



PERMITS & IMPORTING

AUSTRALIA'S COMMERCIAL KAVA PILOT



In order to import kava for food use into Australia you must hold a permit issued by the Australian Government Department of Health. A permit is required for each consignment of kava imported. Importers must meet the following criteria when applying for an import permit.

- The importer must import kava as a food for the purposes of selling the kava as part of the importer's business.
- The importer's business which is selling the imported kava must be registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The importer's business which is selling the imported kava must have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- The importer must comply with any State or Territory requirement to operate for the purpose of selling kava.

To apply for a permit, go to <https://www.odc.gov.au/application-forms>. A guidance document is available next to the application form to assist with the application process.

You must also satisfy biosecurity and imported food requirements. For the commercial kava pilot this applies to:



Forms of kava

- The only forms of kava allowed are kava powder and kava beverages (obtained by the aqueous suspension of kava (*Piper methysticum*) root using cold water only).



Packaging

- Kava powder must be packed in clean and new packaging and free of live insects and contamination with biosecurity risk material.
- The importer must present the goods for [inspection by a biosecurity officer](#). The goods will be inspected to verify they are:
 - dried and ground,
 - packed in clean and new packaging, and
 - free from live insects and other biosecurity risk material.
- Kava beverages must be commercially prepared and packaged and a full list of ingredients must be provided. Please refer to the [Kava for human consumption](#) BICON case for further details.



Labelling

- Kava product labels must be compliant with Australian food standards, including the following warning statements:
 - 'Use in moderation'
 - 'May cause drowsiness'.