

FAQ'S: SHIPPING CONTAINERS



DO SHIPPING CONTAINERS NEED APPROVAL?

Yes, they do! Shipping containers have required approval since the Planning Act 1982 came into effect, which was superseded by the Development Act 1993, which was then superseded by the current Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Under all 3 Acts, building is defined as: ***“building means a building or structure or a portion of a building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, moveable or immovable.”***

Why has this only come about now?

Although shipping containers have always required approval, Council is cracking down on illegal development. This is to ensure all development meets at least the minimum required standards for safety and durability.

My shipping container has been there for over 20 years and we haven't got approval for it, do I still need to get approval?

Yes, you do. This has been a requirement since 1982. You will need to submit an application for your shipping container through PlanSA.

What if I want to remove it either now or later?

It is best that you contact Council to discuss and arrange this. Depending on the timeframe in which you wish to place and then move the shipping container, you may require a temporary approval.

What if I want to move it within my property?

This is the same as moving any structure on your property. You will still need approval. The location of your shipping container is a major contributor to the Policies set by the State Government.

I'm not building or developing anything though? Why is it considered development?

Under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and the previous Acts, “Development” means any “building” or “building work”. See the definition under “Do Shipping Containers Need Approval?”

What form of development would it constitute as?

Depending on the use of the shipping container, it could be a store or outbuilding.

Store: Means a building or enclosed land used for the storage of goods and within or upon which no trade (whether wholesale or retail) or industry is carried out on. Outbuilding: a) an outbuilding in which human activity is secondary, and which –

- (ii) has a total floor area not exceeding 15m²
- (iii) has no roof span (being the horizontal distance between supporting walls, posts or columns of the outbuilding) exceeding 3m and no part of the building being higher than 2.5m; and
- (iv) is not being constructed, added to or altered so that any portion of the building is situated – (A) in front of any part of the building line of the building to which it is ancillary that faces the primary street.

All shipping containers are higher than 2.50m (2.59) therefore requiring approval. Additionally, 40ft containers are greater than 15m² therefore requiring approval.

For further information, please contact our office:

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