

MSQ Code of Conduct for Intrastate travel involving maritime crew changes

Crew changes for international crew arriving into Queensland

Crew travelling to Australia to join a vessel must adhere to arrangements agreed at National Cabinet and with Australian Border Force directives. This code describes the recommended way to conduct crew changes in Queensland ports to best support seafarer health and welfare, provide added protection for our regional towns and cities and support continued operation of the essential maritime supply chain for the duration of COVID-19.

International crew arriving from interstate or overseas

International non-cruise ship maritime crew members arriving into Queensland from interstate and overseas should self-isolate for 14 days in their city of arrival before travelling to join their vessel in regional Queensland (unless Exemption conditions can be met as per below).

International crew who have already self-isolated

Where it can be shown that international maritime crew arriving into Australia through other capital cities have already self-isolated for a period of 14 days, no further quarantine period is required, and crew members can travel intrastate on commercial services.

Travelling onto regional centres

International maritime crew arriving into Queensland from interstate and overseas should not conduct secondary travel on commercial flights between Queensland cities unless 14 days quarantine has first been observed in their city of arrival (unless Exemption conditions can be met as per below), and no signs of illness is shown.

Exemption from quarantine requirement for non-commercial transport pre-arranged by shipping agent

Where 14 days isolation has not been observed prior to travel, shipping agents should look to pre-arrange dedicated, socially distanced and non-commercial transport to transfer crew directly to their vessel. Appropriate risk mitigation measures should be implemented, including limiting all interaction with the Queensland community prior to, and during, travel to other regional centres/cities. An example may be a private bus with WC facilities onboard transferring crew directly from airport to vessel.

Exception for international crew arriving into Brisbane

International crew arriving into Brisbane where possible should go directly from the airport to their vessel in the Port of Brisbane.

Transfer from airport to port must be undertaken whilst observing the appropriate risk mitigation measures, like the use of PPE and observation of social distancing practices.

If crew cannot board their vessel immediately upon arrival into Brisbane, they should self-isolate until able to directly travel to the vessel. This is consistent with existing federal directives and measures.

Exception for international crew arriving from New Zealand

International crew arriving into Queensland from New Zealand will be exempt from the 14 days isolation requirement where seafarers go directly from the airport to their vessel. This is consistent with existing federal directives and measures.

Crew signing off vessels and departing

Australian and foreign crew signing off a vessel at an Australian port who have completed a 14-day isolation period will be permitted to transit and depart Australia via a flight; or proceed to join another vessel in Australia

Crew members (who have not served a 14-day isolation period) departing Australia may proceed directly to the airport and depart; or they must self-isolate at their accommodation until they go to the airport.

For any further clarification please contact your local Maritime Safety Queensland, Regional Harbour Master's Office.

This code has been endorsed by the Chief Health Officer for Queensland and General Manager, Maritime Safety Queensland

20 June 2020.