



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources

Targeted Communication

Managing pre-border
biosecurity risk
(e-commerce) in
Australia



Dr Kim Ritman – Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer

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The department has contacted known and potential online suppliers of high risk material to Australia including:

- plants, plant material, seeds, weeds
- brine shrimp eggs, insects, ant farms, giant African snails, aqua dragons, terrariums
- pet care products - flea collars, worm tablets
- animal excrement.

Communicating with overseas suppliers

Suppliers identified via:

- international mail pathway
- internet research
- referrals - public and other, particularly relating to eBay.

Over 200 entities identified

Email addresses, online contact forms and postal addresses were used.

Communicating with overseas suppliers

Import requirements for plant and seeds provided to suppliers

The screenshot shows the BICON website interface. At the top, there is a dark grey header with the Australian Government logo on the left and the BICON logo on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Import Conditions, Permits, Alerts & Changes, News, Contact Us, and Help. A user status message on the right of the menu says "You are not logged in. Please [Login or Register](#)".

Below the navigation menu is a light beige box with the heading "Welcome to BICON". The text below the heading reads: "BICON houses the Australian Government's Biosecurity import conditions database for more than 20,000 plants, animals, minerals and biological products. It will help you to determine what import conditions exist and if an import permit is required. Please refer to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' [Importing to Australia](#) page for more information about BICON."

Below the welcome message is a search section titled "Search for Import Item" with a magnifying glass icon. The text below the title reads: "Search for the commodity you want to import. You can also search for your import by scientific name or tariff code. Refer to the [BICON Help](#) page for tips on searching."

Below the search text is a search form with three tabs: "Quick Search", "Scientific Name", and "Tariff Code". The "Quick Search" tab is selected. The search input field contains the text "What are you importing?". To the right of the input field is a blue "Search" button with a magnifying glass icon. Below the input field, there are links for "Search parameters", "Import into: Australia", and "Effective On: 16 March 2017". To the right of these links is an "Advanced Search" link with a downward arrow icon.

Working with eBay

 Shop by category ▾ Search... All Categories ▾ Search Advanced

Home > Help > Membership & account > Rules & policies > Plants and seeds

Help

Browse help

- ▶ Searching & researching
- ▶ Bidding & buying
- ▶ Selling & seller fees
- ▶ Payment & postage
- ▶ Feedback
- ▼ Membership & account
 - Getting started on eBay
 - Registration & signing in
 - Managing your account
 - Sharing with eBay members
 - Protecting your account
 - Rules & policies

[eBay glossary](#)
[eBay acronyms](#)
[A-Z index](#)

Search the Help pages (Does not search for items or products) Search Help Pages tips
Enter your Help search terms here. (Example: 'contact seller')

Plants and seeds policy



- [Policy overview](#)
- [What are the guidelines?](#)
- [Additional information](#)
- [Why does eBay have this policy?](#)

Policy overview

Australia has strict controls on the importation and domestic movement of live plants and seeds with which eBay sellers must comply. Live plants and seeds from overseas or other states and territories could introduce serious pests and diseases into Australia or into areas within Australia that are free from those pests and diseases, devastating its valuable agricultural and tourism industries and unique environment.

The guidelines below apply to items sold on eBay.com.au. Our international websites may have different rules so if you offer to post internationally, make sure you check each country's policy on plants and seeds to see what's allowed. You also need to check the [requirements for exporting plants and plant products from Australia](#) and whether your item is allowed under import regulations in the location to which you're posting.

Make sure your listings and selling practices follow these guidelines. If they don't, your listings may be removed, and you may be subject to a range of actions, including limits of your buying and selling privileges and suspension of your account.

What are the guidelines?

- ▶ [Importing plants and seeds \(selling to Australia\)](#)
- ▶ [Domestic sales of plants and seeds \(within Australia\)](#)

Additional information

Live plants and seeds detected by the [Department of Agriculture and Water](#)

Contact us

Need help?

[Contact us](#)

Ask eBay members

Get help from other eBay members. Visit the [Answer Centre](#) to post a question.

Related Help topics

- [Drugs and drug paraphernalia policy](#)
- [Prohibited and restricted items overview](#)

Australian Biosecurity Award (ABA)



Communicating with online shoppers

Use of social media to raise awareness of online sales of high risk material



Australian Biosecurity
3 January · 🌐

Terrible Terrarium risk picked up in Sydney.

At Sydney Gateway Facility, our biosecurity officers have intercepted more than 10 self-sustaining terrariums since October.

These terrariums are purchased online and have a variety of components that, when put together, create an environment that allow brine shrimp to hatch after a few days.

While they sound like an interesting gift, the packages contain live moss balls, fertiliser, food, sand, shrimp eggs and wood – some of which pose a significant biosecurity risk.

Brine shrimp eggs are also known to carry a range of fungal and bacterial diseases that are exotic to Australia.

The non-organic parts of the terrarium are not a biosecurity risk, so they were able to be released to the clients, but all other parts had to be destroyed.

Remember to check the biosecurity requirements before you shop online to ensure your items are allowed into Australia and do not pose a biosecurity risk. This will save you both time and money, as well as safeguard our valuable agriculture industries and unique environment from biosecurity pests and diseases.

For more information on what can and can't be mailed to Australia visit <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/.../bringing-mailing-g.../internet>



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For more information contact:

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