



RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTING GOODS BEARING AN IMAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

The importation of goods which bear an image or representation of the Australian national flag is restricted under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

WHAT GOODS ARE RESTRICTED

It is prohibited to import any items which bear an image of the Australian national flag without the prior written approval of the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised officer.

These goods can include souvenirs e.g. playing cards, wallets, toys, pens, ceramic ware and glassware, articles of clothing and textile goods.

Whilst flags themselves are not presently restricted, they should be referred to the Commonwealth Flag Officer for approval of the design (see Step 1 below for address details).

BACKGROUND TO RESTRICTION

The Regulation is a quality control measure that operates to ensure that representations of the Australian national flag are consistent with the specifications of the flag in the *Flags Act 1953*.

OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

If you are seeking to import goods bearing an image of the Australian national flag, there is a two step process and it is recommended that you commence arrangements at least two to three weeks prior to arrival of the consignment.



Step 1 – Approval of design

You need to obtain approval of the design of the flag for commercial use on the goods from the Awards and Culture Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

The PM&C approval process establishes whether the representations of the Australian national flag are consistent with the specifications of the flag in the *Flags Act 1953*.

These requirements are published on the PM&C website at <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au>

Requests for approval of the design of the flag/s should be addressed to:

Commonwealth Flag Officer
Awards and Culture Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Or email: nationalsymbols@pmc.gov.au

Step 2 – Permission to import

You need to obtain permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised officer to import goods which bear an image or representation of the Australian national flag.

Requests for permission to import such goods should be addressed to:

National Manager
Trade Policy and Regulation Branch
Australian Customs Service
5 Constitution Avenue
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Or email: community.protection@customs.gov.au

WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED

When seeking an import permit applicants should provide Customs with (a) a full description of the goods, (b) quantities, (c) name and postal address of the importer, (d) approximate date of arrival, (e) a copy of the PM&C approval letter and (f) an image of the goods.

WHEN THE GOODS ARE IMPORTED

The permission document must be surrendered to Customs when you attend to take delivery of the goods. A separate permit is required for each consignment and permits must be obtained prior to importation of goods of this nature.

MORE INFORMATION

For information on any Customs matters, 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