



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture

Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Requirements

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture ('the department') safeguards Australia's environment and agriculture from the introduction of exotic and emerging pests and diseases. The introduction of new pests and diseases to Australia could have serious consequences for the Australian community, environment and economy.

The department assesses applications for Import Permits for biological goods in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* (and the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998*).

Biological goods are goods that contain or are made using any material originating from an animal, plant or microbial (including viral) source.

Research materials imported using an Import Permit are subject to conditions of use. This may include restrictions on how the imported materials may be used (e.g. for *in vitro* use only) or the species that may be exposed to the imported materials [e.g. approved for use in laboratory species (i.e. guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, rabbits or microorganisms) only].

The department also assesses applications for In Vivo Approval (IVA). An IVA is a document issued to a researcher or manufacturer authorising the use of imported biological goods (or derivatives) in a way that was not approved on the original import permit. For example researchers may wish to use genetically modified organisms in research involving high biosecurity risk species. High biosecurity risk species are all species excluding guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, rabbits and microorganisms.

In planning for research projects it is important that researchers identify all biological material they intend to use and whether the material has been imported into Australia. Researchers must familiarise themselves with all conditions of use on imported biological goods prior to commencement of the research project.

This includes material sourced from a commercial supplier or research colleague in Australia.

Conditions on use apply to imported biological material even after the importer has sold the material or shared the material with another entity in Australia.

Officers from the department require a significant amount of information to complete a risk assessment on an IVA application. This includes information on how the biological material was made, treatments that have been applied to the material that could be considered bactericidal/virucidal, where the material will be used and how recipient animals will be contained.

More detail on information required to accompany IVA applications can be found on the Department of Agriculture website.

Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with the IVA application.

For more information on any aspect of the IVA application process please contact the department's Animal and Biological Import Assessments Branch:
Tel: 02 6272 4578 (9 – 11am, 2 – 4pm) Email: biologicals@agriculture.gov.au