

CAN YOU BRING BETEL NUT INTO AUSTRALIA?

A guide for PALM scheme workers

You can bring up to 10kg of betel nut into Australia for your personal use. If you are in Australia for an extended time, your family can send up to 10kg of betel nut to you in the mail. However, it is illegal to sell betel nut.



Selling betel nut in Australia is illegal and may result in fines or imprisonment.

Betel nut use in Australia

Workers in the PALM scheme can use, share, and chew betel nut in Australia but you cannot sell it.

Your employer may not allow you to use betel nut while you work. This is because betel nut may impact your ability to safely do your job. You may use it outside of work hours.

Spitting when chewing betel nut may cause damage to work grounds or residential property. You should use a container to spit into to reduce damage. When using a container, we recommend disposing of it in a bin after use, or washing it well before reusing.

Your friends and family can send you betel nut in the mail while you are in Australia as long as it is less than 10kg, in clear packaging and includes a phytosanitary certificate. More details about these rules are available on the next page.

Pacific restrictions

Some Pacific island governments and airlines, including Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, have their own restrictions on betel nut use and taking it out of the country.

Check with your Labour Sending Unit to find out what the rules are in your country.

Health impacts

It is important to know the impact of betel nut on your health. Short and long-term health issues that betel nut can cause include:

- increased heart rate, blood pressure, sweating and body temperature
- discoloured teeth and gums
- mouth ulcers and gum disease
- oral cancers (mostly of the lip, mouth, and tongue).

If you bring betel nut with you when coming to Australia, you must:



1. Get a phytosanitary certificate from your government before you travel

- It must include any information and declarations required by the biosecurity import conditions. These conditions can be found by following the instructions in the 'More information' section below.



2. Carry no more than 10kg (per person)

- Make sure it is in clear packaging.
- If you have more than 10kg, it will be taken to be inspected outside of the airport. You will be charged a fee for this, and it may be days or weeks before the betel nut is returned to you.



3. Correctly fill in your incoming passenger card and include:

- That you have betel nut with you, whether it is in your carry-on luggage or your checked bags.
- Any other plant materials (like lime and korokua) that you have with you.
- Be sure to answer any questions asked of you by customs or biosecurity officers honestly and correctly.



4. On arrival in Australia

- You must present your betel nut, with the phytosanitary certificate and your incoming passenger card to biosecurity officers.
- Your betel nut may be inspected by a biosecurity officer.
- If your betel nut is within the weight limit, properly documented, and free of pests, it will be returned to you.

More information

If you have any questions about bringing or using betel nut while in Australia, you can find more information at these locations:

- Australian Government Biosecurity Betel Nut Conditions, BICON: www.bit.ly/import-conditions-betelnut
- Sending country Labour Sending Unit: www.palmscheme.gov.au/countries
- Country liaison officers or labour attaché in Australia: www.palmscheme.gov.au/contact

BICON

