



IMPORTING ASBESTOS INTO AUSTRALIA

The importation of asbestos or goods containing asbestos into Australia is generally prohibited under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (Customs PI Regulations).

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring and hazardous mineral fibre with carcinogenic properties. It is highly toxic and known to cause a range of lung diseases that are slow to develop but are in many cases deadly.

Asbestos has been used in a wide number of products due to several characteristics including its strength, durability, and resistance to fire and water.

There are six forms of asbestos: chrysotile (white), amosite (brown), crocidolite (blue), anthophyllite, actinolite and tremolite. Chrysotile is a form of serpentine asbestos. Amosite, crocidolite, anthophyllite, actinolite and tremolite are types of amphibole asbestos.

CAN ASBESTOS BE USED IN AUSTRALIA?

An Australia-wide ban on the importation, manufacture and use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing products took effect from 31 December 2003. To complement this ban, the import prohibition on asbestos under the Customs PI Regulations was also introduced.

WHEN CAN ASBESTOS BE IMPORTED?

Importing asbestos into Australia is allowed under very limited circumstances.

For chrysotile asbestos, importation is NOT prohibited under the Customs PI Regulations if:

- the goods are raw materials that contain naturally occurring traces of chrysotile; or
- the chrysotile or goods are 'hazardous waste' as defined in the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989; or
- confirmation is provided by an Australian State or Territory authority that its use is in accordance with the occupational

health and safety law in that State or Territory (for a purpose mentioned in Schedule 3B to the Customs PI Regulations, or for research, analysis or display); or

- exemptions are granted and confirmed in accordance with relevant Commonwealth of Australia law in respect to occupational health and safety, (for a purpose mentioned in Schedule 3B to the Customs PI Regulations, or for research, analysis or display); or
- the importation is from the Australian Antarctic Territory.

For amphibole asbestos, importation is NOT prohibited under the Customs PI Regulations if:

- the goods are raw materials that contain naturally occurring traces of amphibole;
- the goods are 'hazardous waste' as defined in the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989;
- ministerial permission is granted under Commonwealth of Australia occupational health and safety law.

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF GOODS THAT MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS?

Some of the more common goods that may contain asbestos include:

- friction materials (brake pads and clutch assemblies)
- lagging and jointing materials
- gaskets and seals
- electric winches
- fire gloves and fire blankets
- cement materials (pipes, tubes or fittings)
- electrical panel partitioning
- electrical tapes
- compressed sheeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION?

For information on any Customs matter, contact the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263 or email information@customs.gov.au or browse the website www.customs.gov.au

Asbestos Declaration

Importation of used or second hand motor vehicles into Australia

Importer Name	
Contact Phone / Email	
Vehicle Make / Model	
Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)	
Vessel Name / Voyage	
Consignment Identifier / Numerical Link (Bill of Lading/Container No.)	

Acknowledgement and Acceptance

I / we hereby acknowledge that the importation of asbestos or asbestos containing material (ACM) into Australia is prohibited pursuant to Regulation 4C of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* unless a permission or exemption has been granted or a lawful exception applies.

I / we acknowledge that the Australian Border Force (ABF) may hold the goods for examination and require testing and certification by a 'competent person' to ensure the asbestos content is nil.

I / we accept that, the arrangement and cost of any independent inspection, testing and storage of the goods in Australia is the responsibility of the importer/exporter in accordance with Section 186 of the *Customs Act 1901* (the Act).

Asbestos Free Declaration

I / we declare that, the above referenced vehicle, including any parts/accessories are free from asbestos.

Full Name of Declarant: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

Please note:

The Australian Border Force (Customs) currently express a zero tolerance policy in relation to imported motor vehicles and cycles regarding asbestos.

Importing motor vehicles and cycles that contain components, including gaskets, brake pads and clutch pads, that include asbestos is prohibited and is a serious offence and may be subject to penalties or prosecution; and may attract fines of up to \$180,000 or three times the value of the goods, whichever is the greater.

To Australian Border Force,

I have carried out investigations regarding the following vehicle I have brought to Australia.

Make & Mode of Vehicle	
Type of Vehicle	
Country of Origin	
Owned Vehicle Since (date)	

The distributor that deals in this type of vehicle at country of origin has been contacted and I have been advised that this type of vehicle does not contain any asbestos parts at manufacture.

Brakes

Brake Pads in the country of origin have not been allowed to contain asbestos since *(insert relevant year)*_____. From my research, any new brake pads fitted since do not contain asbestos.

Transmission *(Tick the relevant box)*

The vehicle is fitted with an automatic transmission so it has a torque converter not a clutch pad.

or

The vehicle is fitted with manual transmission. A new clutch plate / disc has not been fitted since manufacture.

or

From my research, any new clutch plate / disc fitted since does not contain asbestos.

Exhaust & Engine Gaskets

Exhaust and engine gaskets. I have been assured that vehicle's original exhaust system did not contain asbestos.

Having completed my due diligence I attach a copy of the Asbestos Declaration duly signed.

Full Name of Declarant: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____