Importing Wood, Cane and Natural-Fibre Goods Into Australia and NZ

SourcingFrom

Updated 12 Oct 2026 10 min read

Australia and New Zealand treat wooden, cane, bamboo and natural-fibre goods as a plant risk, sorted by material rather than product. This guide walks an Indian natural-goods order from workshop to wharf: cleaning, treatment, the storage window, packaging and arrival. It also shows how to check the treatment provider and read BICON and the MPI standard.

The Short Version

- Both countries sort by material, and in Australia each material in a mixed piece must meet its own conditions.
- Manufactured wooden articles treated offshore must leave within six months, with a declaration about storage since treatment.
- Australia suspended or withdrew 13 Indian fumigation providers in mid-2026, so check the provider before treatment.
- New Zealand has one import health standard for bamboo, cane, rattan and willow from all countries, issued 17 October 2018.
- A failed consignment is treated on arrival, sent back or destroyed, all at your cost.

Australia's own biosecurity department says something unusually frank about cane and rattan. These articles, it notes, are often made in rural cottage industries without rigorous biosecurity quality control (Department of Agriculture, timber and bamboo types). That one line explains most of what happens to a container of Indian baskets, carved boxes or cane chairs at Botany or Auckland. The border assumes the village didn't manage the insects, and it wants paper that proves somebody else did.



This guide walks the goods from the workshop to the wharf in the order things actually happen, because the order is where buyers lose. It covers Australia and New Zealand, the two markets on our list that treat a wooden photo frame as a plant risk. One honest caveat - the exact treatment schedule for your item sits in a live database (BICON) and a New Zealand standard we couldn't open in full, so we show you how to read them and what to ask, and your customs broker confirms the line for your product.

Last researched 12 October 2026 · Next review 12 January 2027 · Written by SourcingFrom

1. The Border Sorts by Material, Not by Product

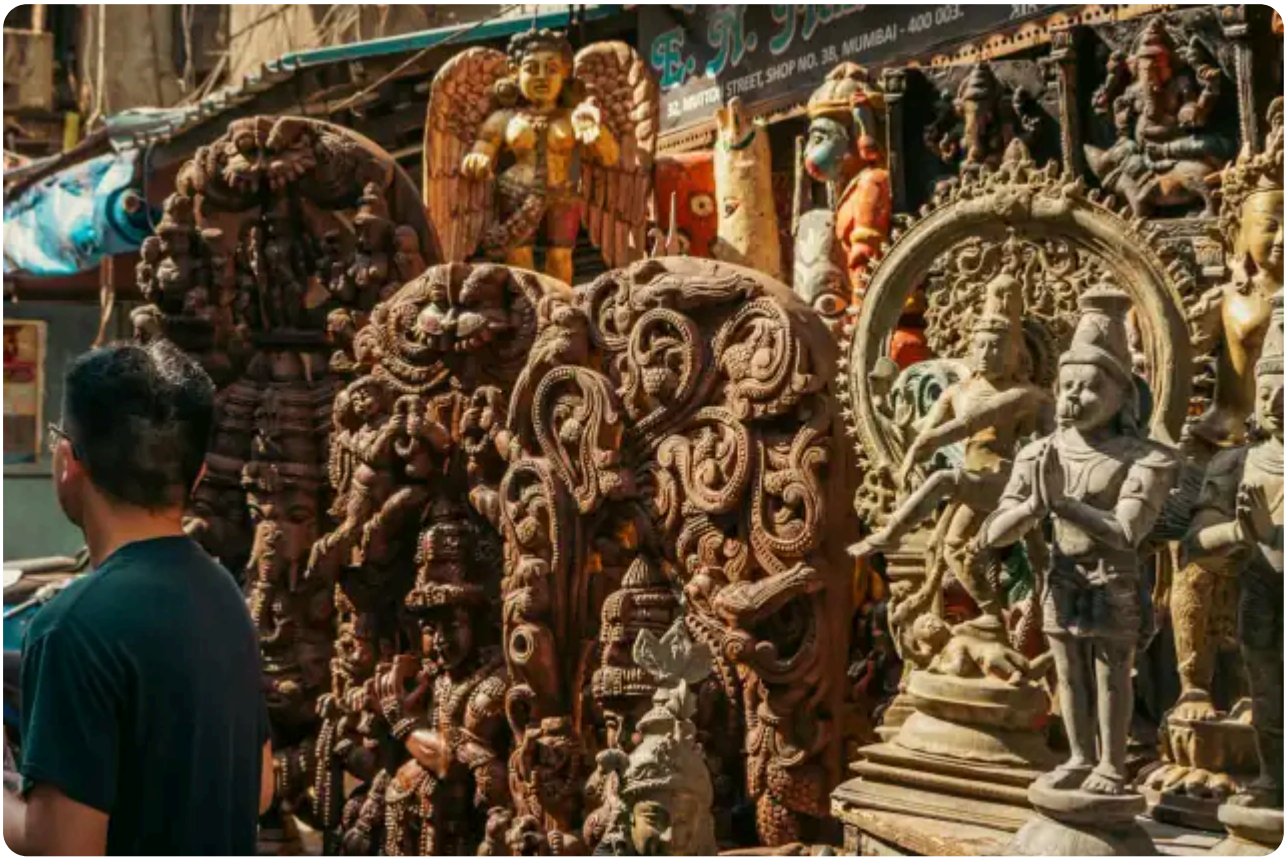
Your invoice says "home decor". The biosecurity officer reads "bamboo, cane, solid timber, jute, seagrass". That's the first shift to make. Both

countries sort natural goods by what they're made of and how far that material was processed, not by what the thing is for.

Australia goes a step further, and this is the rule that catches mixed pieces. Where an article combines materials, each one has to meet its own import conditions (Department of Agriculture). A cane basket with a mango-wood lid and a jute handle is three cases, not one. A brass lamp on a sheesham base is a timber import with some brass on it.

New Zealand has a standard written for exactly this group. MPI's import health standard for bamboo, cane, rattan and willow from all countries was issued on 17 October 2018, and it has its own sections on treatment, treatment options and on-arrival checks (MPI). Solid wooden goods fall under MPI's wood products standards instead (MPI wood products).

So before you talk treatment, list every natural material in the product, down to the stuffing in a cushion and the twine on a tag. It feels pedantic. It's also the list your broker needs to find the right case.



2. The Timeline That Decides Whether It Clears

Here's the order an Indian natural-goods export runs in, and where each country's rules bite. We'd write every step into the purchase order.

Week 0 at the Workshop

Bark comes off, timber dries, cane is cleaned. Australia wants imported wooden articles clean and free of bark, insects, soil and other contamination, and tells officers to look for holes and frass as signs of borers (department guidance, cited on our basketware page). Bark left on a decorative branch or a rustic frame is the most common thing a maker thinks is charming and the border thinks is a pest.

Treatment

Heat, fumigation or another approved method, done by a provider your destination recognises. For Australia, methyl bromide fumigation offshore has to be done by a provider registered in its offshore fumigation scheme (AFAS), which is why section 3 matters so much.

The Window After Treatment

For manufactured wooden articles Australia used to allow 21 days between treatment and export. Since September 2017 it allows six calendar months, on one condition. The consignment has to carry a manufacturer's, supplier's or exporter's declaration about how the goods were stored after treatment (Industry Advice Notice 71–2017, notice 34–2017, both read via search summaries because the department's site timed out on us). Six months sounds generous. It's there because Indian exporters often treat a batch, then sit on finished stock in an open godown while the rest of an order is

made, and goods that pick up insects after treatment aren't treated any more. Ask where the goods wait, and for how long.

Stuffing the Container

Treated goods meet untreated packaging here. The pallets, crates and dunnage have their own rule, ISPM 15, covered on wood packaging. Australian brokers warn that an unmarked pallet can hold a whole container even after customs has cleared it (FS-SHP-007, two Australian vendors on LinkedIn, 2026).



Arrival

Documents are assessed, and the goods may be inspected. If the paper or the goods fail, the usual options are treatment in Australia or New Zealand, export back to India, or destruction, and an Australian customs broker

described it in exactly those terms for timber, bamboo and cane homewares (FS-SHP-008, LinkedIn, March 2026). All of it is at your cost.

That last line is the reason to care about weeks 0 to 6. Nothing at the border is cheaper than doing it right in the godown.

SourcingFrom Intelligence

powered by Kirnova - the intelligence company

01 **A treatment certificate can go bad after it's issued.** Australia suspended or withdrew 13 Indian fumigation providers from its offshore scheme in mid-2026, seven suspended and six withdrawn. Under the department's standard approach to suspensions, certificates from a suspended provider stop being accepted, including ones issued before the suspension. *(Industry Advice Notice 118-2026 via Freight & Trade Alliance, 13 Jul 2026.)*

02 **Treatment has a shelf life tied to storage.** Manufactured wooden articles treated offshore must be exported within six calendar months, with a declaration about storage since treatment. *(Notice 71-2017, read via search summary.)*

03 **The department itself flags cottage-made cane.** Its guidance says cane and rattan articles are often made in rural cottage industries without rigorous biosecurity control, so expect closer attention. *(Department of Agriculture.)*

What we don't know yet

- ☐ The current BICON treatment parameters for cane and rattan, and the treatment options in MPI's 2018 standard. Both sites blocked or timed out on our reads. That's why this page tells you to confirm the line with your broker.
- ☐ How many Indian consignments are re-treated or re-exported at the Australian border each year. The department doesn't publish it by origin.

3. Check Who Treated It, Not Just That It Was Treated

This is the part almost nobody tells a first-time importer, and 2026 made it urgent.

Australia doesn't only check that a certificate exists. It checks the provider who signed it. Between June and July 2026 the department suspended Indian fumigation providers notice by notice, and in July it said thirteen had been suspended from, or had withdrawn from, its accreditation scheme (notice 118–2026, as reproduced by Freight & Trade Alliance). That notice is mainly about khapra beetle measures on high-risk plant products and sea containers, so it bites hardest on rice, seed spices and the containers they travel in. The lesson for a cane importer is the same though. Indian press put the count at 44. We'd trust the department's 13, and we'd trust neither number as much as a check on your own provider.

An Australian biosecurity consultant put the point plainly in August: "Having a treatment certificate in the shipping documentation does not automatically mean the biosecurity risk has been adequately managed" (FS-SHP-001, LinkedIn, August 2026). We agree with every word of it.

Here's the check, done before goods are treated, not when the certificate turns up, because a certificate from the wrong provider can't be fixed with paperwork.

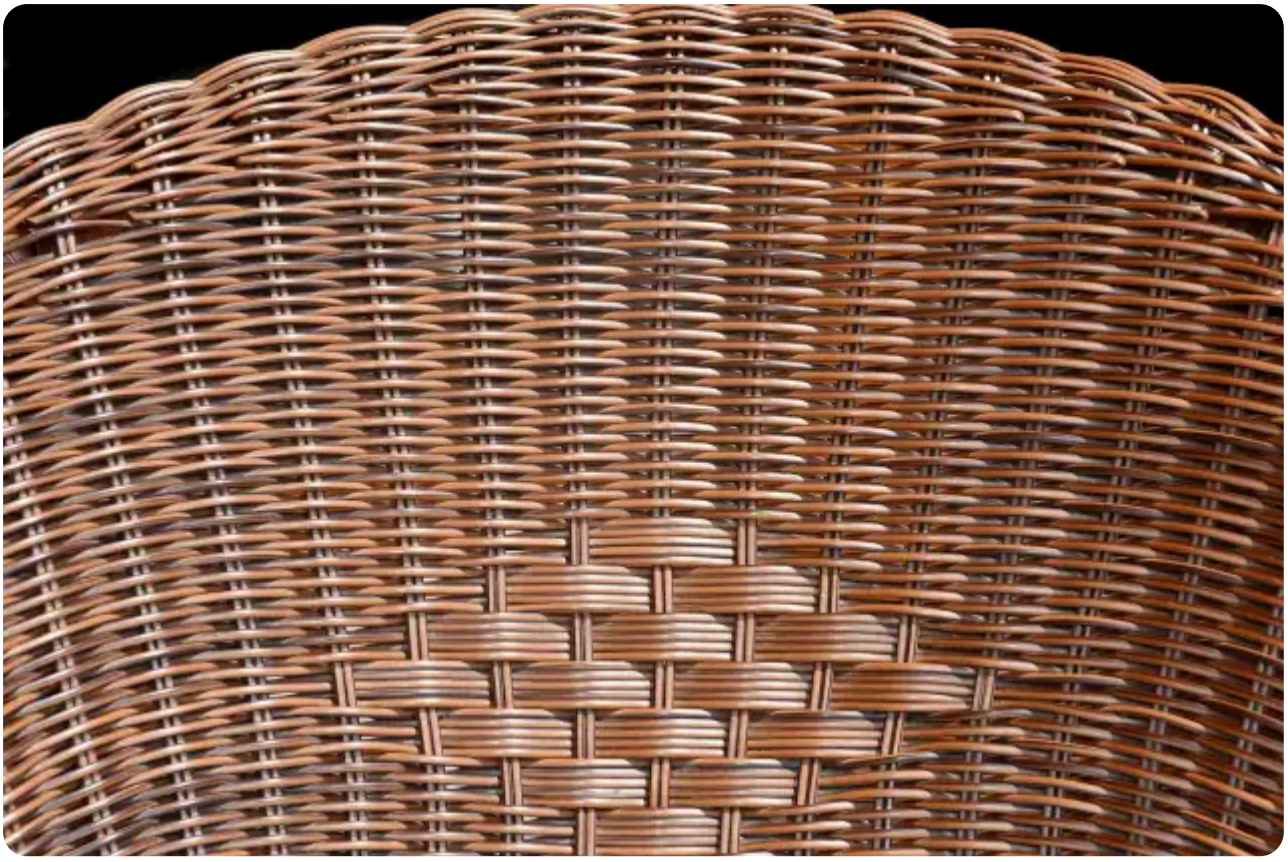
1. **Ask the exporter** to name the treatment provider and its registration number.
2. **Look the provider up** on India's list of accredited treatment providers, which the plant protection directorate links from its home page (PPQS).
3. **Check its status** on the Australian department's list for the scheme, which your broker can read in a minute.

Is this an accusation against Indian fumigators? No. Most of them passed the same audits. It's a check that takes minutes and protects a container,

which is the best ratio in this whole guide.

4. Reading Australia's BICON Without Losing a Day

BICON is the department's import conditions database, and it's where your item's real rule lives (BICON). It's free and public. It's also written for brokers, and first-time importers bounce off it.



Here's how we'd approach it -

1. **Search by material, not by product.** "Wooden articles", "bamboo", "cane", "rattan", "willow", "seagrass". The department's timber types page exists precisely to route you to the right case (Department of Agriculture).
2. **Answer the processing question honestly.** Is the timber manufactured, kiln dried, debarked, lacquered? The case changes with the answer, and a

lacquered finish isn't automatically a pass.

3. **Note every document the case asks for.** Treatment certificate, manufacturer's declaration, packing declaration. Send that list to your exporter as part of the order.
4. **Run each component.** A composite piece needs each part cleared.

Then there's the second law, which isn't biosecurity at all. Timber goods also fall under Australia's illegal logging rules, with due diligence on the wood's legality. That's on timber legality, and for furniture specifically on wooden furniture from India.

Duty is the easy part for most of these goods, with India's agreement with Australia covering most lines. The rates and the origin paperwork are on India to Australia.

5. New Zealand Has One Standard for the Cane Family

New Zealand is tidier in one way. If your goods are bamboo, cane, rattan or willow, one import health standard covers them from every country, issued 17 October 2018 and replacing a 2011 version (MPI). Its sections 2.4 and 2.5 set the treatment and the treatment options, and 2.6 the checks on arrival. Wooden goods use MPI's wood products standards, and MPI puts the duty to meet the standard, arrange treatment and keep records on the importer (MPI wood products).

We tried to read the standard's PDF in full and MPI's site served a bot check, which we don't work around. So we can't quote you the treatment schedule, and we'd rather say so than paraphrase it from memory. Ask your New Zealand broker to send you sections 2.4 to 2.6 and forward them to your exporter as part of the order. It's a short read and it removes the guesswork.



The duty side changed this month. India's agreement with New Zealand has applied since 20 October 2026, and the details are on India to New Zealand.

6. What Changes When the Goods Come From India

None of these rules single India out. Vietnamese rattan and Indonesian teak meet the same cases. What's specific is how Indian natural goods get made.

Most cane and bamboo work comes from artisan groups and small units, and reaches you through an exporter who consolidates it. The only town on the government's export-excellence list for bamboo and cane is Agartala, in Tripura, and it has no export terminal of its own, so goods travel to Kolkata before they sail. Wooden handicrafts come from places like Saharanpur and Jodhpur. Every hand-off between village, exporter, godown and port is a

place where treated goods can wait, mix with untreated stock or pick up insects.

That's not a reason to avoid these makers. Handicraft exporters ship this stuff to Australia every week. It's a reason to ask the exporter three questions in writing -

- Have you shipped this material to Australia or New Zealand in the last year, and did it clear without re-treatment?
- Who treats it, when, and where does it wait between treatment and stuffing?
- Will the treatment and the storage declaration cover every component, including the packing material?

An exporter who answers all three without hesitation has done this before. One who answers "fumigation certificate will be given" and nothing else probably hasn't, and that's fine for an EU order and risky for yours. If you'd like someone at the godown to check the treatment records and watch the container being stuffed, SourcingSync does exactly that.

7. Current Rules as of 12 Oct 2026

We update this box when the rules move. The timeline above doesn't change.

Market	Rule	Status
Australia	Import conditions per material and per component in BICON	In force, check your case
Australia	Manufactured wooden articles: export within six months of offshore treatment, with storage declaration	Since Sep 2017
Australia	Offshore methyl bromide treatment by a provider in the AFAS scheme. 13 Indian providers suspended or withdrawn (notice 118-2026)	July 2026, check the provider on the day
New Zealand	Import health standard for bamboo, cane, rattan and willow from all countries	Issued 17 Oct 2018
Both	ISPM 15 for wood packaging	In force

FAQ

Is a fumigation certificate enough for Australia?

Only if the provider who issued it is in good standing with the department on the day it matters, and the goods match what was treated. Check the provider before treatment.

My product is lacquered. Is it still a biosecurity item?

Do jute and cotton goods need treatment?

Can I clear samples by courier without all this?

What happens if my container fails?

8. Wrapping Up

The department told you itself where the risk sits, in a village workshop with no biosecurity manager. Your job is to make sure somebody between that workshop and the ship did the job, inside the window, with a provider the border still trusts. Write the timeline into the order, check the provider by name, and let your broker confirm the case line. Hope this helps.