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Final approach series

Aircraft exposed conveyances

An exposed conveyance is an aircraft or vessel that is not already subject to biosecurity control, which becomes exposed within or outside Australian territory to a conveyance or goods that are subject to biosecurity control.

Under s192 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, a conveyance becomes subject to biosecurity control if it has been exposed to biosecurity risk through such contact, unless an exception applies under the [Biosecurity \(Exposed Conveyances—Exceptions from Biosecurity Control\) Determination 2016](#).

This most commonly occurs in offshore operations where aircraft or vessels transfer people, fuel, equipment or supplies between:

- offshore installations located outside Australian territory (e.g. floating production units (FPUs), floating production, storage and offloading (FPSOs) or platforms)
- mainland Australia or another conveyance.

Risk of exposed conveyances

Exposed conveyances matter because biosecurity risk, including human health risk, can be transferred from international goods, international conveyances, or other conveyances subject to biosecurity control to otherwise domestic conveyances.

This transfer of risk can occur when a conveyance contacts, or operates close to, an international conveyance or offshore installation.

Exposure can occur through:

- people (including passengers and crew)
- goods (including equipment or cargo)
- pests or insects, or
- contact with other international conveyances.

Managing exposed conveyances ensures biosecurity risks are identified and controlled before arrival in Australia.

Exposed conveyances

Unless an exemption applies, an exposed conveyance:

- becomes subject to biosecurity control
- must comply with pre-arrival reporting and arrival requirements
- must arrive at a first point of entry
- may be subject to inspection, directions or other biosecurity measures.

Exposed conveyance exemptions

The Determination sets out the circumstances in which an exposed conveyance does not become subject to biosecurity control.

General conditions

Under s6(1)(a)–(d) of the Determination, to be exempt, the conveyance must have:

- no visible pests
- no contamination (for example soil or plant material)
- no human remains
- no persons showing symptoms of listed human diseases.

Specific conditions

Under s6(1)(f)(i)–(iii) of the Determination, one of the following specific conditions must also apply:

- a) No persons disembark and only low risk goods as defined in the Determination (e.g. fuel, petroleum or canisters of petroleum) are unloaded.
- b) The offshore installation or Petroleum Industry Vessel (PIV) has been assessed as low biosecurity risk (e.g. only domestic persons and/or low risk goods are on board).
- c) The offshore installation or PIV operates under an approved arrangements approved as part of its assessment, and the exposed conveyance complies with all applicable end-of-journey requirements.

If these criteria are not met, the conveyance remains subject to biosecurity control until it is formally released by biosecurity officers.

Domestic vs international movements

Crew nationality is not a determining factor. If a person boards an offshore installation or conveyance outside Australian territory, they are considered an international traveller for biosecurity purposes. Any subsequent movement of that person to Australia is treated as an international movement.

This may affect whether a conveyance can meet the exemption criteria in the Determination.

Low biosecurity risk status for installations

Under s192(6) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, offshore installation or PIV operators may request a biosecurity risk assessment.

If an installation is assessed as low biosecurity risk, this status may assist conveyances servicing the installation to meet the exemption criteria in the Determination. However:

- low risk status applies to the installation, not to the conveyance
- conveyances must still meet all applicable conditions under s6 of the Determination.

How operators can support compliance

Operators of offshore installations may:

- request a biosecurity risk assessment under s192(6)
- enter into an approved arrangement with the Department
- plan crew and cargo movements to support eligibility for exemption under the Determination.

What this means for operators

Exposed conveyances are managed under a risk-based framework to protect Australia's biosecurity while supporting offshore industry operations. Whether a conveyance becomes subject to biosecurity control depends on how exposure occurs, who or what is transferred, and whether the exemption criteria in the Determination are fully met.

Where an exposed conveyance is subject to biosecurity control, it will be assessed by a biosecurity officer and may be required to comply with biosecurity control measures to manage any unacceptable biosecurity risk. The conveyance remains subject to biosecurity control until it either departs Australian territory or is formally released from biosecurity control by a biosecurity officer.

More information

Learn more about aircraft and vessel biosecurity management:

- [Aircraft](#)
- [Offshore installations](#)

Email conveyance.aircraft@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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Exposed conveyances

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