



IMPORTING ABORTION INDUCING SUBSTANCES

WHAT ARE THEY?

Abortion inducing substances, also known as abortifacients, are substances that aid in inducing abortion/termination of pregnancy. These goods are available in a number of different forms including pharmaceutical and herbal preparations. Some of the more common names of these goods include but are not limited to:

- RU-486
- Mifepristone
- Milofian
- Miffee

WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

Abortifacients are restricted under Regulation 5H, Schedule 8 (Item 1) of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. Therefore the importation of these substances is prohibited unless written approval has been granted by the Minister for Health and Ageing or an authorised person. An import permit must be obtained prior to the arrival of these goods in Australia.

WHY ARE THESE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE?

The restrictions are in place as the goods are considered dangerous to health, being toxic or poisonous if used incorrectly.

HOW IS PERMISSION SOUGHT?

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is the responsible agency for considering requests to import abortifacients. [Information for importers/exporters of therapeutic products](#) and contact details can be found on the [TGA website](#) or by phoning 1800 020 653.

Further information on substances controlled under Customs legislation, licensing and permit requirements is available from the [Department of Health and Ageing website](#).