



## RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL MARITIME VESSELS AND CREW

### **Travel restriction for all non-Australian citizens and non-residents**

**01 April 2020**

As of 29 March 2020, the following restrictions are in place for the Australian Border:

1. Non-Australian citizens and non-Australian residents are not permitted to enter Australia, via aircraft or sea vessel, unless an exemption applies.
2. All Australian citizens and permanent residents are prohibited from departing Australia unless an exemption applies.
3. All passengers arriving in Australia will be subject to the Australian Government's mandatory quarantine period of 14-days at their first Australian destination unless an exemption applies.

The following arrangements are in place for maritime crew:

- Maritime crew may enter and depart Australia.
- Maritime crew are not subject to the mandatory 14-day quarantine however, they will be required to comply with self-isolation requirements set out in this advice.
- Maritime crew may be subject to additional state and territory controls.

Maritime crew includes any person required to be part of a crew operating a commercial vessel or an offshore installation (i.e. oil and gas) in Australian waters. This includes Australian and New Zealand Citizens, permanent residents, maritime crew visa holders and sub-class 400 (temporary specialist worker) visa holders.

This advice does not apply to crew on cruise ships.

Marine pilots are captured under the definition of maritime crew for purposes of travel to and from Australia by air.

**To facilitate crew air travel, companies are requested to provide details of workers arriving in Australia by aircraft in advance.**

- See **Attachment A** for details: ***Pre-Approval Process***.



### **Advice for maritime crew arriving on an international maritime voyage**

Vessels may berth in Australia at any time, however if the vessel arrives within 14-days from their last international port of call the following restrictions apply:

- All crew must remain on-board while the vessel is berthed in Australia.
- Crew are able to disembark to conduct essential vessel functions and crew must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while performing these functions.
- Crew should restrict their interaction with non-crew members to those interactions that are critical to the safe operation and loading/unloading of the vessel.
  - Crew must also use PPE in public spaces on board the vessel while non-crew members are on-board.
- These restrictions apply until 14-days has elapsed since the vessel departed the last foreign port before Australia, and where there are no reports of **crew being or having been unwell, or there is a suspected case of COVID-19 on-board**.
  - Shore leave may occur after the 14-day period has been completed.
- Crew can leave the vessel within the 14-day period in the following circumstances:
  - To depart Australia, however crew must proceed directly to the airport and depart; or they must self-isolate at their accommodation until the time they proceed to the airport.
  - To join another vessel but must self-isolate at their accommodation for the remainder of the 14-day self-isolation period or until signing on to the next vessel.
  - Australian crew and Australian permanent residents can travel to their home and complete self-isolation.
  - Crew should also check any domestic isolation requirements and exemptions with the relevant state or territory health authority if transiting domestically.

The period maritime crew spend at sea prior to their arrival in Australia counts towards the 14-day period of self-isolation. In practice, if a vessel has travelled for ten days since last being in a foreign port, the period of self-isolation for its crew would be the remaining four days.

**Where a crew member has been reported as unwell, local biosecurity officers (in consultation with the local health authority) will provide advice on additional measures.**



### **Advice for crew arriving by international aircraft to join a vessel**

- Crew travelling to Australia (by aircraft) to join a vessel must adhere to the following arrangements:
  - On arrival at an Australian airport, crew must declare to an ABF officer they are joining a vessel or offshore installation. They will then be directed to a biosecurity officer.
  - Crew may take a domestic flight/s to their final destination to meet their vessel but must self-isolate at their accommodation if they have a layover at any time.
  - Crew must proceed directly to the vessel and self-isolate in their accommodation.
  - Crew experiencing any signs of illness must not join the vessel and should seek medical assistance.
  - Once on the vessel, crew may leave the vessel to undertake vessel functions and must wear PPE while performing these functions.

Crew arriving in Australia via aircraft to join a vessel need to undertake appropriate precautions when interacting with others on or around the vessel. This includes:

- Use of appropriate PPE when interacting with others (port workers and other crews who will be leaving the vessel for shore leave or sign-off)
- Practice good personal hygiene and clean/sanitise surfaces and common areas.
- Use separate facilities to other crewmembers (where possible)
- Maintain appropriate social-distancing and avoid public transport

Where a vessel is undertaking domestic legs, the 14-day self-isolation requirements recommence for the vessel and all crew on board where a crewmember joins prior to completion of their 14-day self-isolation period. Vessel masters must update Human Health reporting in the Maritime Arrivals Reporting System

### **Maritime Crew Visa Conditions**

Industry members are encouraged to have contingency plans in place to move crew in and out of Australia. If crew transportation out of Australia is delayed or cancelled, the crew must contact ABF immediately to discuss alternative arrangements.



## Australian BORDER FORCE

### Further information

- Maritime Pilots will be provided PPE for the initial engagement with those vessels subject to restrictions.
- **Vessels and Crew may be subject to additional measures and self-isolation requirements required by State and Territory governments.**
- Please monitor individual state and territory government health sites for details and updates on additional measures:
  - NSW: <https://preview.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>
  - ACT: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>
  - VIC: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>
  - TAS: <https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au>
  - SA: <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au>
  - WA: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus)
  - NT: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>
  - QLD: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>

### Local Port Authority

The requirements outlined in this document are required to facilitate border clearance of vessels and their crew. Local port authorities may have additional requirements over and above those outlined.

**For general information concerning COVID-19, please refer to the Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)**

**The ABF appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time.**

*These arrangements are under constant review as the COVID-19 situation evolves, and will be updated based on health advice.*



## **Attachment A – Pre-Approval Process**

ABF has implemented expedited processes to facilitate the movement of maritime and offshore industry workers to support the continuity of the supply chain and protect the Australian community.

Details for the *Pre-Approval* process are:

**Sponsoring company/entity is to provide the following by email:**

**[ISSG.Crisis.Management@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:ISSG.Crisis.Management@homeaffairs.gov.au)**

This information should be provided as soon as is practicable, no earlier than 7 days and no later than 72 hours prior to departure. Late provision of information may lead to requests not being actioned in time.

**For all maritime and offshore workers arriving and departing Australia by air the ABF requests the following information to facilitate travel:**

1. List of crew and workers the request is being made for
  - a. Name, Date of Birth and Gender
  - b. Passport Number, Nationality and Visa class
  - c. Arrival or Departure details
  - d. Transit details and final destination
  - e. Company (Vessel, Installation)
  - f. Employee role and reason for travel (specialist skills, critical role etc.)
  - g. COVID-19 policy and plans sponsoring company has in place including any:
    - i. Self-isolation requirements for staff; and
    - ii. Additional measures (i.e. health checks/process if a worker becomes ill)