



# SENDING YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS TO AUSTRALIA

You have imported your personal belongings into Australia if:

- you sent your personal belongings to Australia, or
- someone else sent your personal belongings to Australia at your request or unsolicited.

Imported personal belongings may arrive in Australia by air or sea cargo or by international mail (post).

Personal belongings are also known as unaccompanied personal effects (UPEs). UPEs may include clothing, books, furniture, appliances and sporting equipment.

UPEs are a special category of goods. If certain conditions are met, your UPEs may be cleared from Customs control without requiring you to lodge import declarations or pay duty, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or other taxes and charges.

## AVAILABLE CONCESSIONS

For your UPEs to qualify for the available concessions you must:

- be the owner of the goods and have personally owned and used the goods for at least 12 months before departing for Australia
- have arrived or intend to arrive in Australia, and
- be an arriving person who is a permanent resident returning to Australia or a first time migrant from a place outside Australia taking up permanent residency.

If you are not a permanent resident of Australia or are not arriving to take up permanent residency, you can still import some types of goods as your UPEs.

UPEs that have not been owned and used overseas for the required time (usually 12 months) will be assessed for duty and GST.

Duty, GST and/or Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) is payable if your UPEs include:

- wine, beer, spirits or other alcoholic beverages, and/or
- cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products.

For further information on importing alcohol and tobacco products refer to the [Importing Alcohol and Tobacco Products](#) fact sheet.

## ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE TREATED AS UPEs

The following items cannot be treated as UPEs and an import declaration or Self-assessed Clearance declaration is required to clear the goods from Customs control:

- cars, motorcycles or other vehicles
- parts for cars, motorcycles or other vehicles
- goods you intend to sell (commercial goods)
- goods you have purchased from overseas while you are in Australia (including internet purchases)
- goods which were bequeathed to you.

You may also have to pay duty, GST, Luxury Car Tax, WET and other taxes and charges. For further information refer to the [Import Declarations](#) and [Self-assessed Clearance declarations](#) fact sheets.

## THE UPE STATEMENT (FORM B534)

The [UPE Statement](#) (Form B534) is a legal declaration and must be completed by you, the owner of the goods.

All information you provide must be complete and correct and you must sign each page of the Form B534.

It is important to contact the shipping company, airline company or freight forwarder before attempting to gain Customs clearance for the goods. These companies will advise you on their requirements, including their operating hours and the location of the goods.

The Form B534 is available in a number of foreign languages from any Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) office in Australia or on the [ACBPS website](#). The Form B534 must be completed in English.

## LOGGING A UPE STATEMENT

A UPE Statement may be lodged at an ACBPS counter or electronically.

To lodge at an ACBPS counter you will be required to undergo an Evidence of Identity (EOI) check and will need to bring the following documents with you:

- a completed and signed Form B534
- a list of all the goods included in the UPEs such as a packing list, and
- a delivery order from the shipper, or other shipping documents, which identifies the owner and shows the address of the owner of the UPEs.

If you are unable to lodge the Form B534 yourself, you may arrange for a representative such as a friend or relative to lodge the Form B534 on your behalf. Your friend or relative will also need to provide a copy of their passport photo page which shows their signature.

To lodge electronically you have two options:

- You may use a Customs broker or other service provider to lodge your UPE Statement. Fees may be charged.
- Lodge a UPE Statement yourself by using the Integrated Cargo System (ICS). You need to hold a digital certificate to do this.

Further information on communicating electronically refer to the [How to Communicate with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service](#) fact sheet.

## EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY (EOI)

ACBPS requires EOI before completed UPE Statements will be processed. EOI is a verification process that

individuals and businesses are required to undertake to prove who they are.

For information on the documents required refer to the [Importing Goods Through Customs – Frequently asked questions](#).

## LOCATIONS OF ACBPS OFFICES

You may lodge a Form B534, at any of the ACBPS offices listed below:

- ACT:** Canberra
- NSW:** Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Newcastle, Wollongong, Eden, Richmond RAAF Base
- VIC:** Melbourne (Tullamarine Airport), Portland, Geelong
- SA:** Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie
- WA:** Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Christmas Island, Dampier, Esperance, Geraldton, Perth Airport, Port Headland
- QLD:** Brisbane, Bowen, Cairns, Gladstone, Thursday Island, Weipa, Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Mackay, Townsville
- TAS:** Hobart, Burnie, Launceston
- NT:** Gove, Darwin.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information on ACBPS matters:

- visit [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)
- email: [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au)
- contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263.

## PERSONAL BELONGINGS THAT CAN BE TREATED AS UPEs

Goods typically included but not limited to:	Permanent residency requirements apply	Number of months goods must be owned and used
Personal clothing and footwear, hygiene articles and personal grooming products but not fur apparel or perfume concentrates	Yes	No
Non-motorised caravans, trailers and boats designed for use in sheltered waters for sport or recreation which conform to published specifications	Yes	12 months
Aircraft of all types, not having more than one propulsion motor (other conditions apply)	Yes	6 months
Machinery, plant and equipment (other conditions apply)	Yes	12 months
Fur apparel, personal effects, furniture and household goods not covered above	No	12 months
Furniture, carpets and rugs, crockery, cutlery and kitchen appliances	No	12 months
Books, garden tools, lawn mowers, bicycles, vacuum cleaners, and a range of other personal or household items	No	12 months