



LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR GOODS MADE FROM LEATHER, VULCANITE & PLASTIC OR THEIR IMITATIONS

The *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905* and the *Commerce (Imports) Regulations 1940* set out the labelling requirements for certain goods imported into Australia. Customs administer this legislation.

Goods made from leather, vulcanite and plastic and their imitations, and which are specified in the Fourth Schedule of the *Commerce (Imports) Regulations*, with a total outside area of which is not less than one hundred and fifty-five square centimetres, require a trade description with the name of the country in which the goods were made or produced, and a true description of the goods.

What constitutes a true description will vary according to the goods. A general guide is to provide a factual description that will help inform the consumer about the nature of the goods. For example, in the case of a leather wallet, a description of the composition of the wallet being 'Genuine Cowhide', would meet the requirements of a true description.

The Fourth Schedule specifies the following goods:

Attaché cases	Bicycle saddles
Boxing gloves	Bridles
Brief cases	
Cases for gramophones, musical instruments, television sets or wireless sets	
Document cases	Folio cases
Footballs	Gloves
Golf bags	Harness
Hat boxes	Hat cases
Horse collars	Kit bags
Ladies' handbags	Leggings
Machine belting	Men's belts
Pouches	Punching bags
Punching balls	Purses
Razor strops	Saddles
Schoolbags	School cases
Shopping bags	Sporting goods
Suit cases	Trunks
Wallets	

The above goods are deemed to be made of leather, vulcanite and plastic and their imitations, if more than one-half of the outside area of the goods consists of these materials.

The trade description must be in the English language, in prominent and legible characters, and on a principal label or brand affixed in a prominent position and in as permanent a manner as practicable to the goods, or if affixture to the goods is impracticable, to the coverings containing the goods.

Any other information included on the label, brand or packaging must not contradict or obscure the required trade description. This includes illustrations, wording or size of lettering.

In addition, the *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act* prohibits the importation of goods that bear a false trade description. A false trade description can be any description of goods that is false or misleading.

A trade description may also be false if information is omitted from the description and this misleads the consumer as to the nature of the goods.

What if my goods have a false trade description?

The *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act* provides that goods imported in contravention of the *Commerce (Imports) Regulations* may be seized by Customs. While Customs may permit the re-labelling of contravening goods where it is considered that the contravention was neither intentional nor reckless, we recommend that you ensure your goods comply with the legislation prior to their importation.

Where re-labelling is permitted, goods can only be released once the trade description is correct and all Customs formalities have been completed. You may also be asked to provide evidence that you have instructed your suppliers to correctly label goods in future.

For more information

Click on the following links for information on related topics:

[Labelling Requirements for Exported Goods](#)
[False Trade Descriptions](#)

Further information regarding labelling on imported goods can be found on the Customs website at www.customs.gov.au in Australian Customs Notice 2006/39.

Alternatively you can email your inquiry to information@customs.gov.au or phone the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263.