

AUSTRALIA

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Peat and Sphagnum moss Effective: 19 Mar 2016

Import Scenarios

Peat				See Conditions
Sphagnum moss	Sphagnum liquid waste absorbent		See Conditions	
	Not sphagnum liquid waste absorbent	Personal use		See Conditions
		Not for personal use	Country of origin is New Zealand	See Conditions
			Grown in a country other than New Zealand	See Conditions

Peat — Department approved countries, free from foot and mouth disease

[List of Department of Agriculture approved countries, free from foot and mouth disease.](#)

- a. The following import requirements apply to peat sourced from countries on the [list of Department of Agriculture approved countries, free from foot and mouth disease](#).
- b. Prior to the importation of [goods](#) into Australia, a valid import permit issued by the Department of Agriculture is required.

An import permit may be obtained by submitting an [import permit application](#) to the department (if viewed online, use the 'Apply Now' button at the bottom of this page).

- c. Each consignment must be free of live insects, fresh or viable plant and animal material, seeds, soil, mud, clay, and animal faeces prior to arrival in Australia.
- d. Any packaging used with the consignment must be clean and new.
- e. Consignments will be inspected to ensure that they are free of live insects, fresh or viable plant and animal material, seeds, soil, mud, clay, and animal faeces.
- f. All consignments will be directed for a verification inspection at a quarantine approved premises to verify that the consignment is free of seeds, live insects and other biosecurity risk material. Full container load (FCL) consignments may be directed for tailgate verification. If a tailgate verification is directed the importer or a representative must provide samples to the biosecurity officer to facilitate verification. Where samples cannot be provided or there are many lines in the container, the consignment will be directed for partial or full unpack as required.
- g. If live insects are found during inspection, the consignment will be:

1. Held pending identification by a Department of Agriculture entomologist and treated using an appropriate method, or
2. Exported, or
3. Destroyed

If other contaminants; like incompletely decomposed plant material such as leaves, twigs, roots, bark, or seed husks is found during the inspection, the importer must provide documentary evidence that the peat was excavated from depth rather than from the first two metres of the earth's surface.

- h. Under the [Quarantine Service Fees Determination 2005](#), fees are payable to the Department of Agriculture for all services. A list of all [quarantine & export fees](#) is available on the Department of Agriculture's website.
- i. Non-commodity information requirements for imported cargo also apply, please refer to the BICON case [Non-Commodity Cargo Clearance](#).

Sphagnum moss — Sphagnum liquid waste absorbent

- a. A Department of Agriculture import permit is not required.
- b. Each consignment must be sphagnum liquid waste absorbent which is a dried, ground absorbent material made from sphagnum moss or peat moss.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement you must present the following on a [Manufacturer's declaration](#), [Supplier declaration](#), [Product label](#) or [Invoice](#):

Evidence that the consignment is sphagnum liquid waste absorbent.

- c. The goods must be clean and free of prohibited seed, soil, animal and plant debris and other [biosecurity risk material](#) prior to arrival in Australia.
- d. All material in the consignment must be thoroughly dried and not capable of propagation.
- e. Any packaging used with the consignment must be clean and new.
- f. If the consignment meets all the documentation requirements the goods may be released.

If the documentation does not meet the requirements the consignment will be directed for inspection. The inspection will be to ensure that the consignment is dried, free from prohibited seed, soil, animal and plant debris and other [biosecurity risk material](#).

- g. If live insects are found during inspection, the consignment will be:
 1. held pending identification by a Department of Agriculture entomologist and treated using an appropriate method, or
 2. exported, or
 3. destroyed.

If other contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, sticks, or faecal matter are found on inspection, the consignment must be held, and the contaminants must be removed or treated via a method approved by the Department, if possible. Alternatively, the goods must be exported or destroyed.

- h. Under the [Quarantine Service Fees Determination 2005](#), fees are payable to the Department of Agriculture for all services. A list of all [quarantine & export fees](#) is available on the Department of Agriculture's website.
- i. Following inspection and provided all of the above conditions have been met the consignment may be released from quarantine by a biosecurity officer.
- j. Non-commodity information requirements for imported cargo also apply, please refer to the BICON case [Non-Commodity Cargo Clearance](#).

Sphagnum moss — Not Sphagnum liquid waste absorbent

- a) A Department of Agriculture import permit is not required.
- b) The goods must be clean and free of prohibited seed, soil, animal and plant debris and other [biosecurity risk material](#) prior to arrival in Australia.
- c) All material in the consignment must be thoroughly dried and not capable of propagation.
- d) Any packaging used with the consignment must be clean and new.
- e) Each consignment is subject to a full unpack and inspection at a quarantine approved premises (QAP). Consignments will be inspected to ensure that they are free of live insects, seeds, viable plant material and other biosecurity risk material (BRM).
- f) Following inspection each consignment is subject to mandatory treatment with:
 1. heat treatment at no less than 85°C with hot air for not less than 12 hours once the core temperature has been reached, or
 2. ethylene oxide fumigation at either:
 - 2.1. a rate of 1200 g/m³ for 5 hours at 50°C under an initial vacuum of 50 kPa, or
 - 2.2. a rate of 1500 g/m³ for 24 hours at 21°C, or
 3. gamma irradiation at 25 kGray (2.5 Mrad).

Treatment will be carried out at the importer's expense. Alternatively the consignment may be destroyed at no cost to the importer.

- g) If live insects are found during inspection, the consignment will be:
 1. held pending identification by a Department of Agriculture entomologist and treated using an appropriate method, or
 2. exported, or
 3. destroyed.

If other contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, sticks, or faecal matter are found on inspection, the consignment must be held, and the contaminants must be removed or treated via a method approved by the Department, if possible. Alternatively, the goods must be exported or destroyed.

- h) Under the [Quarantine Service Fees Determination 2005](#), fees are payable to the Department of Agriculture for all services. A list of all [quarantine & export fees](#) is available on the Department of Agriculture's website.

- i) Non-commodity information requirements for imported cargo also apply, please refer to the BICON case [Non-Commodity Cargo Clearance](#).