



# IMPORTING HANDICRAFTS

People who import genuine handicrafts into Australia may be eligible for a concession which allows them to bring their goods into Australia at a free rate of duty.

## ARE YOUR GOODS HANDMADE?

To be classified as handmade and to be eligible for the concession, the goods must satisfy the following criteria:

- the **fabric** is at least 90% natural fibres, made either by hand; by non-mechanical, non-powered tools held in the hand; or produced on looms powered by hand or foot
- the **goods** are made by hand; by non-powered tools held in the hand; or where the concession specifically allows, by machines powered by foot or hand
- the **goods** are made wholly, or in chief part by weight, of materials traditionally used in the production of handicrafts, and
- the **goods** have an artistic or decorative character generally comparable with traditional handmade products of the country the goods were made in.

Not all handicrafts are eligible even if they meet the above requirements. There are extra restrictions in relation to clothing, jewellery, footwear and furniture.

## PROVING YOUR GOODS ARE HANDMADE

### 1. Gather evidence

To prove your goods fit these criteria you will need to provide:

- a DVD or a series of photographs of the manufacturer's factory showing all manufacturing processes, **and**
- a written description of the manufacturing process.

The photographs must be signed and dated on the back by a senior officer of the manufacturing company. Any DVD or photographs should show views of the craftspeople in action during all stages of manufacture and should show location names where possible.

The description must be written in English on the manufacturing company's letterhead.

### 2. Send evidence

This information should be addressed to "Handicrafts Officer, Tariff North" and sent to the Sydney office of Customs and Border Protection.

Current contact details can be obtained from the 'contact Customs' section of our website at [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au) or from the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263.

## IF YOUR GOODS ARE ELIGIBLE

If Customs and Border Protection accept your evidence and decide your goods are eligible for the concession, the goods will be registered as such on an Australia-wide basis.

This registration will be valid for five years and you will not normally need to provide evidence of manufacture for any shipments within the five years unless the manufacturing process changes.

However, the goods may still be subject to examination to ensure the actual goods imported comply with the eligibility requirements. Importers should retain copies of the information and ensure that their freight forwarder, courier company, shipper and/or Customs Broker have all the required documents to facilitate entry and possible examination of the goods.

Please note all normal Customs and Border Protection entry procedures will still apply, including import processing charges and the application of Goods and Services Tax.

## **IF YOUR GOODS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE**

If your goods do not meet the criteria for handicrafts, you will need to pay the normal rates of import duty.

## **QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS**

Most handicrafts are made from natural plant or animal products such as wood, leather, feathers and leaves, so it is important to note Australia's strict quarantine requirements will be applied. Items may be examined by a Quarantine officer and treatment may be required before entry processing can be completed.

For more information on quarantine issues please contact the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service on 1800 020 504.

## **OTHER POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS**

Some products are also restricted or prohibited due to international agreements protecting endangered or threatened species of wildlife.

For information on wildlife issues, contact Environment Australia Wildlife Protection by phone on (02) 6250 0302 or (02) 6250 0712, by fax on (02) 6250 0303, in writing at GPO Box 636, Canberra ACT 2601 or by e-mail at [wps@ea.gov.au](mailto:wps@ea.gov.au).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For information on any Customs and Border Protection matter, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263, email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or browse our website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).