

## RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA BY COMMERCIAL VESSELS

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

**20 March 2020**

On 19 March 2020, the Prime Minister of Australia announced that from 2100 AEDST 20 March 2020, non-Australian citizens and non-Australian residents will not be allowed to enter Australia, via aircraft or sea vessel.

The following exemptions apply:

- Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family.
  - For the purposes of the measures introduced in response to COVID-19, the definition of 'immediate family' in *Regulation 1.12AA Member of the immediate family, of the Migration Regulations 1994* assists. For these purposes, immediate family includes legal guardians, spouse, de facto partner, provisional partner visa holders and dependent children of a traveller eligible for entry to Australia.
- New Zealand citizens ordinarily resident in Australia (subclass 444 visa)
- Airline crew and maritime crew
  - Maritime crew includes anyone required to be part of a crew operating or providing services to support the operation of a commercial vessel or a government vessel in Australian waters. Commercial vessels is defined as any vessel involved in commercial activity or person involved in the provision of port services, maintenance services, marine pilots and marine surveyors.

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

### **Specific advice for maritime crew arriving on an international maritime voyage**

All maritime crew will be permitted to enter Australia from 0001 AEDST 16 March 2020 by vessel. All crew must observe a precautionary self-isolation period of 14 days since their last international port.

All crew will be notified of the self-isolation requirement through a health fact sheet.

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.

- 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 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, unless crew are unwell or there is a suspected case of COVID-19 on-board.
- 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 members would be the remaining four days.
- Shore leave can be taken once the 14-day period has elapsed so long as no crewmember has demonstrated signs of illness or is suspected of having COVID-19.

#### Crew signing off a vessel

- Crew signing off a vessel at an Australian port who have completed the 14-day isolation period will be permitted to :
  - transit and depart Australia via a flight; or
  - proceed to join another vessel in Australia
- Crew departing via a flight will need to provide evidence of their flight details or next vessel arrangements.
- Where a crewmember is signing off a vessel (within the 14-day period) and remaining in Australia to join another vessel they must self-isolate at their accommodation for the remainder of the 14-day self-isolation period.
  - Crewmembers departing Australia may proceed directly to the airport and depart; or they must self-isolate at their accommodation until the time they proceed to the airport.
  - Crewmembers can proceed to join another vessel in Australia, but they must self-isolate at their accommodation until the time they board the vessel.
  - Where a crewmember's transportation out of Australia is delayed or cancelled, the crewmember can remain in Australia on their existing Maritime Crew Visa until an alternative transportation option is arranged.
  - Crewmembers must still complete their 14-day self-isolation period following the departure from their last foreign port.

#### **Crew arriving by international aircraft to join a vessel**

The following exemptions are in place for commercial vessels and maritime crew:

- Crew travelling to Australia (by aircraft) to join a vessel must adhere to the following arrangements:
  - on arrival in Australia crew may be subject to additional screening by biosecurity officers;

- 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 or 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 members may leave the vessel to undertake vessel functions and must wear PPE while performing these functions.

Crew joining a vessel in Australia after arriving in Australia via aircraft within 14-days need to undertake appropriate precautions when interacting with others. This includes:

- Use of appropriate PPE when interacting with others (port workers and other crewmembers 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

### **Maritime Crew Visa Conditions**

A number of factors can lead to crewmembers not being able to make their transfer on to and off a vessel within the prescribed 5-day period. These include:

- Unavailability of flights
- Requirement to complete a self-isolation period or medical treatment
- Staying with a vessel to maintain minimum crewing requirements

Vessels masters or crew should raise any concerns with visa arrangements the earliest possible time with the ABF.

Industry members are encourage to have contingency plans in place to move crew in and out of Australia.

### **For Maritime Industry**

- Maritime Pilots will be provided PPE for the initial engagement with those vessels subject to restrictions.

### **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.

Health's advice on avoiding infection including guidance on hand hygiene, cough etiquette and social distancing is available here: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19#protect-yourself-and-others>

**For general information concerning the Novel Coronavirus 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.**