arrival, unless certified as having been treated by a DAFF approved method. (Refer to the DAFF publication 'Cargo Containers: Quarantine aspects and procedures').
<p>Prunus Spp (Apricots, Cherries, Plums, Peaches) with seeds – sun-dried, unprocessed, tenderized, rehydrated, dehydrated</p> <p>Full details on ICON database</p>	<p>Manufacturers Declaration OR Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>Each consignment must be accompanied by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a valid manufacturer’s declaration stating that the product has been heated to 60°C for a minimum of 60 minutes (T10043); <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) a Phytosanitary certificate with the following endorsements: <p>"The Prunus spp. were grown in the state of (<i>specify state</i>), (<i>country of origin</i>)", and</p> <p>"Plum Pox Virus is not present in the state of (<i>specify state</i>), (<i>country of origin</i>)";</p>

		<p>OR</p> <p>c) will be subject to mandatory dry heat treatment on arrival at 60°C for a minimum of 60 minutes.</p>
<p>Citrus (from California or Arizona only)</p> <p>Note: Conditions for citrus imports from Arizona have changed. Fruit sourced from Arizona which is a quarantine area for Sweet Orange Scab must now undergo packing shed measures. Please check the ICON database for updates on the status.</p>	<p>Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>All consignments must be accompanied by an original Phytosanitary certificate with additional declaration statement for fruit source as either California or Arizona, measures for Sweet Orange Scab and measures for Asian Citrus Psyllid. Fruit that has undergone OPI will also require an additional statement in the Phytosanitary certificate (see section on OPI below).</p> <p>Mandatory additional declarations for fruit source (for OPI and for on arrival inspection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each consignment must be accompanied by an original Phytosanitary certificate endorsed with the following additional declaration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "The citrus fruit in this consignment has been produced in California or Arizona in accordance with the conditions governing the entry of fresh citrus fruit from California or Arizona to Australia." <p>Sweet Orange Scab additional declaration for OPI and for on arrival inspection (for Arizona only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition each consignment from Arizona must also be endorsed with the following additional declaration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "Fruit sourced from the State of Arizona, which is a quarantine area for <i>Elsinoe australis</i>, has undergone washing, brushing, surface disinfection, fungicide treatment and waxing". <p>Asian Citrus Psyllid additional declaration (for OPI and for on arrival inspection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition each consignment from California or Arizona must also be endorsed with one of the following additional declarations for ACP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "The fruit in this consignment has been sourced from a place of production which is free of <i>Diaphorina citri</i>" <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) "The fruit in this consignment has been subjected to approved packinghouse

measures (washing, brushing and waxing) effective against *Diaphorina citri*."

Fruit fly additional declarations (for OPI and for on arrival inspection)

- The Phytosanitary certificate must also have **one** of the following fruit fly additional declarations:
 - a) "The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in California or Arizona which is free of all exotic fruit flies." **OR**
 - b) "The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [*name of Californian or Arizona County*] which is an area free of all exotic fruit flies." **OR**
 - c) "The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [*name of Californian or Arizona County*] which is an area located in excess of 15 kilometres from the epicentre of any exotic fruit fly declared areas, including Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*)." **OR**
 - d) "The fruit has been stored for 14 days at 0°C ± 0.5°C."
- Container and seal numbers must be endorsed on the Phytosanitary certificates, or on commercial documentation (e.g. Bill of Lading). If endorsed on commercial documentation, the documentation must also cross reference the Phytosanitary certificate number.

Seafreight shipments (for OPI and for on arrival inspection)

- Container and seal numbers must be endorsed on the Phytosanitary certificates, or on commercial documentation (e.g. Bill of Lading). If endorsed on commercial documentation, the documentation must also cross reference the Phytosanitary certificate number.

Additional statement on the Phytosanitary certificate for OPI

- All produce that has undergone Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection must also have the following additional declaration statement in the Phytosanitary certificate:
 - a) "DAFF Offshore Pre-shipment Inspection was undertaken in California or Arizona in accordance with the Work Plan for the offshore inspection of citrus fruits to Australia."

<p>Strawberries (fresh) – from California only</p> <p>Full details on ICON database</p>	<p>Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>Each consignment must be accompanied by an original Phytosanitary certificate. The Phytosanitary certificate must be endorsed with an additional declaration stating:</p> <p>“The shipment was inspected and found free of symptoms of <i>Xanthomonas fragariae</i> (Angular Leaf Spot).”</p> <p>Note: See additional declaration requirements for offshore inspected strawberries under section “Phytosanitary certificate for offshore inspected strawberries” below.</p> <p><u>Offshore Verification Inspection requirements</u></p> <p>Notice of Intention (NOI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fresh strawberries that have been inspected offshore must be clearly labeled and legibly identified on either the pallet card or directly on the cartons. This information includes packing shed and grower lot references and must align with the descriptions on the “Notice of Intention to Export” (NOI). A copy of the relevant NOI/s must be forwarded to Australia with the original Phytosanitary certificate accompanying the consignment. • Copies of the relevant NOIs listing the inspected and passed pallet numbers or lot codes in the consignment must be attached to the Phytosanitary certificate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The NOI must be signed and stamped by a DAFF officer. b) The NOI must be marked as “passed” by a DAFF officer. c) All passed pallets or cartons in the consignment should be identified on the NOI by underlining, circling or otherwise marking the pallet card or grower lot numbers, preferably with an ink pen. The use of a highlighter pen should be avoided as the highlights may not be detected on a photocopy or facsimile. <p>Phytosanitary certificate requirements for offshore inspected strawberries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consignments which have been inspected offshore must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate with the following additional declarations:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "DAFF offshore verification inspection undertaken in accordance with the Work Plan for the offshore verification inspection of Californian strawberries to Australia" AND b) "The shipment was inspected and found free of symptoms of <i>Xanthomonas fragariae</i> (Angular Leaf Spot)". • A single Phytosanitary certificate (original) must be presented to DAFF for each consignment, and must be endorsed by APHIS. It must include the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) MB fumigation details must be included in the treatment section of the Phytosanitary certificate, including the fumigation date and dosage (g/m³), fumigation duration, and the strawberry pulp/flesh temperature during fumigation (°C). b) In cases where a consignment comprises product from multiple MB fumigation lots, treatment details will be listed only once. c) A single photocopy of the relevant Notice of Intention to export (NOI) must be attached or forwarded with the Phytosanitary certificate. Pallet card numbers for offshore inspected strawberries, that are included in the consignment, must be clearly marked i.e. ticked, asterisk, or underlined. Use of a text highlighter is not recommended, as it is difficult to photocopy or fax. d) The relevant NOI number/s may be noted on the Phytosanitary certificate to facilitate on-arrival clearance procedures.
<p>Dates – Fresh from CA only (no stems allowed)</p> <p>Full details on ICON database</p>	<p>Phytosanitary Certificate</p>	<p>Each consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate endorsed with one of the following additional declarations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [<i>insert name of State</i>] which is free of all economically significant fruit flies", OR b) "The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [<i>insert name of County</i>] which is an area free of all economically significant fruit flies", OR c) "The fruit in this consignment was sourced and packed in [<i>insert name of County</i>] which is an area located in excess of 15 kilometers from any fruit fly declared areas".

		This area freedom certification must include the nominated County or State name.
<p>Onions (fresh) – from specified counties of California & Idaho only</p> <p>Full details on ICON database</p>	Phytosanitary Certificate	<p>Each consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate endorsed:</p> <p>“The [<i>insert name of produce, e.g. onions, shallots, leeks, chives</i>] were grown in [<i>insert name of district or county</i>] where onion smut (<i>Urocystis cepulae</i>) is not known to occur”.</p> <p>Treatment is required when goods are found to be infested or contaminated with live quarantine pests or there are other biosecurity concerns present. An appropriate treatment (or treatment options) will be determined by DAFF.</p>

Section II: Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

See table above in Section I.

Section III: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

See table in Section I for examples of specific attestations. **Complete details of all attestations required are provided by the Australian authorities when an application for an Import Permit is made by the importer.**

Section IV: Government Certificate’s Legal Entry Requirements

Entry requirements are set out on the import permit. A copy of the import permit plus the originals of any other documentation - airway bill or bill of lading, invoices, and any other papers (including packing lists, insurance documents), etc. relating to the shipment must accompany each shipment. The Minimum Documentary Requirements for all imported products are available at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/documentary-requirements>.

Depending on the product covered, Import Permits **can** be valid for up to two years (i.e. covering all shipments during that period).

Section V: Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

Apart from Quarantine regulations, products being imported into Australia must also meet a number of other requirements. Details of these requirements are contained in the [Food and Agriculture Import Regulations and Standards](#) (FAIRS) report updated each year by this office. The most recent update was August 2013.