



RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTING TABLET PRESSES INTO AUSTRALIA

As of 1 March 2010 tablet presses are a prohibited import under *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.

WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

The import of tablet presses will only be permitted subject to an approval from the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person. The importer must demonstrate a legitimate use for the tablet press to receive approval.

Tablet presses are used by a variety of legitimate industries in Australia including the pharmaceutical, self medicating and foods and fragrances industries. Unfortunately, tablet presses are also highly sought after by organised criminal groups involved in the manufacture of illicit synthetic drugs.

It is an offence in all State and Territories in Australia to possess a tablet press without a lawful excuse. The introduction of an import control on tablet presses complements the existing domestic legislation.

WHY ARE THESE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE?

The manufacture and distribution of amphetamine type stimulants is a serious problem in Australia and preventing the importation of tablet presses for use in illicit markets is an important way of reducing domestic production.

WHAT IS A TABLET PRESS?

Tablet presses are defined as manual, semi-automatic or fully automatic equipment that can be used for the compaction or moulding of powdered or granular solids, or semi-solid material, to produce coherent solid tablets. The control **does not** include encapsulators or tablet press parts such as punches or dies.

HOW TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO IMPORT

Customs and Border Protection is responsible for administering the issuing of 'Permission to Import' in relation to the tablet press import control and you can download an application form from our website, www.customs.gov.au/site/page4288.asp

To make an application, please complete and sign an application form. Applications can be provided by post, email, as a scanned document or fax.

The Minister or authorised person may place conditions on an approval. Conditions may include the length of time an approval is valid for and the number of machines that can be imported under the approval.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information on the regulations on importing tablet presses you can contact the Attorney General's Department by email at tabletpress@ag.gov.au or by phone on (02) 6141 2730.

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 or browse our website www.customs.gov.au.