Imported Food Control Act 1992
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About this compilation

This compilation

This is a compilation of the Imported Food Control Act 1992 that shows the text of the law as amended and in force on 21 October 2016 (the compilation date).

The notes at the end of this compilation (the endnotes) include information about amending laws and the amendment history of provisions of the compiled law.

Uncommenced amendments

The effect of uncommenced amendments is not shown in the text of the compiled law. Any uncommenced amendments affecting the law are accessible on the Legislation Register (www.legislation.gov.au). The details of amendments made up to, but not commenced at, the compilation date are underlined in the endnotes. For more information on any uncommenced amendments, see the series page on the Legislation Register for the compiled law.

Application, saving and transitional provisions for provisions and amendments

If the operation of a provision or amendment of the compiled law is affected by an application, saving or transitional provision that is not included in this compilation, details are included in the endnotes.

Editorial changes

For more information about any editorial changes made in this compilation, see the endnotes.

Modifications

If the compiled law is modified by another law, the compiled law operates as modified but the modification does not amend the text of the law. Accordingly, this compilation does not show the text of the compiled law as modified. For more information on any modifications, see the series page on the Legislation Register for the compiled law.

Self-repealing provisions

If a provision of the compiled law has been repealed in accordance with a provision of the law, details are included in the endnotes.
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An Act to provide for the inspection and control of food imported into Australia, and for related purposes

Part 1—Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Imported Food Control Act 1992.

2 Commencement

(1) Subject to subsection (2), the provisions of this Act commence on a day or days to be fixed by Proclamation.

(2) If a provision of this Act does not commence within 6 months beginning on the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent, it commences on the first day after the end of that period.

2A Object of Act

The object of this Act is to provide for the compliance of food imported into Australia with Australian food standards and the requirements of public health and safety.

3 Interpretation

(1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

- **applicable standard**, in relation to particular food, or a particular matter affecting food, at a particular time, means the national standard in force in relation to that food or matter at that time.

- **Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code** has the same meaning as in the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991.

- **authorised officer** means:
(a) the Secretary; or
(b) an APS employee in the Department appointed by the Secretary under subsection 40(1); or
(c) when used in a provision of this Act other than section 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 32—a person appointed by the Secretary under subsection 40(2).

*compliance agreement* means a compliance agreement entered into under section 35A.

*Customs Act* means the *Customs Act 1901*.

*customs control*, in relation to food, means customs control under the Customs Act.

dead with, in relation to food, includes:
(a) moving, altering or interfering with in any physical manner whatsoever; and
(b) entering into a transaction whereby the ownership of the food, or of any beneficial interest in the food, passes from one person to another.

*examinable food* means:
(a) food of a kind that is the subject of an order made for the purposes of paragraph 16(2)(a); or
(b) food of a kind that is the subject of a holding order; or
(c) particular food that, despite the fact that it is not food of a kind that is the subject of an order made for the purposes of paragraph 16(2)(a) or of a holding order, is nevertheless required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under the Food Inspection Scheme; or
(d) particular food, other than food of a kind referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) or food referred to in paragraph (c):
   (i) that an authorised officer has reasonable grounds to believe may be failing food; and
   (ii) in respect of which the officer has notified that belief to an owner.
failing food means examinable food, that:
  (a) as a result of an inspection, or inspection and analysis, under the Food Inspection Scheme, is found to be:
      (i) food that does not meet the applicable standards for that food; or
      (ii) food that poses a risk to human health; or
  (b) is taken, under the provisions of the Scheme, to be such food.

food includes:
  (a) any substance or thing of a kind used or capable of being used as food or drink by human beings; or
  (b) any substance or thing of a kind used or capable of being used as an ingredient or additive in, or substance used in the preparation of, a substance or thing referred to in paragraph (a); or
  (c) any other substance or thing that is prescribed;
whether or not it is in a condition fit for human consumption, but does not include a therapeutic good within the meaning of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

food control certificate means a certificate issued under section 12.

Food Inspection Scheme means the inspection scheme established by regulations made under section 16.

holding order means an order made by the Secretary under section 15.

Immigration and Border Protection Department means the Department administered by the Minister administering Part XII of the Customs Act.

imported as a trade sample, in relation to food, has the meaning given by subsection 7(3).

imported food inspection advice means an advice issued under section 14.

inspection includes the taking of samples.
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_label means any tag, brand, mark or written statement, any representation or design, or any descriptive matter, attached to, used in connection with, or accompanying, any food or package containing food.

_national standard_, in relation to a particular food or a particular matter affecting food, means a standard relating to that food or matter that is included in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

_owner, in relation to food, includes any person (other than an officer of Customs or an authorised officer) being or holding himself or herself out to be the owner, importer, consignee, agent or person having control of, a beneficial interest in, or the power of disposition over, the food.

_package includes any container or wrapper in or by which food is wholly or partly encased, covered, enclosed, contained or packaged and, in respect of food that is in more than one package, includes each such package.

_prohibited food_ means food the importation of which is prohibited under the Customs Act.

_recognised foreign government certificate_ means a certificate covered by a determination in force under subsection 18(1).

_recognised quality assurance certificate_ means a certificate covered by a determination in force under subsection 19(2).

_Secretary_ means the Secretary of the Department.

_State_ includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

_this Act_ includes regulations and orders made under this Act.

_treatment_, in relation to food, includes repackaging or relabelling.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, food poses a risk to human health if:

(a) it contains:
(i) pathogenic micro-organisms or their toxins; or
(ii) micro-organisms indicating poor handling; or
(iii) non-approved chemicals or chemical residues; or
(iv) approved chemicals, or chemical residues, at greater levels than permitted; or
(v) non-approved additives; or
(vi) approved additives at greater levels than permitted; or
(vii) any other contaminant or constituent that may be dangerous to human health; or

(b) it has been manufactured or transported under conditions which render it dangerous or unfit for human consumption.

(3) In subsection (2):

(a) a reference to approved chemicals, approved chemical residues or approved additives is a reference to chemicals, chemical residues or additives approved in a standard:

(i) made under the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991 after the commencement of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority Amendment Act 2001; or

(ia) adopted by the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council under Australia New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991 before the commencement of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority Amendment Act 2001; or

(ii) included in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code; and

(b) a reference to permitted levels in relation to such approved standards, approved chemical residues, or approved additives is a reference to levels of those chemicals, chemical residues or additives permitted in such a standard; and

(c) a reference to non-approved chemicals, non-approved chemical residues or non-approved additives is a reference to chemicals, chemical residues or additives that are not approved in such a standard.
4 Application of Act to certain external Territories

(1) This Act does not extend to the Territory of Christmas Island unless regulations made for the purposes of this subsection provide that the Act is to extend to that Territory.

(2) This Act does not extend to the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands unless regulations made for the purposes of this subsection provide that the Act is to extend to that Territory.

(3) This Act does not extend to Norfolk Island unless regulations made for the purposes of this subsection provide that the Act is to extend to that Territory.

5 Crown to be bound

(1) This Act binds the Crown in all its capacities.

(2) Nothing in this Act renders the Crown liable to be prosecuted.

6 Saving of other laws

This Act is to be construed as being in addition to, and not in derogation of or in substitution for:

(a) the Biosecurity Act 2015; or

(b) any other law of the Commonwealth, or any law of a State, whether passed or made before or after the commencement of this Act, that can operate concurrently with this Act; or

(c) any law of an external Territory to which this Act extends because of regulations made for the purpose of section 4, whether passed or made before or after the making of those regulations, that can operate concurrently with this Act.

6A Application of the Criminal Code

Chapter 2 (other than Part 2.5) of the Criminal Code applies to all offences against this Act.

Note: Chapter 2 of the Criminal Code sets out the general principles of criminal responsibility.
7 Food to which Act applies

(1) This Act applies to all food imported into Australia other than:
   (aa) food that is imported from New Zealand and is of a kind that is specified by the regulations to be food to which this Act does not apply; or
   (a) prohibited food; or
   (b) food that is imported for private consumption; or
   (c) food that is ship’s stores or aircraft’s stores, within the meaning of section 130C of the Customs Act; or
   (d) food that is imported as a trade sample.

(2) Food of a particular kind is taken to have been imported for private consumption if it has not been imported as a trade sample and:
   (a) as to food that is in liquid form—if it has a volume of less than 10 litres or such lesser volume (if any) as is prescribed in the regulations in respect of food of that kind; or
   (b) as to food that is not in liquid form—if it has a weight of less than 10 kilograms or such lesser weight (if any) as is prescribed in the regulations in respect of food of that kind.

(3) Food of a particular kind is imported as a trade sample if:
   (a) the food is imported for the purposes of scientific or commercial evaluation; and
   (b) the food is not imported for consumption by any person; and
   (c) the food is:
      (i) in liquid form and has a volume of less than 20 litres or such lesser volume (if any) as is prescribed by the regulations in respect of food of that kind; or
      (ii) not in liquid form and has a weight of 20 kilograms or such lesser weight (if any) as is prescribed by the regulations in respect of food of that kind.
Part 2—Control

Division 1—Controls on the importation and movement of food

8 Importation offence

(1) A person must not import into Australia food to which this Act applies that the person knows:
   (a) does not meet applicable standards; or
   (b) poses a risk to human health.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

(1A) Paragraph (1)(a) does not apply to applicable standards relating to information on labels for packages containing food.

(2) For the purposes of establishing a contravention of subsection (1), if, having regard to:
   (a) a person’s abilities, experience, qualifications and other attributes; and
   (b) all the circumstances surrounding the alleged contravention of that subsection;
the person ought reasonably to have known that the food did not meet applicable standards or posed a risk to human health, the person is taken to have known that the food did not meet those standards or posed that risk.

8A Labelling offence

(1) A person may only deal with food imported into Australia if the food meets applicable standards relating to information on labels for packages containing food.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.
(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a dealing with food for the purpose of altering or replacing the label on the package containing the food in order to meet applicable standards referred to in that subsection.

Note: A defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in this subsection. See subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code.

9 Offences relating to dealing with examinable food

(1) A person (other than an officer of Customs, or an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties) may only deal in a particular manner with examinable food that the person knows:

(a) has been imported into Australia; and
(b) is food in respect of which a food control certificate has not been issued;

if either of the following applies:

(c) the person has obtained the approval of an authorised officer to deal with the food in that manner;
(d) the person is dealing with the food in that manner in accordance with a compliance agreement.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

(1A) A person (other than an officer of Customs, or an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties) may only deal in a particular manner with examinable food that the person knows:

(a) has been imported into Australia; and
(b) is food in respect of which a food control certificate has been issued; and

(c) is food for which an imported food inspection advice has not been issued;

if either of the following applies:

(d) the person has obtained the approval of an authorised officer to deal with the food in that manner;
(e) the person is dealing with the food in that manner in accordance with a compliance agreement.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.
Part 2 Control
Division 1 Controls on the importation and movement of food

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(1B) Subsection (1A) does not apply to a dealing with food for the purpose of altering or replacing the label on the package containing the food in order to meet applicable standards relating to information on labels for packages containing food.

Note: A defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to a matter in this subsection. See subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code.

(2) A person (other than an officer of Customs, or an authorised officer, acting in the course of his or her duties) must not deal in any manner with examinable food that the person knows:
   (a) has been imported into Australia; and
   (b) is food in respect of which a food control certificate has been issued; and
   (c) has been identified in an imported food inspection advice as failing food;

unless the owner of the food:
   (d) obtains the approval of an authorised officer to deal with the food in that manner; or
   (e) is permitted or required, in accordance with the advice, to deal with the food in that manner.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

(3) For the purposes of establishing a contravention of subsection (1), (1A) or (2), if, having regard to:
   (a) a person’s abilities, experience, qualifications and other attributes; and
   (b) all the circumstances surrounding the alleged contravention of that subsection;

the person ought reasonably to have known of the matters referred to in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b), (1A)(a), (b) and (c) or (2)(a), (b) and (c), as the case requires, the person is taken to have known of those matters.
10 Certain provisions of the Customs Act may be expressed to be subject to this Act

(1) If:
   (a) a person applies under section 69 of the Customs Act for permission to deliver like customable goods within the meaning of that section into home consumption without entering them for home consumption; and
   (b) an officer of Customs reasonably believes that the like customable goods are, or include, food;

   a permission granted under that section in respect of that food may be expressed, under subsection (4) of that section, to be subject to the condition that a food control certificate in respect of the food is presented to the person having possession of the food.

(2) If:
   (a) a person applies under section 70 of the Customs Act for permission to deliver special clearance goods within the meaning of that section into home consumption without entering them for home consumption; and
   (b) an officer of Customs reasonably believes that the special clearance goods are, or include, food;

   a permission granted under that section in respect of the goods may be expressed, under subsection (5) of that section, to be subject to the condition that a food control certificate in respect of the food is presented to the person having possession of the food.

(3) If:
   (a) a person enters goods for home consumption or warehousing under section 71A of the Customs Act; and
   (b) an officer of Customs reasonably believes, on the basis of information supplied by authorised officers in respect of the Food Inspection Scheme and information supplied by the owner in respect of those particular goods, that the goods may be, or may include, examinable food;

   an authority to deal with the food under section 71B of that Act by delivering it into home consumption, or into the warehouse.
specified in the entry, as the case requires, may be expressed, under subsection (6) of that section, to be subject to the condition that a food control certificate in respect of the food is presented to the person having possession of the food.

(4) The granting under the Customs Act of a permission referred to in subsection (1) or (2), or the issue under that Act of an authority referred to in subsection (3), is not to be taken to affect any person’s obligations under this Act in any way.

11 Application for food control certificate

(1) An application for a food control certificate must:
(a) be made in a manner prescribed by the regulations; and
(b) be made by an owner of the food to which the application relates; and
(c) be given or communicated to an authorised officer; and
(d) contain such information as the regulations provide.

(2) The regulations may provide that an entry of goods under section 71A or 71DH of the Customs Act for home consumption or warehousing that is communicated to the Immigration and Border Protection Department by computer is to be taken, to the extent that that entry relates to examinable food, to be an application for a food control certificate for the purposes of subsection (1).

(3) If the regulations make provision in accordance with subsection (2) in relation to a computer entry under the Customs Act, the application so made is taken to have been communicated to an authorised officer at the time when it is taken to have been communicated to the Immigration and Border Protection Department under the Customs Act.

12 Issue of food control certificate

Subject to subsections 20(13) and 36(8), if an application for a food control certificate is made under section 11, an authorised officer must, as soon as practicable after deciding whether or not the
examinable food to which the application relates is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under the Food Inspection Scheme, give the applicant a food control certificate for presentation to the person having possession of the food.

13 Form of food control certificate

(1) A food control certificate must be in a form approved, in writing, by the Secretary for the purposes of this section.

(2) The Secretary may approve more than one form of food control certificate.

(3) Without limiting subsection (1), a food control certificate must:

(a) if the examinable food to which the certificate relates is not required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under the Food Inspection Scheme—state that the food is not required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under the Scheme; or

(b) if the food is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under that Scheme:

(i) state that the food is required to be so inspected or so inspected and analysed; and

(ii) require the food to be dealt with in a specified manner, or as directed by an authorised officer, pending that inspection, or inspection and analysis.

(4) If:

(a) a food control certificate is issued in respect of food; and

(b) the food to which the certificate relates will not, on presentation to the person having possession of the food, cease to be under customs control;

then:

(c) an authorised officer must give a copy of the certificate to an officer of Customs having responsibility under section 71E of the Customs Act for the movement of goods under customs control; and

(d) the officer of Customs must authorise the food to be dealt with as if an application had been made under that section by the
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owner of the food in the terms of the requirement contained in the certificate.

(5) The fact that particular food is described in a food control certificate as not required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under the Food Inspection Scheme does not imply that an authorised officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the food may be failing food may not inspect, or inspect and analyse, that food under the Scheme.

14 Imported food inspection advice

(1) After food that is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, has been so inspected, or inspected and analysed, an authorised officer must issue a written advice:

(a) to the owner of the food; and
(b) if the food is under customs control—to the person having possession of the food at the time;

stating:

(c) whether the whole or a part of the food dealt with in the advice is identified as failing food; and
(d) in respect of food that is so identified—how the food is to be dealt with.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), an advice issued under this section may indicate that food identified as failing food:

(a) must be destroyed in accordance with the requirements of section 20; or
(b) must either be destroyed or re-exported from Australia in accordance with the requirements of that section; or
(c) must, if not treated by the owner in accordance with the requirements of that section:

(i) be destroyed; or
(ii) be destroyed or re-exported from Australia; in accordance with the requirements of that section.
(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), the owner of food identified in an advice under subsection (1) as failing food may, in the circumstances specified in the Food Inspection Scheme, apply, in writing, to an authorised officer for the issue of a further imported food inspection advice in respect of a part of that food.

(4) Neither:
   (a) the fact that food identified as failing food under an imported food inspection advice may be the subject of an application for a further such advice; nor
   (b) the making of an application for a further such advice in respect of the food;
causes the food to cease to be failing food on the basis of the original advice but, if the original advice indicates that the food must be treated, destroyed or re-exported, the food is not required to be so treated, destroyed or re-exported unless:
   (c) the circumstances permitting the application for the further advice cease to exist; or
   (d) an application is made and rejected.

(5) If the owner of food identified in an advice as failing food makes an application for the issue of a further imported food inspection advice in respect of a part of the food, the person must, if the food to which the application relates is under customs control, inform the person having possession of the food that he or she had made that application.

(6) If an application is made under subsection (3), an authorised officer must:
   (a) if he or she is not satisfied that the application is made in accordance with the requirements of the Food Inspection Scheme—reject the application and give notice to the applicant of that rejection and of the reasons for the rejection; and
   (b) in any other case—consider the application and issue to the applicant a further imported food inspection advice in respect of the food the subject of the application.
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Division 1  Controls on the importation and movement of food

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(7) If, under subsection (6), an authorised officer is required to inform an applicant either of the rejection of an application or to issue to the applicant a further imported food inspection advice in respect of food that is under customs control, the authorised officer must inform the person having possession of the food of the rejection of the application or of the particulars of the further advice, as the case requires.

(8) If a further advice is issued in respect of the food the subject of an application, this Act has effect as if:
   (a) that further advice were substituted for the initial advice issued in respect of that food under subsection (1); and
   (b) subsection (3) were not included.

(9) A failure by an authorised officer to comply with the requirements of subsection (7) in relation to an application for a further imported food inspection advice does not invalidate the rejection of that application or the issue of that further advice, as the case requires.

15 Holding orders for certain food

(1) If:
   (a) an inspection, or inspection and analysis, of examinable food of a particular kind indicates the food, or a part of the food, to be failing food; or
   (b) the Secretary is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that food of a particular kind would, on inspection, or inspection and analysis, be so identified;

the Secretary may, by writing, make a holding order:
   (c) stating that, until the revocation of the order, food of that kind that is imported into Australia after the making of the order must be held in a place to be approved by an authorised officer, until an inspection, or inspection and analysis, required under the Food Inspection Scheme, has been completed; and
   (d) specifying the circumstances in which the order will be revoked.
(2) If the Secretary is satisfied, in respect of a holding order, that the circumstances specified for its revocation have occurred, the Secretary must, by writing, immediately revoke the holding order.
Division 2—The Food Inspection Scheme

16 Food Inspection Scheme

(1) The regulations may set out particulars of a food inspection scheme (Scheme) applicable to all food to which this Act applies.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the regulations setting out particulars of the Scheme may:

(a) empower the Minister, subject to section 17, to make orders identifying food of particular kinds as food of a kind that is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under the Scheme; and

(b) specify the manner and incidence of inspection, or inspection and analysis, attaching to various kinds of food identified by the Minister in orders made for the purposes of paragraph (a); and

(c) specify the manner and incidence of the inspection, or inspection and analysis, of food of a kind that is subject to a holding order; and

(d) specify the manner and incidence of the inspection, or inspection and analysis, of particular food, other than food of a kind that is identified by the Minister in an order made under paragraph (a) or that is subject to a holding order, that is imported into Australia; and

(e) set out the circumstances in which authorised officers may exercise powers to inspect, or inspect and analyse, particular food that is not:

(i) food of a kind that is identified by the Minister in an order under paragraph (a) or that is subject to a holding order; or

(ii) food that is required to be inspected in accordance with regulations made for the purposes of paragraph (d); and

(f) specify powers of authorised officers to inspect, or inspect and analyse, food required or permitted to be inspected, or inspected and analysed, under this Scheme; and
(g) specify circumstances in which food is to be taken to be failing food because of its relationship to food that is found to be failing food; and

(h) set out the circumstances in which food, other than food that is the subject of a holding order, is to be held pending the outcome of an inspection, or inspection and analysis; and

(i) permit variation in the incidence of inspection, or inspection and analysis, of food if:
   (i) a recognised foreign government certificate or a recognised quality assurance certificate covering the food is given to an authorised officer and the officer has no reason to doubt the authenticity or reliability of the certificate; or
   (ii) a compliance agreement applies in respect of the food; and

(j) set out the circumstances in which, and procedures by which, the reliability of certificates referred to in paragraph (i) will be tested.

(3) Without limiting the factors that may affect the incidence of inspection, or inspection and analysis, of food, the regulations may provide for the incidence to differ according to whether the food is supplied by an overseas processing operation that has previously supplied food of that kind and the results of any analysis of food so supplied.

(4) If:
   (a) food is held pending the outcome of an inspection, or inspection and analysis, under the Scheme, whether because the food is subject to a holding order or not; and
   (b) that food, or a part of that food, is identified in an imported food inspection advice as failing food;

then, without limiting subsection (1), the regulations may:

(c) in the circumstances and within the period set out in the regulations, permit the owner of the food to make application for a further imported food inspection advice in respect of part only of the food so identified; and
(d) specify the part of the food so identified in respect of which the application may be made.

(5) An order made by the Minister for the purposes of paragraph (2)(a) is a legislative instrument.

Note: The order may be varied or revoked by the Minister in the same way as it is made, and subject to the same conditions (see subsection 33(3) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901).

17 Consultation with Food Standards Australia New Zealand

The Minister must not make an order for the purposes of paragraph 16(2)(a) without first consulting Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

Note: The order may be varied or revoked by the Minister in the same way as it is made, and subject to the same conditions (see subsection 33(3) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901).

18 Foreign government certificates

(1) The Secretary may determine, in writing, that a certificate issued by an instrumentality of a specified foreign government stating that food of a specified kind meets applicable standards and does not pose a risk to human health is a recognised foreign government certificate.

(2) The Secretary may revoke a determination under subsection (1) if the Secretary has reason to doubt the continued reliability of a statement made in any certificate to which the determination relates.

(3) A person must not forge, or utter, knowing it to be forged, a certificate of the kind referred to in subsection (1).

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

19 Quality assurance certificates

(1) The Secretary may, on behalf of the Commonwealth, enter into an arrangement with the person conducting an overseas food processing operation providing for the periodic inspection and
evaluation of that operation, at the expense of the person, to decide whether the Secretary should exercise his or her powers under subsection (1A).

(1A) The Secretary may:
(a) approve a food processing operation mentioned in subsection (1) for the purposes of this Part; or
(b) revoke any such approval.

(2) If an overseas food processing operation is subject to a current approval under subsection (1A), the Secretary may determine, in writing, to the effect that, while the determination remains in force, each certificate issued by the person purportedly in charge of that operation stating that particular food processed in that operation meets applicable standards and does not pose a risk to human health is a recognised quality assurance certificate.

(3) The Secretary may revoke a determination under subsection (2) if:
(a) the Secretary has reason to doubt the reliability of any statement made in any certificate to which the determination relates; or
(b) the approval of the overseas food processing operation concerned is revoked.

(4) A person must not forge, or utter, knowing it to be forged, a certificate of the kind referred to in subsection (2).

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

19A Forging and uttering

Forging

(1) For the purposes of this Division, a person is taken to have forged a document if the person:
(a) makes a document which is false, knowing it to be false; or
(b) without authority, alters a genuine document in a material particular;
with intent that:
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(c) the false or altered document may be used, acted on, or accepted, as genuine, to the prejudice of another person; or
(d) another person may, in the belief that it is genuine, be induced to do or refrain from doing an act, whether in Australia or elsewhere.

(2) For the purposes of this Division, if a person:
(a) makes a document which is false, knowing it to be false; or
(b) without authority, alters a genuine document in a material particular;
with intent that a computer, a machine or other device should respond to the false or altered document as if it were genuine:
(c) to the prejudice of another person; or
(d) with the result that another person would be induced to do or refrain from doing an act, whether in Australia or elsewhere;
the first-mentioned person is taken to have forged the document.

Uttering

(3) For the purposes of this Division, a person is taken to utter a forged document if the person:
(a) uses or deals with it; or
(b) attempts to use or deal with it; or
(c) attempts to induce another person to use, deal with, act upon, or accept it.
Division 3—Treatment, destruction or re-exportation of failing food

20 Treatment, destruction or re-exportation of failing food

(1) This section applies to food that:
   (a) has been identified in an imported food inspection advice as failing food; and
   (b) is required, under that advice, to be treated, destroyed or re-exported from Australia.

(2) If an imported food inspection advice, given in respect of food to which this section applies, permits the treatment of the food so as to bring it into compliance with this Act or to enable its use for a purpose other than human consumption, an authorised officer may, by notice in writing given to the owner of the food:
   (a) require the owner to treat the food in a specified manner or in a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer so as to enable it to be brought into compliance with the Act or to be so used; or
   (b) if the owner is unable or unwilling so to treat the food, require either:
      (i) the destruction of the food in a manner specified in the notice or to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer; or
      (ii) the destruction of the food in a manner specified in the notice or agreed between the owner and the authorised officer or the re-exportation of the food.

(3) If an imported food inspection advice requires the destruction of food to which this section applies, an authorised officer may, by notice in writing given to the owner of the food, require its destruction in a manner specified in the notice or in a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer.

(4) If an imported food inspection advice requires the destruction or re-exportation of food to which this section applies, an authorised

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officer may, by notice in writing given to the owner of the food, require either:
(a) its destruction in a manner specified in the notice or a manner to be agreed between the owner and the authorised officer; or
(b) its re-exportation.

(5) A permission to treat or a requirement to destroy or re-export failing food in a notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) must specify a period (having regard to the reasons why the food has been identified as failing food and to any difficulties associated with arranging for its treatment, destruction or re-exportation) within which that treatment, destruction or re-exportation is to be completed.

(6) If the owner of food arranges for a treatment, destruction or re-exportation in accordance with a notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4), that treatment, destruction or re-exportation may be supervised by an authorised officer.

(7) If the owner of food that is required in a notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) to be destroyed or re-exported refuses or fails to arrange for the destruction or re-exportation of the food in accordance with the notice, the food to which the notice relates is forfeited to the Commonwealth.

(8) The owner of food that is required in a notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) to be destroyed or re-exported must not intentionally refuse or fail to comply with the requirement to destroy or re-export that food.

Penalty: 200 penalty units.

(8A) Subsection (8) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

Note: The defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (8A). See subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code.

(9) If the food is forfeited to the Commonwealth under subsection (7), an authorised officer may:
(a) enter the premises at which the food is held; and
(b) seize the food and arrange for its destruction or other disposal.

(10) If food is forfeited to the Commonwealth under subsection (7) the Commonwealth is not liable to meet any charge associated with the storage of that food between the time of its forfeiture and the time when the food is destroyed or disposed of in accordance with subsection (9).

(11) If food is seized and destroyed or otherwise disposed of under subsection (9), the authorised officer who destroys the food must notify the owner of the food, within 21 days after the destruction or disposal takes place, that the food has been so destroyed or disposed of.

(12) The owner of food seized and destroyed or disposed of under subsection (9) is liable to reimburse the Commonwealth the costs reasonably incurred in seizing and destroying or disposing of the food.

(13) If the owner of food that is required in a notice under subsection (2), (3) or (4) to be destroyed or re-exported fails to comply with the requirement to destroy or re-export the food, the Secretary may direct, in writing, that authorised officers should not issue a food control certificate in respect of any other food imported into Australia by that owner.

(14) In this section:

owner, in relation to food that is permitted to be treated or required to be destroyed or re-exported, means a person having a beneficial interest in the food other than a person who has such an interest only because he or she has been given a mortgage or charge, or has a lien over the goods.
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21 Interpretation

(1) In this Part, unless the contrary intention appears:

monitoring powers means:

(a) in relation to premises, the following powers:

(i) to search the premises;

(ii) to take photographs (including a video recording), or make sketches, of the premises or any substance or thing at the premises;

(iii) to inspect, examine and take samples of, any substance or thing on or in the premises;

(iv) to take extracts from, or make copies of, any document, book or record on the premises;

(v) to take onto the premises any equipment or material reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a power under paragraph (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv); and

(b) in relation to certain documents or records on premises, the powers in subsections (2) and (3).

occupier, in relation to premises comprising a vessel, vehicle or aircraft, means the person apparently in charge of the vessel, vehicle or aircraft.

premises means:

(a) an area of land or any other place, whether or not it is enclosed or built on; or

(b) a building, wharf or other structure; or

(c) a vessel, vehicle or aircraft;

and includes a part of any such premises.

seize includes secure against interference.

vehicle includes a hovercraft.
vessel means a ship, boat, raft or pontoon or any other thing capable of carrying persons or goods through water, but does not include a hovercraft.

(2) An authorised officer has power to operate equipment at the premises to see whether:
   (a) the equipment; or
   (b) a disk, tape or other storage device that:
       (i) is at the premises; and
       (ii) can be used with or is associated with the equipment;
    contains information that is relevant to determining whether there has been compliance with the Act.

(3) If the authorised officer, after operating equipment at the premises, finds that the equipment, or that a disk, tape or other storage device at the premises, contains information of that kind, he or she has power:
   (a) to operate the facilities to put the information in documentary form and copy the documents so produced; or
   (b) if the information can be transferred to a disk, tape or other storage device that:
       (i) is brought to the premises; or
       (ii) is at the premises and the use of which for the purpose has been agreed to in writing by the occupier of the premises;
    to operate the equipment or other facilities to copy the information to the storage device and remove the storage device from the premises.

22 Identity cards

   (1) The Secretary may cause to be issued to each authorised officer an identity card.

   (2) An identity card must:
       (a) be in a form approved in writing by the Secretary; and
       (b) incorporate a recent photograph of the person.
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(3) A person who ceases to be an authorised officer must, as soon as practicable after so ceasing, return his or her identity card to the Secretary.

(4) A person who fails to return his or her identity card, as provided for in subsection (3), commits an offence punishable, on conviction, by a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

Note: The defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (5). See subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code.

(6) An offence under subsection (4) is an offence of strict liability.

Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the Criminal Code.

23 Searches to monitor compliance with Act etc. with occupier’s consent

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), an authorised officer may, to the extent that it is reasonably necessary for the purpose of ascertaining whether this Act or a compliance agreement has been complied with, enter any premises and exercise monitoring powers at any time during the day or night.

(2) An authorised officer may not, under subsection (1), enter any premises unless the occupier of the premises has consented to the entry.

(3) An authorised officer is not entitled to exercise any powers under subsection (1) in relation to premises if:
   (a) the occupier of the premises has required the authorised officer to produce his or her identity card for inspection by the occupier; and
   (b) the authorised officer fails to comply with the requirement.

24 Monitoring warrants

(1) An authorised officer may apply to a magistrate for a warrant under this section in relation to particular premises.
(2) Subject to subsection (3), the magistrate may issue the warrant if satisfied, by information on oath or affirmation, that it is reasonably necessary that the authorised officer should have access to the premises for the purpose of finding out whether this Act or a compliance agreement is being complied with.

(3) The magistrate must not issue the warrant unless the authorised officer or someone else has given the magistrate, either orally (on oath or affirmation) or by affidavit, any further information the magistrate may require about the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought.

(4) The warrant must:
   (a) authorise any authorised officer named in the warrant, with such assistance and by such force as is necessary and reasonable, from time to time while the warrant remains in force, to enter the premises and exercise monitoring powers; and
   (b) state whether an entry under the warrant is authorised to be made at any time of the day or night or during specified hours of the day or night; and
   (c) specify the day (not more than 6 months after the issue of the warrant) on which the warrant ceases to have effect; and
   (d) state the purpose for which the warrant is issued.

25 Offence powers—entry and search of premises with occupier’s consent

(1) If:
   (a) an authorised officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting that there is on or in any premises a particular thing, including information, that may afford evidence of the commission of an offence against this Act; and
   (b) the occupier of the premises consents to the officer entering the premises;
then the officer may, after producing his or her identity card for inspection of the occupier:
(c) enter the premises; and
(d) search the premises for the thing; and
(e) if the authorised officer finds the thing on or in the premises do all or any of the following:
   (i) take samples of the thing;
   (ii) take photographs (including video recordings) of the premises or of the thing;
   (iii) seize the thing; and
(f) if the thing is or includes information in a written or electronic form—do the things set out in subsections (2), (3) and (4) in respect of the thing.

(2) If the thing referred to in subsection (1) is or includes information in a written or electronic form, an authorised officer may operate equipment at the premises to see whether:
   (a) the equipment; or
   (b) a disk, tape or other storage device that:
      (i) is at the premises; and
      (ii) can be used with or is associated with the equipment;
contains the information.

(3) If the authorised officer, after operating equipment at the premises, finds that the equipment, or that a disk, tape or other storage device at the premises, contains the information, he or she may:
   (a) seize the equipment or the disk, tape or other storage device; or
   (b) if the information can, by using facilities at the premises, be put in documentary form—operate the facilities to put the information in that form and seize the documents so produced; or
   (c) if the information can be transferred to a disk, tape or other storage device that:
      (i) is brought to the premises; or
      (ii) is at the premises and the use of which for the purpose has been agreed to in writing by the occupier of the premises;
operate the equipment or other facilities to copy the information to the storage device and remove the storage device from the premises.

(4) An authorised officer may seize equipment under paragraph (3)(a) only if:
   (a) it is not practicable to put the relevant information in documentary form as mentioned in paragraph (3)(b) or to copy the records as mentioned in paragraph (3)(c); or
   (b) possession by the occupier of the equipment could constitute an offence.

(5) If, in the course of searching for a particular thing, an authorised officer finds a thing that he or she believes, on reasonable grounds:
   (a) to be another thing that will afford evidence as to the commission of an offence against this Act; and
   (b) he or she believes on reasonable grounds, that it is necessary to seize that thing:
      (i) in order to prevent its concealment, loss or destruction, or its use in committing, continuing or repeating an offence against this Act; and
      (ii) without the authority of a warrant under section 26 because the circumstances are so serious and urgent; he or she seize that thing.

(6) The authorised officer must leave the premises if the occupier asks the authorised officer to do so.

26 Offence-related warrants

(1) An authorised officer may apply to a magistrate for a warrant under this section in relation to particular premises.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a magistrate may issue the warrant if satisfied, by information on oath or affirmation, that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that there is, or may be within the next 72 hours, on the premises a particular thing, including
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Information, that may afford evidence of the commission of an offence against this Act.

(3) A magistrate must not issue the warrant unless the authorised officer or someone else has given the magistrate, either orally (on oath or affirmation) or by affidavit, any further information the magistrate may require about the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought.

(4) The warrant must:

(a) Authorise any authorised officer named in the warrant, with such assistance and by such force as is necessary and reasonable:

(i) to enter the premises; and

(ii) to search the premises for the thing; and

(iii) if the thing is found, to take photographs (including video recordings) of the premises or thing, to take samples of the thing, to seize the thing or to undertake more than one of those activities; and

(b) if the thing is or includes information in a written or electronic form—do the things set out in subsections (5), (6) and (7) in respect of the thing; and

(c) state whether the entry is authorised to be made at any time of the day or night or during specified hours of the day or night; and

(d) specify the day (not more than 7 days after the issue of the warrant) on which the warrant ceases to have effect; and

(e) state the purpose for which the warrant is issued.

(5) If the thing referred to in subsection (2) is or includes information in a written or electronic form, an authorised officer may operate equipment at premises referred to in the warrant to see whether:

(a) the equipment; or

(b) a disk, tape or other storage device that:

(i) is at the premises; and

(ii) can be used with or is associated with the equipment; contains the information.
(6) If the authorised officer, after operating equipment at the premises, finds that the equipment contains the information or that a disk, tape or other storage device at the premises contains the information, he or she may:

(a) seize the equipment or the disk, tape or other storage device;

or

(b) if the information can, by using facilities at the premises, be put in documentary form—operate the facilities to put the information in that form and seize the documents so produced;

or

(c) if the information can be transferred to a disk, tape or other storage device that:

(i) is brought to the premises; or

(ii) is at the premises and the use of which for the purpose has been agreed to in writing by the occupier of the premises;

operate the equipment or other facilities to copy the information to the storage device and remove the storage device from the premises.

(7) An authorised officer may seize equipment under paragraph (6)(a) only if:

(a) it is not practicable to put the relevant information in documentary form as mentioned in paragraph (6)(b) or to copy the records as mentioned in paragraph (6)(c); or

(b) possession by the occupier of the equipment could constitute an offence.

(8) If, in the course of searching for a particular thing in relation to a particular offence, an authorised officer finds another thing that the authorised officer believes, on reasonable grounds, to be:

(a) a thing that will afford evidence as to the commission of an offence (although not the thing specified in the warrant); or

(b) a thing that will afford evidence as to the commission of another offence against this Act;

and the authorised officer believes, on reasonable grounds, that it is necessary to seize that thing in order to prevent its concealment, loss
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or destruction, or its use in committing, continuing or repeating the
offence or the other offence, the warrant is to be taken to authorise
the authorised officer to seize that thing.

27 Warrants may be granted by telephone etc.

(1) If, because of circumstances of urgency, an authorised officer thinks
it necessary to do so, the authorised officer may apply for a warrant
under section 26 by telephone, telex, fax or other electronic means
under this section.

(2) Before making such an application, an authorised officer must
prepare an information of the kind mentioned in subsection 26(2)
that sets out the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being
sought, but may, if it is necessary to do so, make the application
before the information has been sworn.

(3) If a magistrate to whom an application under this section is made is
satisfied:
   (a) after having considered the terms of the information prepared
       under subsection (2); and
   (b) after having received any further information that the
       magistrate may require about the grounds on which the issue
       of the warrant is being sought;

that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant, the
magistrate must complete and sign a warrant that is the same as the
warrant that the magistrate would issue under section 26 if the
application had been made under that section.

(4) If a magistrate signs a warrant under subsection (3):
   (a) the magistrate must inform the authorised officer of the terms
       of the warrant, the day and time when it was signed, and the
day on which it ceases to have effect, and record on the
warrant the reasons for issuing it; and
   (b) the authorised officer must complete a form of warrant in the
terms given to the authorised officer by the magistrate and
write on it the magistrate’s name and the day and time when
the warrant was signed.
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(5) If an authorised officer completes a form of warrant, the authorised officer must, not later than the day after:
   (a) the day on which the warrant ceases to have effect; or
   (b) the day on which the warrant is executed;
whichever happens first, send the magistrate who signed the warrant the form of warrant completed by the authorised officer and the information duly sworn in connection with the warrant.

(6) Upon receipt of the documents mentioned in subsection (5), the magistrate must attach to them the warrant signed by the magistrate and deal with the documents in the same way that the magistrate would have dealt with the information if the application for the warrant had been made under section 26.

(7) The form of warrant completed by an authorised officer under subsection (4) is, if it is in accordance with the terms of the warrant signed by the magistrate, authority for any entry, search, seizure or other exercise of a power that the warrant so signed and authorised.

(8) If:
   (a) in any proceedings, the court must be satisfied that an entry, search, seizure, or other exercise of power, was authorised under this section; and
   (b) the warrant signed by a magistrate under this section authorising the entry, search, seizure, or other exercise of power, is not produced in evidence;
the court must assume (unless the contrary is proved) that the entry, search, seizure, or other exercise of power, was not authorised by such a warrant.

28 Seizures without offence-related warrant in emergency situations

(1) This section applies when an authorised officer is on premises under section 23 or by virtue of a warrant issued under section 24.

(2) If the authorised officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, that:
   (a) a thing relevant to an offence against this Act is in or on premises; and
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(b) it is necessary to exercise a power under paragraph (d) or (e) in order to prevent the thing from being concealed, lost or destroyed; and

(c) it is necessary to exercise the power without the authority of a warrant under section 26 because the circumstances are so serious and urgent;

the authorised officer may:

(d) search the premises, and any receptacle in or on the premises, for the thing; and

(e) seize the thing if he or she finds it there.

29  Discovery of evidence

(1) If:

(a) an authorised officer who enters premises under section 25 or under a warrant under section 26 finds the thing (evidence) which the authorised officer entered the premises to find; and

(b) the officer seizes the evidence;

the authorised officer:

(c) may keep the evidence so seized for 60 days; or

(d) if proceedings are instituted within 60 days after the seizure and the evidence may be used in the proceedings—may keep the evidence so seized until the proceedings (including any appeal to a court in relation to the proceedings) are terminated; and

(e) must allow it to be inspected at any reasonable time by anyone who would be entitled to inspect it if it were not in the authorised officer’s possession.

(2) If, in the course of searching premises entered under section 25 or under a warrant under section 26, the authorised officer:

(a) finds a thing that he or she believes, on reasonable grounds, to be:

(i) a thing (other than the evidence mentioned in subsection (1)) that will afford evidence of the commission of the offence in relation to which the search was undertaken; or
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(ii) a thing that will afford evidence of the commission of
another offence against this Act; and

(b) the authorised officer believes, on reasonable grounds, that it
is necessary to seize the thing to prevent its concealment, loss
or destruction;

subsection (1) applies to the thing as if it were the evidence
mentioned in that subsection.

(3) An authorised officer may apply to a magistrate to extend the
periods of time referred to in paragraphs (1)(c) and (d).

(4) The magistrate may extend the periods of time for so long as the
magistrate considers necessary.

30 Power to require persons to answer questions etc.

(1) If an authorised officer is on or in premises because the occupier of
the premises consented to the officer’s entry—the officer may ask
the occupier to:

(a) answer any questions put by the authorised officer; and

(b) produce any books, records or documents requested by the
authorised officer.

(2) An authorised officer who is on or in premises that he or she has
entered under a warrant may require any person on or in the
premises:

(a) to answer any questions put by the authorised officer; and

(b) to provide any books, records or documents requested by the
authorised officer.

(3) The Secretary may, by written notice, require any person whom he
or she believes, on reasonable grounds, to be capable of giving
information relevant to the operation of this Act to attend before an
authorised officer specified in the notice, at a time and place
specified in the notice:

(a) to answer any questions put by the specified officer; and

(b) to produce to the specified officer such documents as are
referred to in the notice.
(4) A person must not fail to comply with a requirement under subsection (2) or (3).

Penalty: Imprisonment for 6 months.

(4A) Subsection (4) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

Note: The defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (4A). See subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code.

(5) It is a reasonable excuse for a person to refuse or fail to answer a question or produce a book, record or document on the ground that to do so would tend to incriminate the person.

(5A) An offence under subsection (4) is an offence of strict liability.

Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the Criminal Code.

31 Consent

(1) Before obtaining the consent of a person for the purposes of section 23 or 25, the authorised officer must inform the person that he or she may refuse to give consent.

(2) An entry by an authorised officer by virtue of the consent of a person is not lawful unless the person voluntarily consented to the entry.

32 Persons to assist authorised officers

(1) An authorised officer may request the occupier of any premises entered:

(a) by the officer under section 23 or 25; or
(b) under a warrant under section 24 or 26;

to provide reasonable assistance to the officer, at any time while the officer is entitled to remain on the premises, for the purpose of the exercise of the officer’s powers under those sections in relation to the premises.

(2) A person mentioned in subsection (1) must not fail to comply with an authorised officer’s request.
Penalty: 30 penalty units.

(2A) Subsection (2) does not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

Note: The defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (2A). See subsection 13.3(3) of the Criminal Code.

(3) It is a reasonable excuse for a person whose premises are being searched under a warrant issued under section 26 to refuse to assist an authorised officer on the ground that to do so would tend to incriminate the person.

(4) An offence under subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.

Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the Criminal Code.

33 Conduct by directors, employees and agents

(1) If, in proceedings for an offence against this Act, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of a body corporate in relation to particular conduct, it is sufficient to show:

(a) that the conduct was engaged in by a director, employee or agent of the body corporate within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and

(b) that the director, employee or agent had the state of mind.

(2) Any conduct engaged in on behalf of a body corporate by a director, employee or agent of the body corporate within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority is to be taken, for the purposes of a prosecution for an offence against this Act, to have been engaged in also by the body corporate unless the body corporate establishes that the body corporate took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the conduct.

(3) If, in proceedings for an offence against this Act, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of a person other than a body corporate in relation to particular conduct, it is sufficient to show:

(a) that the conduct was engaged in by an employee or agent of the person within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and

(b) that the employee or agent had the state of mind.
(4) Any conduct engaged in on behalf of a person, other than a body corporate, by an employee or agent of the person within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority is to be taken, for the purposes of a prosecution for an offence against this Act, to have been engaged in also by the first-mentioned person unless the first-mentioned person establishes that the first-mentioned person took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the conduct.

(5) If:
   (a) a person other than a body corporate is convicted of an offence; and
   (b) the person would not have been convicted of an offence if subsections (3) and (4) had not been enacted;
   the person is not liable to be punished by imprisonment for that offence.

(6) A reference in subsection (1) or (3) to the state of mind of a person includes a reference to:
   (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
   (b) the person’s reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

(7) A reference in this section to a director of a body corporate includes a reference to a constituent member of a body corporate incorporated for a public purpose by a law of the Commonwealth or of a State.

(8) A reference in this section to engaging in conduct includes a reference to failing or refusing to engage in conduct.

34 Evidence of analyst

(1) The Secretary may appoint a person to be an analyst for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), in any proceedings for an offence against this Act, a certificate of an analyst in an approved form stating, in
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respect of food in relation to which the offence is alleged to have been committed, all or any of the following matters:

(a) that the analyst signing the certificate is appointed under subsection (1);
(b) when and from whom the food was received;
(c) what, if any, labels or other means of identifying the food accompanied it when it was received;
(d) what container or containers the food was contained in when it was received;
(e) a description, and the weight, of the food received;
(f) when the food, or a portion of it, was analysed;
(g) a description of the method of analysis;
(h) the results of the analysis;
(i) how the food was dealt with after handling by the analyst, including details of:
   (i) the quantity retained; and
   (ii) the name of the person, if any, to whom any retained quantity was given; and
   (iii) measures taken to secure any retained quantity;

is admissible as prima facie evidence of the matters in the certificate and of the correctness of the result of the analysis.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a document purporting to be a certificate referred to in subsection (2) must, unless the contrary is established, be taken to be such a certificate and to have been duly given.

(4) A certificate must not be admitted in evidence under subsection (2) in proceedings for an offence unless the person charged with the offence or a solicitor who has appeared for the person in those proceedings has, at least 14 days before the certificate is sought to be so admitted, been given a copy of the certificate together with reasonable notice of the intention to produce the certificate as evidence in the proceedings.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), if, under subsection (2), a certificate of an analyst is admitted in evidence in a proceeding for an offence, the
Part 3  Enforcement

Section 35

person charged with the offence may require the analyst to be called as a witness for the prosecution and the analyst may be cross-examined as if he or she had given evidence of the matters stated in the certificate.

(6) Subsection (5) does not entitle a person to require an analyst to be called as a witness for the prosecution unless:
(a) the prosecutor has been given at least 4 days notice of the person’s intention to require the analyst to be so called; or
(b) the Court, by order, allows the person to require the analyst to be so called.

35 Publishing of information

(1) The Secretary may publish in Australia:
(a) the name and address of a person conducting an overseas food processing operation; and
(b) particulars of the food processing operation conducted by that person; and
(c) particulars of any food originating from that food processing operation that:
   (i) if imported, may not meet applicable standards or may pose a risk to human health; or
   (ia) has been identified in an imported food inspection advice as failing food; or
   (ii) was treated, destroyed or re-exported under section 20; and
   (d) information relating to health risks associated with that food.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Secretary may publish:
(a) the name of the importer of the food; or
(b) the brand of the food.
Part 4—Miscellaneous

35A Compliance agreements

(1) The Secretary may, on behalf of the Commonwealth, enter into an agreement (a compliance agreement) with a person in connection with:

(a) the application of particular procedures in respect of food that may be imported into Australia in accordance with the agreement; and

(b) the keeping of records by the person in respect of the person’s compliance with those procedures; and

(c) the supervision, monitoring and testing of the person’s compliance with those procedures.

(2) The terms of a compliance agreement must be in accordance with this section and the regulations.

(3) A compliance agreement may provide that, in circumstances stated in the agreement, the Secretary may, by written notice given to a party to the agreement other than the Commonwealth, cancel or vary the agreement or suspend its operation for a period, or until the happening of an event, stated in the notice.

(4) An authorised officer may notify a party to a compliance agreement other than the Commonwealth in writing of procedures to which the agreement is to extend in addition to those specifically referred to in the agreement and, if such a notification is given, the agreement has effect as if those procedures were referred to in it.

(5) An authorised officer may allow food to which a compliance agreement applies to be dealt with on the basis of a certificate or assurance, given by a person authorised under the agreement to give such a certificate or assurance, that all the procedures to which the agreement refers have been complied with in respect of the food.
(6) A party to a compliance agreement other than the Commonwealth commits an offence if:
   (a) that party fails to ensure that a requirement imposed on that party under the agreement in respect of a matter referred to in paragraph (1)(a) or (c) is complied with; and
   (b) the failure caused a significant risk to public health.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

(7) A party to a compliance agreement other than the Commonwealth commits an offence if that party fails to ensure that a requirement imposed on that party under the agreement in respect of a matter referred to in paragraph (1)(a) or (c) is complied with.

Penalty: 200 penalty units.

(8) A party to a compliance agreement other than the Commonwealth commits an offence if that party fails to ensure that a requirement imposed on that party under the agreement in respect of a matter referred to in paragraph (1)(b) is complied with.

Penalty: 60 penalty units.

(9) An offence against subsection (8) is an offence of strict liability.

(10) In this section:

   *procedures*, in respect of food, includes any dealings with food and also includes the inspection and testing (including the incidence of inspection and testing), analysis and treatment of food.

### 36 Fees for certain services

(1) A person for whom a chargeable service is provided is liable to pay to the Commonwealth such amount (*payable amount*) in respect of the provision of that service as is prescribed.

(2) The payable amount in respect of a particular service must not exceed the direct and indirect costs that are properly attributed to the

provision of that service, calculated in accordance with ordinary commercial principles.

(3) The payable amount in respect of the provision of a service is payable either:
   (a) before the service is rendered; or
   (b) at the time the service is rendered.

(4) If an authorised officer:
   (a) arranges for the analysis of food to be carried out by another person; and
   (b) pays the person who performs that analysis an amount not exceeding the cost of that analysis;

the person for whom that chargeable service is arranged must pay to the Commonwealth, within a prescribed period, by way of reimbursement for the amount so paid, an amount equal to the amount so paid.

(5) The regulations may prescribe circumstances in which the Secretary may, in his or her discretion, on behalf of the Commonwealth, waive fees that would otherwise be payable under this section.

(6) If:
   (a) a person for whom a service is provided pays for the service before or at the time it is rendered; and
   (b) the service is not so rendered;

the Secretary may, on behalf of the Commonwealth, refund the amount paid in respect of the provision of the service.

(7) Under subsection (1), if the inspection of food leads to its analysis (whether by the person who inspected it or another person), the inspection is not taken to have been provided until the results of the analysis are notified to the person for whom the analysis is arranged.

(8) If a person for whom a chargeable service is provided in respect of food does not pay the fee payable to the Commonwealth in respect of that service within 28 days after the last day on which that payment was due, the Secretary may direct, in writing:
(a) if the relevant documentation has not already been issued in respect of the food—that authorised officers should not issue such documentation in respect of the food; or

(b) if the relevant documentation has been issued in respect of the food—that authorised officers should not issue such documentation in respect of any other food imported by that person into Australia;

until:

(c) the person has paid the outstanding fees; or

(d) the person has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth in accordance with subsection (9).

(9) Without limiting the matters that may be entered into under an agreement referred to in paragraph (8)(d), such an agreement may require a person who has failed to pay a fee to do either or both of the following:

(a) pay interest at a rate not exceeding 20% per year, calculated on a daily basis, on the amount of the fees from time to time owing to the Commonwealth in respect of the food;

(b) give security for the payment of the fees and interest (if any) owing to the Commonwealth in respect of the food.

(10) An authorised officer must not deal with the food in contravention of a direction under subsection (8).

(11) In this section:

chargeable service, in relation to food to which this Act applies, means:

(a) an inspection, or inspection and analysis of the food; or

(b) the arrangement by an authorised officer of an analysis of the food to be carried out by another person; or

(c) the issue of relevant documentation in respect of the food; or

(d) the supervision of the treatment, destruction or re-exportation of the food; or

(da) the entering into a compliance agreement in respect of the food; or
Section 37

(e) the provision of any other service that is prescribed for the purpose of this definition.

**relevant documentation** means:

(a) if the food is examinable food—a food control certificate; and

(b) if the food is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed—an imported food inspection advice.

37 **Certain moneys are a debt due to the Commonwealth**

Any expenses or charges payable to the Commonwealth under this Part may be recovered by action in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the Commonwealth.

38 **Exemption from suit**

(1) If:

(a) an act or thing is done, or not done (whether or not the act or thing is done or omitted to be done negligently), in good faith by a person exercising or purportedly exercising any power or authority conferred by or under this Act; and

(b) a person sustains a loss or injury (including loss or injury by way of damage to the person’s business reputation or the goodwill associated with his or her business) because of the act or thing done or not done;

an action does not lie against the Commonwealth or against a person referred to in paragraph (1)(a) for the loss or injury.

(2) If an action is instituted against a person responsible for the manufacture, importation, distribution or sale of food to which this Act applies in relation to a loss or injury directly or indirectly sustained because of the purchase or consumption of food of that kind, it is not a defence to that action that the Commonwealth or any other person has, or has not, exercised any powers under this Act in respect of food of that kind.
39 Compensation for destroyed food

(1) If food is destroyed in accordance with section 20, the Secretary may approve the payment of compensation in respect of the food if:
   (a) a claim for compensation is made by or on behalf of the owner in an approved form accompanied by such documents as are required by the form to accompany the claim; and
   (b) the Secretary is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the food was destroyed as a result of a mistake of fact or of law.

(1A) The Secretary may approve the payment of compensation in respect of food if:
   (a) the Secretary is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the food is no longer suitable for the purpose for which it was imported as a result of an inspection, or inspection and analysis, of the food under the Food Inspection Scheme; and
   (b) a claim for compensation is made by or on behalf of the owner in an approved form accompanied by such documents as are required by the form to accompany the claim.

(2) Compensation approved under this section must:
   (a) if there is only one owner of the food at the time of its destruction—be paid to that owner; or
   (b) if there are two or more owners of the food at that time—be divided among those owners in accordance with their interests.

(3) The compensation payable under subsection (1) in respect of food is the amount agreed between the Secretary and the owner or owners of the food as being the market value of the food immediately before its destruction.

(3A) The compensation payable under subsection (1A) in respect of food is the amount agreed between the Secretary and the owner or owners of the food as being the difference between the market value of the food immediately before it became unsuitable for the purpose for which it was imported and the amount (if any) for which the food is sold by the owner or owners.
Section 40

(4) If the Secretary and the owner or owners of the food at the time referred to in subsection (3) or (3A), as the case requires, do not agree on the market value of the food at that time, the market value must be determined by a person agreed on by the Secretary and the owner or owners.

(5) If the Secretary approved the payment of compensation under this section in respect of food, the compensation payable in respect of that food is payable by the Commonwealth to the owner or owners and may be recovered by action against the Commonwealth in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(6) In this section:

owner, in relation to food, means a person having a beneficial interest in the food other than a person who has such an interest only because he or she has been given a mortgage or charge, or has a lien over the goods.

40 Authorised officers

(1) The Secretary may, by signed instrument, appoint an APS employee in the Department to be an authorised officer for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Secretary may, by signed instrument, appoint a person to be an authorised officer for the purposes of all the provisions of this Act other than sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32.

41 Delegation by Secretary

The Secretary may, by signed instrument, delegate any or all of the Secretary’s powers under this Act to:

(a) an SES employee, or acting SES employee, in the Department; or

(b) an APS employee who holds or performs the duties of an Executive Level 1 or 2 position, or an equivalent position, in the Department.
42 Review of decisions

(1) In this section:

_**decision**_ has the same meaning as in the _Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975_.

_**initial decision**_ has the meaning given in subsection (2).

_**reviewable decision**_ means a decision of the Secretary under subsection (5).

(2) Subject to subsection (3), _**initial decision**_ means:

(a) a decision under section 12 to issue a food control certificate that states that the food to which the certificate relates is required to be inspected, or inspected and analysed; or

(b) a decision under subsection 14(1) to issue an imported food inspection advice identifying food (other than food that is or may be the subject of an application for a further imported food advice) as failing food and specifying the manner of dealing with that food; or

(c) a decision under subsection 14(6) refusing an application for a further imported food inspection advice; or

(d) a decision under subsection 14(6) to issue a further imported food inspection advice identifying food as failing food and specifying the manner of dealing with that food; or

(e) a decision made by the Secretary to revoke a determination under subsection 19(3); or

(f) a decision by the Secretary under subsection 20(13) to direct that food control certificates should not be issued to a person who has failed to comply with a notice under subsection 20(2), (3) or (4); or

(g) a decision by the Secretary under subsection 36(8) to direct that documentation not be issued in respect of food imported by a person who has failed to pay fees to the Commonwealth; or

(h) a decision of the Secretary under subsection 39(1).
(3) If food to which an initial decision relates has been subjected to analysis to determine if it either:
   (a) meets applicable standards; or
   (b) poses a risk to human health;
the results of such analysis are not reviewable by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

(4) A person affected by an initial decision may give written notice to the Secretary, within 28 days after notification of that decision, requesting the Secretary to reconsider the decision.

(5) As soon as practicable after receiving a request under subsection (4), the Secretary must reconsider the initial decision to which the request related and, as a result of that reconsideration:
   (a) confirm the initial decision; or
   (b) revoke the initial decision; or
   (c) vary the initial decision by revoking it and making a decision in substitution of the initial decision.

(6) If the Secretary does not confirm, revoke or vary a decision within 28 days after the Secretary received a request, the Secretary is taken to have confirmed the initial decision.

(7) If, under subsection (4), a request is made for the reconsideration of a decision, the operation of that decision is stayed pending the outcome of the reconsideration.

(8) If written notice of the making of an initial decision with respect to that food is given, the notice is to include a statement to the effect that a person affected by the decision may:
   (a) seek a reconsideration of the initial decision under this section; and
   (b) subject to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975, if such a person is dissatisfied with the decision on reconsideration, make an application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of that decision.
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(9) After reconsideration of an initial decision, the Secretary must give the applicant for reconsideration written notice:
   (a) stating the result for the reconsideration; and
   (b) informing the applicant that:
      (i) except where subsection 28(4) of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975 applies, the applicant may apply for a statement setting out the reasons for the decision on reconsideration; and
      (ii) the applicant may, subject to that Act, make an application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of that decision.

(10) Any failure to comply with the requirements of subsection (8) or (9) in relation to a decision does not affect the validity of the decision.

(11) An application may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of a reviewable decision.

43 Regulations

(1) The Governor-General may make regulations prescribing matters:
   (a) required or permitted to be prescribed by this Act; or
   (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the regulations may:
   (a) make provision in relation to:
      (i) the establishment of committees to advise the Secretary on matters relating to the control of imported foods; and
      (ii) the functions and powers of those committees; and
   (b) prescribe requirements for the storage and transport of imported food that is required to be treated, destroyed or re-exported; and
   (c) prescribe penalties, not exceeding 10 penalty units for offences against the regulations.
Endnotes

Endnote 1—About the endnotes
The endnotes provide information about this compilation and the compiled law.

The following endnotes are included in every compilation:
Endnote 1—About the endnotes
Endnote 2—Abbreviation key
Endnote 3—Legislation history
Endnote 4—Amendment history

Abbreviation key—Endnote 2
The abbreviation key sets out abbreviations that may be used in the endnotes.

Legislation history and amendment history—Endnotes 3 and 4
Amending laws are annotated in the legislation history and amendment history.

The legislation history in endnote 3 provides information about each law that has amended (or will amend) the compiled law. The information includes commencement details for amending laws and details of any application, saving or transitional provisions that are not included in this compilation.

The amendment history in endnote 4 provides information about amendments at the provision (generally section or equivalent) level. It also includes information about any provision of the compiled law that has been repealed in accordance with a provision of the law.

Editorial changes
The Legislation Act 2003 authorises First Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial and presentational changes to a compiled law in preparing a compilation of the law for registration. The changes must not change the effect of the law. Editorial changes take effect from the compilation registration date.

If the compilation includes editorial changes, the endnotes include a brief outline of the changes in general terms. Full details of any changes can be obtained from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

Misdescribed amendments
A misdescribed amendment is an amendment that does not accurately describe the amendment to be made. If, despite the misdescription, the amendment can be

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Endnote 1—About the endnotes

given effect as intended, the amendment is incorporated into the compiled law and the abbreviation “(md)” added to the details of the amendment included in the amendment history.

If a misdescribed amendment cannot be given effect as intended, the abbreviation “(md not incorp)” is added to the details of the amendment included in the amendment history.
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<td>s 33</td>
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**Part 4**

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<td>s 39</td>
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Part 5

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