



Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme

Assistance for southbound imported goods – review outcome and implementation

On 23 August 2019, the Australian Government announced a number of improvements to the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES) to modernise its operation and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness.

This announcement included a proposal to expand TFES assistance to southbound imported goods that do not have an Australian equivalent, subject to a review to determine any unintended consequences of the proposal.

The imported goods review included a discussion paper seeking views from TFES stakeholders and public consultation sessions in Launceston, Devonport and Hobart conducted in October and November 2019. The review was completed in December 2019.

What was the outcome of the review?

The review supports extending TFES eligibility to southbound imported goods shipped to Tasmania from the Australian mainland, where there is no Australian equivalent good.

TFES will be available to eligible imported goods shipped to Tasmania from the mainland on or after 1 July 2021. Claims for TFES assistance can be lodged online with Services Australia from 1 October 2021.

What will change?

The Australian Government has confirmed imported goods shipped to Tasmania from the mainland and where the imported good does not have an Australian equivalent will be eligible for TFES assistance from 1 October 2021 onwards for shipments made on or after 1 July 2021.

Eligible imported goods shipped to Tasmania from the mainland will be paid assistance at the flat rate of \$700 per TEU.

TFES imported goods claims are to be lodged online only.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for TFES southbound assistance you need to be engaged in the manufacturing, mining, or agriculture, forestry and fishing industries in Tasmania (as defined in the Ministerial Directions) and your good needs to be an eligible southbound good used in your eligible business activity. Eligible southbound goods are also defined in the Ministerial Directions.

For your southbound imported goods claim to be paid you will also need to verify that your good was shipped from a mainland port to Tasmania and the good does not have an Australian equivalent.

Why must an eligible imported good be shipped from the mainland?

Recognising that the aim of the TFES is to reduce the higher cost of transporting goods across Bass Strait, assistance cannot be claimed for goods that are imported into Tasmania directly from overseas. TFES assistance will only be provided for eligible imported goods that have been imported to mainland Australia before shipment to Tasmania, and where no more than 6 months has passed between the good's arrival in Australia and its shipment to Tasmania.

What is an 'Australian equivalent' good?

For the purposes of assessing a TFES imported good claim, an 'Australian equivalent' good is one that is:

- manufactured, produced or grown in Australia, including in Tasmania
- suitable for use in your eligible business processes or activities
- available to your business, and in sufficient scale and/or quality

How will I lodge a claim?

You should lodge your TFES imported good claim online using the newly created TFES Imports claim option. All applicable eligibility requirements relating to a southbound claim will still need to be met, including providing evidence of having incurred and paid the freight cost across Bass Strait. You will also be required to provide evidence of the importation of the good into Australia and additional information to support your claim that there is no Australian equivalent good.


How do I prove 'no Australian equivalent' in my claim?

When lodging your claim, you need to validate that there is no Australian equivalent for your imported good.

- You will need to identify that an import tariff concession applies to your imported good under the Department of Home Affairs Tariff Concession System on the TFES imported goods claim. You must keep a copy of any evidence relating to a Tariff Concession Order applying to your imported good as it may be requested as part of Services Australia audit activity; or
- Provide a TFES Statutory Declaration declaring that your imported good has no Australian equivalent and provide concise evidence to substantiate this declaration. This could be a statement from an Australian manufacturer, supplier, industry body or your own research to substantiate your claim.

Do I need to register my imported goods?

If the goods are not already registered and you are a manufacturer or miner you will need to register your goods prior to claiming. The process for registering goods is the same as for southbound Australian manufactured goods.



If you are a primary producer you do not need to register your goods. Eligibility of the goods will be determined at the time of claiming.

When can I lodge a claim?

You will be able to lodge your TFES claim from 1 October 2021 onwards, for imported goods that do not have an Australian equivalent, and are shipped from the mainland on or after 1 July 2021.

How can I find out more?

The Department will publish information on the imported good policy on its website at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/maritime/tasmanian-transport-schemes/tasmanian/>. The Department also plans to provide additional information to TFES stakeholders on the imported good policy and claim process in the coming months.

If you have any questions about the imported good policy, or on TFES policy in general, you can email Tasmanianshipping@infrastructure.gov.au