



Maritime Crew Visa

Crew signing off a vessel and departing Australia

Steps to take at sign off

When signing off your vessel at an Australia port, Maritime Crew visa (MCV) holders only have **five days** to depart Australia or sign-on to another non-military ship before your MCV ceases automatically.

If you are not able to depart Australia within five days, to remain lawfully in Australia you will need to either:

- apply for an extension of this time; or
- hold another visa that allows you to remain in Australia until you can depart; or
- apply for another visa that allows you to remain in Australia until you can depart.

Need to apply for an extension of time for sign-off?

An extension of your MCV sign-off period can be requested via email and lodged along with **Form B521 Seaports – Notification of Sign-off**. Periods of onshore stay up to 30 days *from the date of your most recent arrival* in Australia may be approved.

- The Master and/or Agent of the vessel should complete the form, and send through to the Australian Border Force (ABF) at the Port of Arrival.
- If the Master and/or Agent requires contact details they should contact the relevant District Office, whose details can be found <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-and-leaving-by-sea/ports-of-entry>.
- An ABF officer will inform the Master and/or Agent of the vessel that the extension has been granted, including the new end date to the sign off period.

Need to apply for another visa?

If you need more than 30 days to depart, please apply for any other visa that allows you to remain in Australia. In this circumstance, a Visitor visa may be an appropriate option for you.

The application must be lodged **before your MCV extended period of stay expires**.

You do not need to apply for a visa with work rights to cover the transit period. Crew who have signed off a vessel, and are solely waiting to depart Australia, are not considered to be working.

For information on which visa may be most relevant to your circumstances, see:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>

If you apply for another visa while you are in Australia, you will, in most cases, be given a Bridging visa that allows you to remain lawfully in Australia until your application is decided, or you depart Australia.

If you hold another visa, in addition to your MCV, please check the visa conditions and how long that visa lets you stay in Australia online at:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online>