

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS

Precautionary self-isolation requirement for commercial vessels entering Australia

19 March 2020

On 15 March 2020, the Australian Government announced that all persons entering Australia from 0001 AEDST 16 March 2020 must undertake a precautionary self-isolation period for 14 days upon entry to Australia. This applies to any person entering Australia, inclusive of Australian citizens and permanent residents. For persons who are entering Australia for less than 14 days, they must self-isolate for the entire duration of their stay.

These measures apply to all people entering Australia including via aircraft and vessels.

The travel restrictions for mainland China, Iran, the Republic of Korea and Italy remain in place for all travellers including maritime crew.

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

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

For all Commercial Vessels arriving from any port outside Australia

All vessel masters must answer health screening questions as part of their entry reporting.

ABF and Biosecurity officers remain responsible for border clearance processes. Vessels that report ill persons with relevant symptoms will undergo a human health inspection by a Biosecurity Officer on arrival in Australia, and before the vessel is granted pratique.

Crew members on a vessel

- All crew must remain on-board while the vessel is berthed in Australia.
- Crew are able to disembark to conduct vessel functions and crew must wear personal protective equipment while performing these functions.
- Crew must also use personal protective equipment in public spaces on board the vessel whilst non-crew members are on board.
- These restrictions apply until 14 days has elapsed since the vessel departed the last 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 precautionary self-isolation for its crew members would be the remaining four days.

- Once the 14 days has elapsed and provided all crew are well and there is no sign of illness in any crew member, crew are permitted to take shore leave.
- Where a crew member is signing off a vessel (within the 14 day period) and remaining in Australia they must self-isolate at their accommodation for the remainder of the 14 day self-isolation period.
- Crew members 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.
- Crew travelling to Australia (by aircraft) to join a vessel must adhere to the following arrangements:
 - On arrival in Australia 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 their accommodation.
 - If not joining the vessel immediately, crew must self-isolate at their accommodation.
 - Once on the vessel, crew members may leave the vessel to undertake vessel functions and must wear personal protective equipment while performing these functions.
- International crew members joining a commercial vessel voyage are subject to a 14 day self-isolation period. Crew are permitted to transit through Australia but must remain in the port or airport, or self-isolate in accommodation for the duration of their transit. Crew must self-isolate at their final destination for the remainder of the 14 days.
- Crew travelling to Australia (by aircraft) to join a vessel must adhere to the following arrangements:
 - On arrival in Australia 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 their accommodation.
 - If not joining the vessel immediately, crew must self-isolate at their accommodation.
 - Once on the vessel, crew members may leave the vessel to undertake vessel functions and must wear personal protective equipment while performing these functions.

For Maritime Industry

- Maritime Pilots will be provided personal protective equipment 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.

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.