



RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTING MONEY BOXES INTO AUSTRALIA

The importation of certain money boxes coated with a material containing excessive levels of lead is restricted under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

It is prohibited to import money boxes that are coated with a material (eg. paint, lacquer, etc.) that contains lead in **excess of 90mg/kg**.

This level is consistent with Australian Standard AS/NZS ISO 8124.3:2003 - Safety of toys, Part 3: Migration of certain elements.

If there is a valid reason to import such money boxes, an importer may obtain written permission to import from the Minister for Justice and Customs or an authorised person.

WHY ARE THESE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE?

Excessive levels of lead in certain products represent health risks. Lead in a material coating money boxes is particularly harmful to children who may attempt to chew or lick such a money box.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) provides Customs with advice and guidance on this import restriction.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN ON IMPORTATION?

Customs may require the importer or customs broker to prove that the material coating a money box does not contain lead in excess of the level specified above.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE THIS PROOF?

The importer or customs broker will need to present a test report from a laboratory that is accredited by its national accreditation

organisation to perform such testing. This organisation needs to be a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.

The test report must relate to the specific goods being imported.

WHAT IF A TEST REPORT CANNOT BE PRODUCED?

Customs will draw samples of the goods for testing by a laboratory that is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities, the national accreditation organisation in Australia.

The importer is liable for any costs incurred in relation to the testing and storage of imported money boxes.

HOW IS PERMISSION SOUGHT?

To request permission to import money boxes that are coated with a material containing an excessive level of lead, please write to:

Minister for Justice and Customs
C/- National Manager, Trade Policy & Regulation Branch
Australian Customs Service
5 Constitution Ave
CANBERRA ACT 2600

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on the background to this import restriction, contact the ACCC Information Centre on 1300 302 502 or email infocentre@accg.gov.au

For more information on any Customs matter, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email information@customs.gov.au or browse the website www.customs.gov.au