



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Australian Customs Notice No. 2021/25

Commencement of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Waste Plastics) Rules 2021

With effect from 1 July 2021, Australia will regulate the exportation of waste plastic under the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (the Act) and the *Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export-Waste Plastics) Rules 2021* (the Plastic Rules). These measures will require exporters to hold a waste export licence and declare each export consignment of waste plastic to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE).

DAWE administers licences to export waste plastic, which may be valid for up to three years. Waste export licences will be subject to conditions. Exporters need to meet the requirements of the Act and the Plastic Rules in order for the Minister for the Environment to consider granting a waste export licence.

The Plastic Rules will commence in two phases. Phase one of the Plastic Rules will come into effect from 1 July 2021 and will only allow the export of waste plastics that have been sorted into single resin or polymer type, or processed with other materials into processed engineered fuel. Phase two will come into effect from 1 July 2022 and will only allow the export of waste plastics that have been sorted into single resin or polymer type and further processed, or processed with other materials, into processed engineered fuel.

The commencement of the Plastic Rules on 1 July 2021 (phase two begins on 1 July 2022) ensures that Australia will only export waste plastic that has been processed and meets certain requirements. The intent of the measure is to prevent the export of unprocessed waste plastic, which is likely to have a negative impact on human health and the environment in the receiving country. It will also maximise the ability of the Australian waste and recycling sector to collect, recover, recycle, reuse and convert waste plastic into new products.

Australia will introduce rules for tyres and paper in later stages. Exporters of these materials will need a licence to export by the required regulation date. Rules for tyres will come into effect on 1 December 2021; and paper and cardboard on 1 July 2024.

For further information on the new export regulation of waste products, please visit the [DAWE](https://www.dawe.gov.au) website or send your queries to exportwaste@awe.gov.au

[Signed]

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