



8 MUST-DO STEPS

Before Shipping Your Boat Successfully to Australia

Boat importation to Australia can be an easier process when you provide all of the required documents and properly prepare the boat before shipping. The easiest way to make sure you haven't missed something is to do your research and then make a checklist.



»» Step 1: Get a pre-purchase report or marine survey

This is the most important step to ensure the boat is what was advertised, and is also required for your insurance should you need to make a claim.

We recommend you use this opportunity to get details for shipping as well, so you can have an accurate landed price, as often the sellers information often are incorrect and can affect your shipping costs.

Dimensions are vital in receiving an accurate price for shipping as you are charged for the space you take up on the ship. The dimensions need to include the overall size including the trailer, cradle, outboard motors swim platforms, guide poles (these can be removed), T tops etc. Also a photo of the trailer compliance sticker / plate showing the GVWR & VIN #

When Your Boat Has a Trailer

Boats with trailers cannot be imported to Australia without first obtaining a Trailer Import Permit which has a processing time up to 21 days.



You CANNOT import a boat on trailer without an import permit

DAZMAC can arrange the import permit on your behalf if the trailer has a GVWR (ATM) less than 4500 kgs. Without permit approval, your boat & trailer will stay at port and will incur storage charges, if you can't prove the GVWR of the trailer, it will be destroyed.

You should get a photo of the compliance plate/sticker on the purchase report/survey as once it's loaded on a ship you won't be able to get one!

Boats Without Trailers Need a Cradle

If your boat has no trailer, it will need to be fitted with a steel or ISPM15 compliant timber cradle depending on the design of your hull. Cradle compliance will prevent you from incurring fumigation fees upon the boat's arrival into Australia.

» Step 2: Get Your Shipping Price

Before making your final payment you should **get the complete shipping price from DAZMAC** with the confirmed dimensions from the surveyor and also get them to verify the documentation for the trailer permit application.



» Step 3: Provide a Bill of Sale

Whether you purchased your boat from someone else or already own it, you must have a value. An invoice or bill of sale must be provided to customs for the import customs clearance. Customs do also request proof of the price paid by bank transfer so you need to ensure the value on the documentation is correct.

If you have owned the boat for a 12 month or more an evaluation is required. This can work in your favour if the value has dropped as it will reduce the Import taxes applicable in Australia.

»» **Step 4: Present Valid Identification**

Presentation of a photo ID such as a driver's licence or passport photo page is required to gain export clearance from the USA and also for your import permit application.

»» **Step 5: Clean Your Boat Inside and Out**

It's very important to clean the boat inside and out. Power wash dirt on the trailer and remove algae, barnacles or any other organic material from the hull. Wash and vacuum dirt or leaves from the hatch, engine bay and anywhere else on the inside of the boat.

Quarantine are looking for leaves, seeds, insects, and plant materials and if they find any it will be sent for cleaning upon arrival at the importers cost.

»» **Step 6: Disconnect, Tie Down, Seal and Reduce the Dimensions**

Before the boat is imported, its batteries should be disconnected and the cables tied off to prevent accidental contact. Make sure that water and fuel tanks (no more than 25% full) are drained as much as possible.

Reduce the overall volume of your boat by removing swim platforms, keels, radar arches, bowsprits and fly bridges to reduce shipping prices.

Hatches should be tied down and sealed with tape to prevent them from opening up or being damaged from tempestuous water while in transit.

Another important tip is to drain pumps, water systems and waste tanks. Upon arrival to the destination port, make sure to have the boat's keys ready to unlock hatches for customs and quarantine inspection.

» Step 7: Pay Duty and GST

You will be required to pay 5% Duty on the cost of the Boat and any transport fees accrued in the United States upon import unless you have a valid US Free Trade Agreement signed and the boat was manufactured in the USA.

You will be required to pay Import GST of 10% on all costs related to the boat's purchase, duty, sea freight, origin transport crane, cradle and terminal handling.

Australia United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA)

You will qualify for the exemption of the 5% duty if your boat was manufactured in the United States. Some popular brands / models of boats are no longer built in the USA. You can confirm by the boats original documentation or more simply by the hull number. Anything with hull number starting "US" is built in the USA.

For boat trailers the country of origin is found on the compliance plate.



» Step 8: Find Out Customs Brokers and Destination Charges

Contact DAZMAC and ask about our qualified customs brokers for the destination charges prior to the arrival of your shipment to avoid surprises. Also, their advice will confirm all specific laws related to importing a boat to Australia.

Summary

There has never been a more financially opportune time to import a boat to Australia. True, this involves thorough boat preparation and provision of several documents.

However, learning the details of what you need to do to make your boat pass Australian inspection is essential to avoid unnecessary delays and charges.

There are different shipping options available with varying transit times, the fast services start at 21 days transit and the slow services between 55-75 days not all ports in the USA have both services.

As we said, before making final payment for your boat, the crucial step is to have some idea as to how much it will cost to take your dream boat to Australia, therefore we encourage you to request an instant quote now.

GET AN INSTANT
QUOTE NOW

(Takes approx. 60 seconds)

*15-30 second response for 80% of quotes assessed using our automated system.
For more complex jobs, one of our team will email you a quote within 24 hours.*



» About DAZMAC Pty Ltd

DAZMAC Pty Ltd was founded by our Managing Director Daryl McIntyre in January 2010. The business aim was and still is to streamline the shipping process for Marine & Automotive importers by offering an end to end solution. We identified these industries as being overpriced with lots of hidden costs & potential pitfalls. We set our goals to make our service competitive, informative, transparent, and hassle free.

In a short period of time we formed good partnerships with like-minded agents in USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, UK and Europe.

These relationships along with having reliable experienced staff have enabled DAZMAC to become a market leader in shipping boats & cars into Australia.



» About the Author: *Daryl McIntyre - Managing Director*

I started in logistics in 1998 starting as an office junior and working up through various positions including, import sea freight, operations, warehouse manager, cartage co-coordinator, freight manager, customer service, business development and sales.

I had a short stint in 2006 in the UK for 9 months in an Art shipping company moving expensive sculptures and paintings around the world before settling back in Australia starting a freight section in a small established customs brokerage. In January 2010, I decided to start my own business and the DAZMAC Sydney office opened and have grown rapidly since. Since we have opened a Gold Coast Branch in April 2013 and plan to have a Melbourne office before the end of 2018.