



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

# Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme Information Paper

This information paper is made under subclause 8.3.1 of the Ministerial Directions for the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES).

## TFES Assistance for Imported Goods

On 11 May 2021, the Australian Government announced the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES) was being extended to eligible imported goods, which are shipped to Tasmania from a mainland port and where there is no Australian equivalent good.

Claims for TFES assistance for imported goods can to be lodged online from 1 October 2021 onwards, for eligible goods shipped from the mainland to Tasmania on or after 1 July 2021.

To be eligible, the imported goods must be shipped to Tasmania within 6 months of the date the goods were imported to mainland Australia.

## TFES Rate of Assistance for Imported Goods

The rate of assistance for eligible imported goods shipped from the mainland of Australia to the main island of Tasmania is \$700 per Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU).

For imported goods shipped from the mainland of Australia to King Island or Furneaux Group Islands the flat rate of assistance is \$805 per TEU, or \$1610 per TEU if the goods were shipped to the Furneaux Group from the mainland of Australia, via the main island of Tasmania, and the shipment involved a land transport component on the main island of Tasmania.


For full container/trailer loads of other sizes these rates are adjusted based on the length of the shipping unit.

For less than container load shipments these rates are adjusted to pay on either tonnes or cubic metres shipped.

## General Southbound Eligibility

To have a TFES imported goods claim paid you will still need to meet the applicable eligibility and lodgement requirements that currently exist for TFES claims for southbound shipments of goods from the mainland to Tasmania.

To receive TFES southbound assistance a claimant must be predominantly engaged in the **manufacturing, mining, or agriculture, forestry and fishing** industries in Tasmania and the good needs to be a key eligible input to your business activity in one of these five industries.



This information paper focuses on the core requirements for TFES assistance for imported goods claims. For more information on general eligibility for southbound goods under TFES, please refer to the Information Paper 'TFES Southbound Assistance'.

## Imported Good Eligibility

For the purposes of assessing your TFES imported goods claim, an 'Australian equivalent' good is assessed as one that is:

- manufactured, produced or grown in Australia (not an imported good); and
- suitable for use in your eligible business processes or activities; and
- available to your business, and in sufficient scale and quality.

Please note that the assessment of whether an Australian equivalent exists considers the use, availability, supply and quality of the good. The assessment does not consider the suitability (or not) of the cost of the Australian good when deciding whether it is equivalent to the imported good.

You will need to verify that your imported good does not have an Australian equivalent in one of two ways:

- You will need to identify that a Tariff Concession Order applies to your imported good under the Department of Home Affairs Tariff Concession System.
- OR
- Provide a TFES Statutory Declaration declaring that your imported good has no Australian equivalent and provide concise evidence to substantiate this declaration (no more than two pages). This could be a statement from an Australian manufacturer, supplier, industry body or your own research to substantiate your claim.

In addition, you will need to provide evidence of

- the importation of the goods into Australia, and
- no more than 6 months having passed between the good's arrival on the Australian mainland and its shipment to Tasmania.

This evidence could come from a Bill of Lading, freight invoice/s, packing list, customs or import documentation, as long as proof of meeting the requirements is clearly identifiable and legible.

## How to claim TFES assistance for your imported good

### 1. Register and be approved as a southbound TFES claimant

To be eligible to claim TFES assistance for southbound shipments of eligible imported goods, you must first be registered as an approved southbound claimant engaged in the manufacturing, mining, or agriculture, forestry or fishing industry in Tasmania.

If you are not currently an approved southbound claimant you can lodge an application at any time using the *TFES Registration and change of details (TAS020)* form available on the Services Australia website.

## 2. Register imported goods

If you are registered as an eligible TFES southbound claimant for the manufacturing and mining industries, you must also register all southbound goods you intend to make a claim for.

New southbound goods which are imported goods can be registered from 1 October 2021 onwards using a *TFES Manufacturers' and Miners' application to register southbound goods (TAS025)* form - available from the Services Australia website from 1 October 2021.

If your imported good is already registered as a domestic good you do not need to register it again. You can check with Services Australia if you are unsure whether your imported good has already been registered as a domestic southbound good.

Claims relating to the agricultural, forestry and fishing industries can be lodged without first registering the goods, as the eligibility of the goods will be confirmed during the assessment of your claim. For more information on the southbound registration processes (Steps 1 and 2), please refer to the Information Paper 'TFES Southbound Assistance'.

## 3. Make an imported good claim

Once you have been registered as an eligible TFES southbound claimant and have registered your southbound goods (applies to manufacturing and mining industries only), you can lodge your imported goods claim. Claims for imported goods must be lodged separately to claims for southbound domestic goods.

Claims should be made online using the logon ID and password provided by Services Australia when you registered as an eligible TFES claimant. Evidence must be uploaded online on the Services Australia website to support all details of your claim.

If you cannot identify that a Tariff Concession Order applies to your imported good under the Department of Home Affairs Tariff Concession System, you must complete a TFES Statutory Declaration, available on the [Services Australia website](#) from 1 October 2021, and supply concise evidence supporting the declaration made on the form.

## Contact Us

### **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Enquiries relating to TFES policy should be directed to:

Regulation and Programs Section

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

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Canberra ACT 2601

Email: [TasmanianShipping@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:TasmanianShipping@infrastructure.gov.au)



**Services Australia**

Enquiries relating to program delivery, claims, payments and other operational matters should be directed to:

Tasmanian Transport Programs

Services Australia

GPO Box 1269

HOBART TAS 7001

Phone: 13 11 58


Email: [tfes.support@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:tfes.support@servicesaustralia.gov.au)

*\*\*\*Claim and Eligibility Scenarios on next page\*\*\**



### Claim and Eligibility Scenarios

- **Claimant A needs to use an imported good in its manufacturing process. It has worked with potential mainland suppliers in the past to investigate whether a domestic equivalent could be used in the manufacturing process, but the scale of what could be sourced was too small for its needs and there were compatibility issues with Claimant A's specialised equipment. Claimant A seeks confirmation whether it would be eligible for TFES assistance for its imported good.**
  - Claimant A would likely be eligible for TFES assistance for its imported good. In this case, the domestic good is not suitable for use in Claimant A's activities and it could not be sourced in the required volumes, meaning that it could not be assessed as an Australian equivalent to the imported good, for the purpose of providing TFES assistance.
- **Claimant B requires a new input to its manufacturing process, and has considered sourcing the input both domestically and internationally. Claimant B has found both the domestic and imported good suitable to its manufacturing processes and available in sufficient scale and quality. Claimant B notes that there is a cost difference between the domestic and imported good.**
  - The domestic good would be eligible for TFES southbound assistance and the variable assistance rate of \$855 per TEU (maximum) would apply. The imported good would not be eligible for TFES assistance as there is an Australian equivalent. A determination of whether an imported good has an Australian equivalent focuses on its suitability for use in the claimant's eligible business process and its availability to the claimant in scale and quality. The relative cost of the Australian equivalent to the imported good is not a factor in assessing whether it is a suitable alternative to the imported good.
- **Claimant C uses an imported good as machinery for use in its agricultural activities. A Tariff Concession Order under the Tariff Concession System does not apply to the good, but Claimant C is confident that the type of good is only available from a specialist manufacturer in Europe and has never been manufactured in Australia. Claimant C wants to confirm an alternative way to prove there is no Australian equivalent to the imported good.**
  - If a claimant cannot provide evidence of a Tariff Concession Order applying to its imported good under the Tariff Concession System, the claimant may still be eligible if it submits a TFES Statutory Declaration declaring that the imported good has no Australian equivalent and provides concise evidence to substantiate this declaration.



This could be a statement from an Australian manufacturer, supplier, industry body or its own research to substantiate the claim.

- **Claimant D uses an imported good as a key input in its mining production. The importation of the good is managed by a third party. Claimant D does not have the required evidence of the importation of the good from the third party, and submits a claim for TFES assistance.**
- This claim would likely be rejected. Claimants must be able to provide evidence of the importation of the good into Australia and proof that no more than 6 months have passed between the goods arrival on the mainland and its shipment to Tasmania. This evidence can be provided in the form of a Bill of Lading, freight invoice/s, packing lists and customs and import documentation. If a third party manages the importation of the good, it is the responsibility of the claimant to secure the evidence from the third party.