



## INFORMATION SHEET

### Seizure of prohibited/restricted imports

The attached Seizure Notice relates to goods seized from you by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the Department). The Department has assessed that these goods are prohibited imports, which can only be imported if you have an *Import Permit*.

It is an offence against Australian law to import prohibited goods. For some goods, the penalty can be up to 10 years imprisonment. The Department can and does prosecute offenders.

#### PROHIBITED IMPORTS

The Australian Government controls the import of goods into Australia. The controls either take the form of:

- an absolute prohibition, which means that you are not allowed to import the goods in any circumstances, or
- a restriction, where you need to have written permission in order to import the goods.

Different types of goods require different Import Permits. These are granted by various government agencies and depending on the nature of the goods, you may be required to apply for permission from more than one government agency.

If you already have an Import Permit for the seized goods, please complete a *Claim for Return of Seized Goods* (Form B144) and provide a copy of the permit to the Department.

Further information regarding the eligibility of granting import permits and the issuing authority for granting such permits can be found on the *Prohibited and Restricted Imports* link on the Department's website at: [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au)

A copy of the Claim for return of seized goods (B144) and general information regarding the importation of prohibited goods can be found at:

- ▶ visit the Department's website at  
**[www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au)**

#### WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

##### DO NOTHING

The goods will be taken to be condemned as forfeited to the Crown and the Department will arrange for the disposal of the goods.

##### MAKE A CLAIM FOR THE RETURN OF SEIZED GOODS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 205B OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1901

Making a claim does not mean the goods will be automatically returned to you. If you do make a claim for the return of seized goods and you are unable to obtain an import permit, and have not withdrawn your claim, you should be aware that the Department will be statutorily obliged to commence legal proceedings in order to obtain an order for goods to be declared as special forfeited goods and condemned to the Crown. **This can be a costly process and the Department will seek to recover legal costs from you.**

If making a claim for the return of seized goods:

- A claim must be made to the appropriate person by completing the approved form (B144);
- The appropriate person to whom this claim should be made is: Comptroller-General of Customs for **goods other than narcotic-related goods**; or the Commissioner of Police/Deputy Commissioner of Police for **narcotic-related goods**.
- A claim must be made no later than 30 days after a Seizure Notice was served on you.

#### RETURN COMPLETED CLAIM FORMS

EMAIL [nationalclaims@border.gov.au](mailto:nationalclaims@border.gov.au)

OR

POST

National Claims Processing Section  
Department of Immigration and  
Border Protection  
Locked Bag 3000  
Sydney International Airport NSW 2020