



## ADVICE FOR RESTRICTING CREW ON BOARD FOR COVID-19 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

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

**23 December 2020**

The following arrangements remain in place for maritime crew arriving into Australia:

- 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 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.

Note: States and Territories may have additional or different health requirements and definition of maritime crew. Please refer to State and Territory websites for further information.

### **New process for restricting crew on board the vessel**

As at 23 December 2020, the Australian Border Force (ABF) will be using new procedures to process maritime crew arrivals, whereby ABF officers will process maritime crew arrivals using powers under the *Maritime Powers Act 2013* (MPA), rather than powers under the *Migration Act 1958* (the Migration Act).

***There are no substantive changes to the travel restrictions already in place; however, it is important to be aware of how the new process will work***

Using powers under the MPA, ABF officers will be authorised to issue a 'requirement to restrict crew on board' to the vessel's Master. The Master and/or Agent will receive an email from the ABF with the following details:

- Vessel name
- Master's name
- Agent's name
- Date and time that the vessel will be required to restrict crew on board to complete the 14 days self-isolation requirement.
- Restrict on board expiry date/time

In the event that the Agent receives the email, it is their responsibility to ensure the Master receives the 'requirement to restrict crew on board' and confirmation (by return email) must be provided.



## Australian BORDER FORCE

Current advice for maritime crew arriving into Australia on an international maritime voyage will still apply, including:

- 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.**

If the Master of the vessel does not comply with the requirement to restrict his or her crew on board, they may have committed an offence under section 103 of the MPA.

In the event of non-compliance, ABF officers can cease a crewmember's Maritime Crew Visa and restrict a crewmember on board the vessel under the Migration Act. The visa will not be reinstated, and the crewmember must remain on board the vessel until it departs.

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>

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

The Australian Border Force appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time.