



Importing Plant-based Stockfeed Fact Sheet

Stockfeed presents a high level of animal biosecurity risk due to its direct pathway to livestock. Fortunately, Australia is free from many significant animal and plant diseases; however, contaminated stockfeed could introduce these diseases into Australia. Stockfeed can also contain pests or viable plant materials that can have a negative impact on Australia's agriculture and environment.

Australia imposes strict controls on the importation of processed plant-based stockfeed and their ingredients to ensure that the associated risks are managed to keep Australia's biosecurity protected. To bring stockfeed to Australia, an import permit issued by the department is required, where a risk assessment will be conducted to determine that import conditions are satisfied.

To import to Australia, the stockfeed must be:

- processed in a way that ensures the product exported to Australia is not contaminated with exotic pests and diseases
- manufactured in a facility that has effective controls in place to prevent cross contamination, and
- manufactured in a facility that has had an onsite audit by the department (exceptions include facilities in the USA and Canada whereby only a desk audit is required).

When the stockfeed arrives in Australia it must be:

- inspected by the department (before discharge at the first point of entry if it is bulk-in-vessel) and again once it is unloaded.
- stored in an [approved arrangement](#) with a class 2.2 for bagged goods and a 2.3 for bulk-in-vessel or bulk-in-container to enable the department inspection. Once it has passed inspection is no longer under biosecurity control it can be dispatched from the approved arrangement site as needed. Approved arrangement facilities can be found on our website using the Approved Arrangement [search tool](#).

Check our advice on [importing plant-based animal feed](#) for the full requirements.

It is important to note that the import permit process, where an offshore audit of the manufacturer is required can take 4-6 months depending on the quality and timeliness of the information provided to the department. The applicant is also liable to cover the costs of the audit, see below for the estimated costs.

Commonly imported stockfeed and ingredients:

- Soybean meal
- Palm kernel expeller
- Copra meal
- Corn gluten meal
- Dried distiller's grains
- Sugar beet pulp
- Pea protein meals
- Wheat bran or millrun
- Canola meal
- Cottonseed meal
- Sunflower meal
- Compound feeds

Sources

Bulk stockfeed is commonly sourced from the USA, Canada, Malaysia, Indonesia, South America and the Pacific Islands (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji). The USA and Canada are considered low animal pathogen risk countries.

Thermal Processing

Imported stockfeed will require thermal processing as a risk control measure, to reduce the level of biosecurity risk to an acceptably low level.

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 with the offshore facility that the time and temperature requirements are met and able to be maintained.

Audit process

Audit and verification are a critical part of the department's biosecurity risk assessment process for imported stockfeed. Desk and site audits of offshore processing facilities may be required as part of a biosecurity risk assessment for import permit applications.

The manufacturing facility is audited against the criteria in the document ['Requirements for facilities manufacturing and exporting processed plant-based stockfeed and their ingredients to Australia'](#).

The audit process is fully funded by the importer. Desk audits are charged at a rate of \$39 per ¼ hour (in addition to standard application fees). Site audit costs range between \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Importing stockfeed resources:

- [Importing plant-based animal feed – DAFF](#) - Outlines all the requirements and process for applying to import stockfeed.
- [Plant-based animal feed and fertiliser forms - DAFF](#) – There are various documents linked on this page that are required to support permit applications.
- [Importing processed plant-based animal feed into Australia](#) – Infographic for importing plant-based animal feed into Australia.

- [Risk background – Stockfeed, stockfeed ingredients and stockfeed additives](#) – Published risk background for stockfeed.
- [‘Requirements for facilities manufacturing and exporting processed plant-based stockfeed and their ingredients to Australia’](#)
- [Conditions for operating approved arrangements - DAFF](#)
 - [Approved arrangement class 2.3](#) – Bulk stockfeed AA requirements

Need help?

Contact the department at Imports@aff.gov.au and use T2 – Plant-based Stockfeed in the email subject line.

Current as of 13 June 2025