



Importing Bulk Grain Fact Sheet

Importing bulk grain from international suppliers is a very comprehensive process. It requires an import permit issued by the department, which will impose stringent measures to ensure biosecurity outcomes are achieved.

To import to Australia, the grain must be:

- sourced from areas with a low plant and animal biosecurity risk status (currently only New Zealand, USA and Canada).
- grown, harvested, stored and transported in a way that prevents contamination
- graded and certified as having low levels of foreign material including weed seeds and soil
- inspected and certified by the exporting government authority as being free from pests of biosecurity concern.

When the grain arrives in Australia it must be:

- inspected by the department (before discharge if it is bulk-in-vessel, and again once it is unloaded).
- transported securely to minimise the risk of spillage and dust escape
- stored and processed under biosecurity control at a facility that we authorise as an [approved arrangement](#) (class 2.7 for storage and 3.1 for processing)
- processed using a department-approved method to mitigate plant and animal biosecurity risks.

Check our [importing bulk grain guideline](#) and [conveyance standards](#) for the full requirements.

Sources

Due to the high-risk animal health status of many exporting countries, the USA and Canada are the best markets to source bulk grain from. The USA and Canada are considered to have low animal health risks.

Thermal Processing

Imported animal feeds require to be processed in a way that denatures the grain from being able to grow **AND** is thermally processed to mitigate animal disease risks.

For information on the time and temperature the product must reach for particular countries see the risk background within the BICON case [here](#).

The department will verify treatment rates with the Australian processing sites through onsite audits.

New sources of grain

Currently wheat and soybeans have been assessed by the department and import permits can be granted from the USA and Canada. Any other grains and or countries would need to undergo an Import Risk Assessment, which can take many months or even years complete.

Importing bulk grain resources

- [Importing bulk grain for stockfeed and milling - DAFF](#) – Outlines all the requirements and process for applying to import bulk grain.
- [Bulk grain guidance and templates - DAFF](#) – There are various documents linked on this page that are important to the bulk grain process to support permit applications.
 - [Management of grain imported bulk in-ship's hold guideline](#)
- [importing-bulk-grain-infographic-assessing-managing-risks.pdf](#) – Infographic for importing bulk grain into Australia.
- [Grains from various countries - DAFF](#) – Published Import Risk Analyses (IRAs) for grains.
- [Conditions for operating approved arrangements - DAFF](#)
 - [Approved arrangement 2.7 - imported grain storage conditions](#) – Class 2.7 – Grain storage AA requirements
 - [Approved arrangement 3.1 - grain processing conditions](#) – Class 3.1 Grain processing AA requirements

Need help?

Contact the department at Imports@aff.gov.au and use T2 – Bulk Grain Imports in the email subject line.

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