



Australia - United States Free Trade Agreement Fact Sheet 21

DOMESTIC APPROVAL

The AUSFTA will not be in effect until both Parties have:

- completed their respective domestic approval processes;
- amended and/or passed any necessary legislation, and;
- agreed on a date for entry into force.

Australia

The main steps for approving the agreed text of the AUSFTA in Australia are:

- legal vetting to ensure that the text is accurate and legally appropriate;
- Cabinet approval of the final terms of the AUSFTA;
- a proposal for authorisation to sign the draft treaty to the Executive Council;
- signature of the Agreement;
- publication of the Agreement on the DFAT database (www.austlii.edu.au/dfat);
- tabling of the Agreement in both houses of Parliament (20 sitting days);
- Joint Standing Committee review of the draft treaty
- passage of required implementing legislation;

United States

The main steps for approving the agreed text of the AUSFTA in the United States are:

- report by the President to Congress on possible amendments to US law (done)
- notice by the President to Congress of intent to have the agreement signed
- report by the President to US International Trade Commission (ITC)
- Administration report to Congress on changes to laws required
- ITC assessment report to the President and Congress
- passage of required implementing legislation.

Once implementing legislation has passed through Congress, and once Australia's domestic approval processes are complete, the two governments can agree upon a suitable date for entry into force.

Who to contact

For further information, please contact DFAT's AUSFTA Taskforce:

Hotline: **1300 558 413** (local call rates) between 9am and 5pm (AEST) – Mon- Fri

For media enquiries please call DFAT Media Liaison Section (02) 6261 1555.

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Visit our website: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/us.html>

For advice on exporting, call Austrade on 13 28 78 or visit at www.austrade.gov.au