



VAPE PRODUCTS PROHIBITED AT THE AUSTRALIAN BORDER

HOW FTA MEMBERS CAN HELP STEM THE FLOW

In 2024, the Australia Government commenced a series of vape reforms to protect Australians, particularly young Australians, from the harms of vaping and nicotine dependence. The introduction of new border controls for disposable vapes on 1 January 2024 were just the first step in many to support the changes to the laws on vaping products in Australia.

Using a phased approach, all vaping products have become prohibited imports under new regulation 5A of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (Prohibited Imports Regulations).

On 1 January 2024, all disposable vapes became prohibited import imports unless the importer held a licence and permit issued by the Office of Drug Control within the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. Since 1 March, this border control expanded and all other vaping goods became prohibited items unless the importer holds a licence and permit. Vaping goods include devices, vaping accessories, vaping substances and all liquid nicotine (Australian Customs Notice 2023/51 provides further details).

Since 1 January 2024, the ABF has seized more than 358,000 disposable vapes and vaping products. Early positive signs by industry have shown a reduction in vaping goods being sent to Australia, however, we are

seeing attempts to circumvent our border controls through mis-declaration of goods.

How can Freight Trade Alliance Members help?

The ABF is seeking your support as logistics providers and cargo reporters due to the important role you have in the supply chain and the opportunity you have to assist in stemming the flow of vapes into the Australian community. Freight forwarders and Customs Brokers know supply chain behaviour well, and are in a unique position to notice unusual or suspicious cargo reporting early.

If you observe importers who were known to previously import vapes, please keep an eye out for indicators that they are changing descriptions to circumvent our border controls.

If FTA Members find cargo reports or packages suspected of containing vapes or become aware of any suspicious border-related behaviour and activities, please make a report through Border Watch either online at www.abf.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do/borderwatch or via telephone **1800 06 1800** if urgent. All reports can be lodged anonymously.

Alternately, you could consider reporting via ICS utilising the CPSAC/amber line option.

