



Australian Government
**Department of Immigration
and Border Protection**

Importing Aircraft

Entering Australia

Aircraft on international flights are required to enter Australia at an airport that is designated as an international airport, unless prior permission has been obtained to land at another airport.

Information on procedures for international flights at non-international airports is available on the [Aviation](#) page.

Reporting

Operators intending to land an aircraft in Australia must submit impending arrival reports, actual arrival reports, and other reports relating to cargo, passengers and crew on board.

International flights

Operation of an aircraft as part of an international flight to a place outside Australia is usually sufficient evidence to demonstrate there is no intention to import an aircraft when an aircraft enters Australia. As a general guide aircraft operating under the above circumstances are not required to be entered for home consumption.

Importation and entry

Aircraft that are imported or intended to be imported may arrive in Australia as cargo on board a ship or aircraft or under their own power. Those aircraft must be entered for home consumption or entered into a warehouse (an import declaration is required).

Import declarations

Early lodgement of import declarations reduces clearance times. Import declarations must be lodged for all aircraft imported or intended to be imported and any liabilities paid usually by no later than close of business the next working day after an aircraft enters Australia.

For more information see the [Import Declarations](#) Fact Sheet.

Determining entry requirements

The importation of an aircraft or the intention to import an aircraft depends upon an assessment of all the facts and circumstances for each case.

The approach taken by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the Department) is to determine if there is/was the requisite 'intention to import' on an objective basis by reference to the relevant facts and circumstances.

Aircraft might remain in Australia in a variety of circumstances of variable duration, for example to:

- Be repaired
- Undertake charter work
- Be sold or offered for sale
- Operate domestic flight services
- Undertake survey, fire fighting, agricultural or other aerial work
- Be displayed or exhibited
- Be tested and/or evaluated
- Engage in touring and recreational activities
- Engage in business activities
- Engage in the production of TV, film or other entertainment
- Engage in advertising or other promotional work
- Engage in personal or private activities
- Engage in the domestic economy in some way.

Examples

When an entry is required

- A helicopter arrives as cargo in Australia to be used in agricultural work.
- A new passenger jet arrives for the first time in Australia to be operated by an Australian airline.
- A small aircraft arrives in Australia to undergo engine overhaul and it is then exported.
- A small aircraft operated by a non-resident arrives in Australia to be offered for sale or to be sold.
- An Australian resident brings an aircraft to Australia to tour around Australia.
- A commercial passenger aircraft returns to Australia after being exported to be repaired.
- An overseas operator brings an aircraft to Australia to engage in charter work in Australia.
- An overseas operator brings an aircraft to Australia to engage in moving domestic passengers and/or cargo in Australia.

- An aircraft (that was entered previously or was built in Australia) leaves Australia to engage in work at a place outside Australia. Note: An export entry is required and on return an import entry is required.

When an entry is not required

- A private aircraft lands in Australia to refuel and then continue its journey to a place outside Australia
- A private aircraft lands in Australia to refuel and then continue its journey to a place outside Australia.
- An aircraft (that was entered previously or was built in Australia) leaves Australia to ferry passengers and/or equipment to a place outside Australia for mining work and then returns (an international flight). Note: No export entry or import entry is required.
- A passenger aircraft leaves Australia at the commencement of an international flight and returns to Australia while on an international flight.

Clearance from customs control

The Department may refuse to grant port clearance for aircraft where import requirements are not fully determined or when further information is required.

Before an Authority to Deal can be issued:

- Import declarations must be finalised
- All liabilities must be paid, and
- All requirements, including those of the Department of Agriculture – Biosecurity, must be met.

Deemed to be imported

Where there is reason to believe that an aircraft might have been imported, a notice may be issued deeming it to have been imported if the aircraft remains in Australia for 30 days after the notice is served.

Failure to make entries

If an aircraft is not entered in the time required, the aircraft remains under customs control and may only be accessed for maintenance purposes. The Department may direct where the aircraft is stored. If not entered within six months the Department may dispose of the aircraft.

Temporary importation

Aircraft may also be imported on a temporary basis in some situations where legislative requirements are met. Temporary importation may be allowed where the importer qualifies, or the aircraft qualifies and is imported for a prescribed purpose, and there is an intention to export the aircraft within a specified time.



Examples include where the:

- Owner is a tourist or temporary resident
- Aircraft is to be used in exploration
- Aircraft is for public exhibition or entertainment
- Aircraft is imported for testing or evaluation
- Temporary importation of an aircraft is allowed under an international convention to which Australia is a signatory

Temporary importation normally requires a security or undertaking, or procurement of a carnet. A variety of conditions may also apply.

For more information

For further information please visit our website at www.border.gov.au