Targeted Communication
Managing pre-border biosecurity risk (e-commerce) in Australia

Dr Kim Ritman – Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer
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The department has contacted known and potential online suppliers of high risk material to Australia including:

- plants, plant material, seeds, weeds
- brine shrimp eggs, insects, ant farms, giant African snails, aqua dragons, terrariums
- pet care products - flea collars, worm tablets
- animal excrement.
Communicating with overseas suppliers

Suppliers identified via:

• international mail pathway
• internet research
• referrals - public and other, particularly relating to eBay.

Over 200 entities identified

Email addresses, online contact forms and postal addresses were used.
Communicating with overseas suppliers

Import requirements for plant and seeds provided to suppliers
Working with eBay

Plants and seeds policy

Policy overview
Australia has strict controls on the importation and domestic movement of live plants and seeds with which eBay sellers must comply. Live plants and seeds from overseas or other states and territories could introduce serious pests and diseases into Australia or into areas within Australia that are free from these pests and diseases, devastating its valuable agricultural and tourism industries and unique environment.

The guidelines below apply to items sold on eBay.com.au. Our international websites may have different rules so if you offer to post internationally, make sure you check each country’s policy on plants and seeds to see what’s allowed. You also need to check the requirements for exporting plants and plant products from Australia and whether your item is allowed under import regulations in the location to which you’re posting.

Make sure your listings and selling practices follow these guidelines. If they don’t, your listings may be removed, and you may be subject to a range of actions, including limits of your buying and selling privileges and suspension of your account.

What are the guidelines?
- Importing plants and seeds (selling to Australia)
- Domestic sales of plants and seeds (within Australia)

Additional information
Live plants and seeds detected by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Contact us
Need help? Contact us

Ask eBay members
Get help from other eBay members. Visit the Answer Centre to post a question.

Related Help topics
- Drugs and drug paraphernalia policy
- Prohibited and restricted items overview

Browse help
- Searching & research
- Bidding & buying
- Selling & seller fees
- Payment & postage
- Feedback
- Membership & account
  - Getting started on eBay
  - Registration & signing in
  - Managing your account
  - Sharing with eBay members
  - Protecting your account
- Rules & policies

eBay glossary
- eBay acronyms
- A-Z index
Australian Biosecurity Award (ABA)
Communicating with online shoppers

Use of social media to raise awareness of online sales of high risk material

Australian Biosecurity
3 January

Terrible Terrarium risk picked up in Sydney.
At Sydney Gateway Facility, our biosecurity officers have intercepted more than 10 self-sustaining terrariums since October.
These terrariums are purchased online and have a variety of components that, when put together, create an environment that allow brine shrimp to hatch after a few days.
While they sound like an interesting gift, the packages contain live moss balls, fertilizer, food, sand, shrimp eggs and wood – some of which pose a significant biosecurity risk.
Brine shrimp eggs are also known to carry a range of fungal and bacterial diseases that are exotic to Australia.
The non-organic parts of the terrarium are not a biosecurity risk, so they were able to be released to the clients, but all other parts had to be destroyed.
Remember to check the biosecurity requirements before you shop online to ensure your items are allowed into Australia and do not pose a biosecurity risk. This will save you both time and money, as well as safeguard our valuable agriculture industries and unique environment from biosecurity pests and diseases.
For more information on what can and can’t be mailed to Australia visit http://www.agriculture.gov.au/.../bringing-mailing-g.../internet
For more information contact:

international.mail@agriculture.gov.au