

# Bringing hay into South Australia

Hay is a regulated product under the Plant Health Act 2009 in South Australia because it can carry biosecurity risks such as Green Snail (from Victoria and Western Australia) and Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) (from New South Wales and Queensland).

These pests pose a serious threat to primary production, the environment and social amenity. To prevent their entry, strict biosecurity regulations apply to anyone bringing hay into South Australia.

## Requirements for all commercial hay imports

Anyone bringing hay into South Australia for the purposes of sale, or any other commercial purpose, must be registered with PIRSA ([Annual importer registration](#)). This requirement under the *Plant Health Act 2009* enables PIRSA to monitor at-risk material and make sure it meets biosecurity clearance rules before use in the state.

If you are bringing hay in for non-commercial use, you do not need to register with PIRSA. However, you must still meet the import conditions and obtain relevant documentation.

**Documentation:** A [Plant Health Certificate](#) or a **PIRSA** [General Biosecurity Declaration](#) is required.

*These requirements also apply to charities importing hay from interstate for drought affected farmers, regardless of whether their transport costs are subsidised under the new drought support package. Find out more about the [SA Donated Fodder Transport Drought Assistance Scheme](#).*

**Manifests:** A manifest must be provided for all commercial hay consignments entering South Australia. Manifests must be emailed to [PIRSA.planthealthmanifest@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.planthealthmanifest@sa.gov.au) before the hay arrives. Further information is available on the PIRSA website under [Transporters manifest requirements](#).

# State-by-state hay entry requirements

## Victoria

Risk: Green Snail (Cobram area)

Requirements:

1. Hay not from Cobram requires a [PIRSA General Biosecurity Declaration](#) or an itemised receipt confirming the source.
2. Commercial operators must be registered with PIRSA as an importer (see 3. For Requirements for a commercial hay import).
3. For non-commercial consignments, no inspection is required on arrival. PIRSA may conduct a random, risk-based inspection at PIRSA's discretion for non-commercial consignments.
4. For commercial consignments, the hay must be cleared using an [Import Verification Compliance Agreement \(IVCA\)](#) or [Registered Premises \(IR01\)](#) and nominate a premises for the receipt of the imported hay. See the [Plant Quarantine Standard](#) South Australia (PQS) Section 5, 2. 2.3, (1), (2) or (3) for more information.
5. Hay bales must be safely secured or covered during transit. Where full enclosure (tautliners, vehicle side-curtains or tarping) of bales is not possible, they must be restrained to minimise risk of movement or spillage.
6. Hay is not permitted entry if produced on a property infested with Green Snail, or from a property linked to an infested property, unless the conditions outlined in Condition 23. 2. 2.1 of the PQS are fully met.

## New South Wales

Risk: Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)

Requirements:

1. All hay from NSW is considered high-risk if from within 5 km of a known [RIFA infestation](#).
2. Hay bales must be safely secured or covered during transit. Where full enclosure (tautliners, vehicle side-curtains or tarping) of bales is not possible, they must be restrained to minimise risk of movement or spillage.
3. Commercial operators must be registered with PIRSA.
4. The consignment requires a [Plant Health Certificate](#).
5. An accreditation scheme in [NSW \(RAF-01\)](#) can be used if produced outside 5 km of a known RIFA outbreak. Businesses can become accredited with the NSW DPI and issue their own Plant Health Assurance Certificates.
6. If located within 5 km of a known Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) outbreak:
  - o the consignment must be inspected by an NSW Biosecurity Officer prior to transport – this inspection will incur a cost

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- the consignment must be fumigated (ICA-04 or condition 13 of the PQS), stored safely, and covered or secured to prevent any spillage during transit
- the consignment requires a [Plant Health Certificate](#) or [Plant Health Assurance Certificate](#), unless this is a one-off importation which will also require a [Plant Health Import Certificate \(PHIC\)](#)
- commercial operators importing hay from NSW must be registered as importers with PIRSA.

All consignments from NSW must be inspected on arrival by either a business registered with PIRSA or PIRSA Biosecurity Officers.

## Queensland

Risk: Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)

Requirements:

1. All hay from Queensland is considered high-risk if from within 5 km of a known [RIFA infestation](#).
2. Hay bales must be safely secured or covered during transit. Where full enclosure (tautliners, vehicle side-curtains or tarping) of bales is not possible, they must be restrained to minimise risk of movement or spillage.
3. Commercial operators must be registered with PIRSA.
4. Requires a [Plant Health Certificate](#).
5. An accreditation scheme in Queensland (RAF-01) can be used if produced outside 5 km of a known RIFA outbreak. Businesses can become accredited with the Queensland DPI and issue their own Plant Health Assurance Certificates.
6. If located within 5 km of a known Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) outbreak:
  - the consignment must be inspected by a Queensland Biosecurity Officer prior to transport – this inspection will incur a cost
  - the consignment must be fumigated (ICA-04 or condition 13 of the PQS), stored safely, and covered or secured to prevent any spillage during transit
  - the consignment requires a [Plant Health Certificate](#) or [Plant Health Assurance Certificate](#), unless this is a one-off importation which will also require a [Plant Health Import Certificate \(PHIC\)](#)
  - commercial operators importing hay from Queensland must be registered as importers with PIRSA.
7. All consignments from Queensland must be inspected on arrival by either a business registered with PIRSA or PIRSA Biosecurity Officers.

## Western Australia

Risk: Green Snail

General Requirements for Hay from Low-Risk Areas of Western Australia (outside of buffer zone in linked WA map):

1. Hay bales must be safely secured or covered during transit. If full enclosure (e.g. tautliners, vehicle side-curtains, tarping) is not possible, bales must be restrained to minimise risk of movement or spillage.
2. Conditional importation into South Australia is permitted from specified low-risk areas of Western Australia, assessed on a case-by-case basis and subject to biosecurity controls.
3. Each consignment must be accompanied by:
  - o A Plant Health Import Certificate (PHIC); and
  - o A Biosecurity Declaration clearly identifying the hay's origin.
4. PHIC applications may be submitted online or via email to [PIRSA.PlantHealth@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.PlantHealth@sa.gov.au)

This allowance is temporary and will remain in place only for the duration of the drought emergency. PIRSA may suspend the arrangement immediately if Green Snail detections occur or if risk conditions change.

### **Additional Requirements for Hay from Green Snail Infested Zones (inside of buffer zone in linked WA map):**

Treatment:

1. Hay must either:
  - o Be baited and inspected in accordance with Condition 23, Clause 3.1 of the Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS); or
  - o Be steam-treated to kill snails, in accordance with Condition 23, Clause 7.1 of the PQS.
2. Treated hay bales must be safely secured or covered during transit. If full enclosure (e.g. tautliners, vehicle side-curtains, tarping) is not possible, bales must be restrained to minimise risk of movement or spillage.

### **Certification & Verification:**

3. All treated hay consignments must be accompanied by either:
  - o A Plant Health Certificate; or
  - o A Plant Health Assurance Certificate (refer to PQS for applicable conditions).

4. Commercial operators must be registered as importers with PIRSA.
5. All commercial consignments must be inspected on arrival, either by:
  - A business accredited under the Import Verification Compliance Agreement (IVCA / CA01); or
  - PIRSA Biosecurity Officers.

## Northern Territory and Tasmania

There is no known pest or disease risk.

Requirements:

1. PIRSA requires the origin of the hay to be established, through making a General Biosecurity Declaration or another approved document that lists the source address.
2. Hay bales must be safely secured or covered during transit. Where full enclosure (tautliners, vehicle side-curtains or tarping) of bales is not possible, they must be restrained to minimise risk of movement or spillage.
3. No PIRSA inspection required upon arrival for commercial and non-commercial operators.

## Key takeaways

- Check your state's requirements before bringing hay into SA
- Obtain the correct certificates and declarations
- Register with PIRSA if you are importing for commercial purposes
- Send your commercial consignment manifest to PIRSA before arrival
- Some hay shipments require inspection and quarantine on arrival

## Changes due to new outbreaks

The biosecurity requirements outlined in this document are subject to change as pest and disease distributions evolve. New detections, such as outbreaks of Green Snail or Red Imported Fire Ant in additional areas, may necessitate adjustments to current regulations to effectively mitigate risk. As a result, the information provided here reflects the current situation but may no longer be applicable if new threats emerge.

**It is essential to stay informed of any updates to entry requirements to ensure ongoing compliance and biosecurity protection for South Australia.**

**For more information, contact PIRSA:**

- **Non-commercial inquiries: (08) 8207 7820**
- **Commercial inquiries: (08) 8207 7814**

**Email: [pirsa.planthealthmarketaccess@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.planthealthmarketaccess@sa.gov.au)**