Sediment and related samples from the sea or ocean floor

1. Samples must only be sourced from the benthic zone\* of oceans or seas (i.e., sediment from the sea floor/ocean floor) within the \*\*neritic or oceanic zones. Samples must not be sourced from the following:
	1. \*\*The intertidal zone (including estuaries)
	2. Aquaculture sites
	3. Inland seas
2. Samples must not contain visible animal tissues or whole animals (shells and bones are permissible).
3. Samples must undergo one of the following treatments prior to import, or immediately after import:
	1. Freezing to achieve a consistent temperature throughout of -20°C; or
	2. Heating to achieve a consistent temperature throughout of 56°C; or
	3. Ionising radiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 50 kGy; or
	4. Addition of sodium hypochlorite or calcium hypochlorite to achieve a final concentration of 2,500 ppm chlorine, ensuring thorough mixing through the sample.

Treatment must be performed prior to any other use or analysis of the goods.

1. The goods must be either:
	1. Imported in volumes of less than 1Kg or 1L per individually packaged unit; or
	2. Mining or geological samples imported in volumes of no greater than 60 L or 60 kg per individually packaged unit for physical and/or chemical analysis only.
2. To demonstrate compliance with the above, the following must be provided on a Manufacturer’s declaration, Exporter’s declaration, or Supplier’s declaration:
	1. A statement that the goods are sediment and related samples which have been sourced from the benthic zone (i.e., sediment from the sea floor/ocean floor) within the neritic or oceanic zones only; and
	2. A statement that the goods have not been sourced from the intertidal zone (including estuaries), aquaculture sites or inland seas; and

If the goods have been treated prior to import:

* 1. A statement that the goods have undergone one of the following treatments:
		1. Freezing to achieve a consistent temperature throughout of -20°C; or
		2. Heating to achieve a consistent temperature throughout of 56°C; or
		3. Ionising radiation to achieve a minimum absorbed dose of 50 kGy; or
		4. Addition of sodium hypochlorite or calcium hypochlorite to achieve a final concentration of 2,500 ppm chlorine, ensuring thorough mixing through the sample.
1. If an approved treatment is performed after import, it is the permit holder’s responsibility to ensure the treatment is applied effectively and relevant records are kept.
2. The goods must not be exposed to or used in animals, plants, microorganisms, cell cultures or the environment, and must not be used in or on humans.
3. The goods must not be used for culture or isolation of microorganisms and infectious agents.
4. Microorganisms and infectious agents must not be cultured or isolated from the materials imported under this permit.
5. Any microorganisms or infectious agents (including derivatives) within the goods must not be used for the synthesis of replication-competent microorganisms or infectious agents.
6. Prior to any liquid disposal via the sewerage system, the goods must have been treated using a method in 3. ii to 3. iv (either pre- or post-import).
7. All imported material and derivatives must be used in accordance with the current AS/NZS 2243.3 Safety in Laboratories Part 3: Microbiological safety and containment. This includes handling and disposal procedures.

\* The benthic zone, or benthos, is the lowest ecological region in a body of water. The benthic zone begins at the shoreline and extends along the bottom of a body of water. In the case of the seas and oceans, the benthic zone ranges from the intertidal zone to the deepest ocean trenches. It comprises the sediment surface and some sub-surface layers and receives the organic material from the upper layers of the ocean.

\*\* As the benthic zone exists across all regions of the seas and oceans, benthic samples may be obtained from various vertical ocean zones. These are the intertidal zone, the neritic zone, and the oceanic zone. The intertidal zone is the zone that is above water at high tide and submerged at low tide. The neritic zone is the shallow part of the ocean extending from the shoreline to the edge of the continental shelf. The neritic zone is always submerged and extends to depths of 200 metres. The oceanic zone is the region of open sea beyond the continental shelf and can be over 10,000 metres deep in the deepest trenches.