



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Australian Customs Notice No. 2022/18

Arms, flags and seals amendments to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* and the *Customs Regulation 2015*.

On 5 April 2022 the *Customs Legislation Amendment (Flags) Regulations 2022* amended the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations) and the *Customs Regulation 2015* for the importation of goods bearing the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory (or a representation likely to deceive). The amendments streamline the importation process for goods bearing the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory and reduce regulatory burden for importers.

Changes to import requirements are:

The importation process for goods bearing the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory (or a representation likely to deceive) is being aligned to the importation process for goods that bear the Arms, flag or seal of the Commonwealth. This means importers only need to present the Australian Border Force (ABF) with design approval from the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Chief Ministers Department of the relevant state or territory. This design approval serves as import permission under the Regulations, replacing the former requirement for an additional import permit from the ABF.

Goods bearing the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory will remain subject to the post importation permission scheme through an amendment to the *Customs Regulation 2015*.

Strict procedures remain in place to ensure that only those with a lawful need to import of goods bearing the Arms, a flag or a seal of a State or Territory (or a representation likely to deceive) are able to do so provided they meet certain conditions and requirements. The penalties for importing these prohibited goods without a permit can include a fine of up to 1,000 penalty units (currently \$222,000), or up to three times the value of the goods, whichever is greater.

For further information regarding these changes, please consult the legislation directly, including the explanatory statement (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2022L00512>).

For more information on importing prohibited goods to Australia, please see: <https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/prohibited-goods/list-of-items>

[Signed]

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