

Don't get caught out – make sure you have the right permit

Further information



Australian Government
Department of the Environment
and Water Resources



PERSONAL USE

Before shipping Hoodia to Australia, a **CITES import permit** (issued in Australia only by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources) together with a matching **CITES export permit** (issued by the CITES Management Authority in the country of export, or re-export) must be obtained.

Permits for commercial and personal use are issued on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the quantity being imported.

It is important to remember that the **CITES import permit** must be issued by the Department prior to the shipment of the goods to Australia, otherwise they will be seized by the Australian Customs Service (acting on behalf of the Department).

Don't forget that all wildlife products **must** be declared upon entry into Australia in accordance with Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service requirements.

For further information on Australia's wildlife trade laws:

Visit www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use

Email wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au

Telephone (02) 6274 1900

Please note: There may be additional import requirements that should be complied with before importation, (for example, those administered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service).

Useful web sites

Import application forms (commercial and personal use) are available on the Department's web site at:

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/permits/forms/index.html

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Application forms and guidelines for approval of a commercial import program are also available from the Department's web site at:

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/sources/forms/pubs/commercial-import-application.pdf

Get the facts on Hoodia

And weight loss products derived from Hoodia



Hoodia – the facts

FACT 1: The Hoodia plant is native to the Kalahari Desert region of southern Africa.

FACT 2: Hoodia is claimed to have natural appetite suppressing qualities and is widely promoted as a weight loss product.

FACT 3: Trade in Hoodia, including its use in appetite suppressants, is threatening the plant's survival in the wild.

FACT 4: To ensure Hoodia's long-term survival, the plant is listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

FACT 5: Australia is a party to CITES and regulates imports and exports of CITES-listed species through a permit system.

FACT 6: To meet the objectives of the Convention, the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources works with the Australian Customs Service. Regulating trade of products containing CITES-listed species into and out of Australia is done under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

FACT 7: While CITES-listed wildlife products can be brought into Australia for either **commercial** or **personal use**, special conditions apply (see *Don't get caught out – make sure you have the right permit*).



Hoodia plant (*Hoodia gordonii*), South Africa. Image: © Nico Laubscher

Buying Hoodia online? Don't get caught out – make sure you have the right permit

Weight loss products derived from the Hoodia plant are often promoted and sold over the internet and other media outlets.

By purchasing Hoodia overseas and bringing it into Australia without a valid *CITES import permit*, consumers are unwittingly breaching our wildlife trade laws.

Unfortunately, many Australians have purchased Hoodia products online or by mail-order from overseas vendors, only to have their goods seized and destroyed by the Australian Customs Service.

Hoodia is found in a range of readily available overseas weight loss products.

The products featured in this brochure are examples of the kind of weight loss supplements containing Hoodia which require appropriate commercial or personal use CITES permits before they can be imported into Australia. The products shown in this brochure were seized by the Australian Customs Service because they were imported without the appropriate permits.

The Department of the Environment and Water Resources is informing Australian consumers and businesses of the EPBC Act requirements they must meet before they can legally import Hoodia into Australia.

The EPBC Act requirements are as follows:

COMMERCIAL

Before bringing the Hoodia products into Australia, a *CITES commercial import permit* (issued in Australia only by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources) together with a matching *CITES commercial export permit* (issued by the CITES Management Authority in the country of export or re-export) must be obtained.

Note: A *CITES commercial import permit* will only be issued if the goods have been sourced:

- from artificially propagated Hoodia plants or
- under an approved commercial import program (CIP).

