



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Australian Customs Notice No. 2026/03

Violent Extremist Material & Prohibited Symbols and Commercial Quantities of Objectionable Goods

The *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Firearms and Customs Laws) Act 2026* introduced changes to the objectionable goods provisions of the customs legislation. These changes take effect from 22 January 2026.

Violent extremist material and prohibited symbols

'Violent extremist material', 'prohibited symbols' or goods that contain these things are now objectionable goods under regulation 4A of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (Prohibited Imports Regulations) and regulation 3 of the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* (Prohibited Exports Regulations).

- 'Violent extremist material' has the same meaning as section 474.45A of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Criminal Code)
- 'Prohibited symbols' has the same meaning as section 80.2E of the Criminal Code

These regulations apply to physical things, for example, a flag, computer, mobile phone or other electronic device that holds these things.

The prohibition does not apply if the import or export is for the purpose of engaging in certain conduct:

- a religious, academic, educational, artistic, literary or scientific purpose (subparagraph 80.2H(9)(a)(i) of the Criminal Code); or
- the purposes of making a news report, or a current affairs report, that is made by a person working in a professional journalistic capacity (subparagraph 80.2H(9)(b)(ii) of the Criminal Code); or
- a range of purposes related to criminal justice and law enforcement such as for the purposes of proceedings in a court or tribunal, for monitoring compliance and for the investigation and enforcement of a law (paragraph 80.2H(10)(a) to (c) of the Criminal Code); or
- the performance of public duties or functions where the conduct is reasonable in the circumstances (paragraph 80.2H(10)(d) to (e) of the Criminal Code).

As a result of these amendments, Australian Border Force officers now have the authority to seize these objectionable goods as prohibited goods and take appropriate enforcement action.

Commercial quantities of objectionable goods

The Act also amended subclause 1(2) of Schedule 7 of the *Customs Regulation 2015* to repeal the definition of 'commercial quantity of objectionable goods'. The threshold previously was 25 or more. Advancements in technology and information storage have rendered the commercial quantity threshold obsolete, as modern storage devices are capable of storing large volumes of objectionable material on a single device.

The more severe penalty that was only available for breaching customs law where the commercial threshold was met, may now apply to the unlawful import or export of any quantity of objectionable goods.

Legislation references

Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Customs and Firearms Laws) Act 2026

Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956

Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958

Customs Regulation 2015

Criminal Code Act 1995

Information is available on the [Australian Border Force website](#) prohibited goods page. Please search for objectionable goods.

[Signed]

Melissa Catania
Assistant Secretary
Customs and Trade Frameworks Branch

21 January 2026