



## **MARS Quick Reference Guide 01** Version 1, November 2023

# **Disembarking crew from non-commercial vessels** (previously known as crew change)

The department is responsible for the biosecurity management of international crew members permanently disembarking vessels while in Australian territory.

Crew must not disembark until the vessel has been granted pratique or in specific cases, where permission has been granted from the department for individuals to leave the vessel prior to the granting of pratique.

### **What you must do**

All vessels arriving in Australian territory from outside of Australia, including private non-commercial vessels (yachts), private superyachts and cruisers are subject to biosecurity control.



### **Biosecurity risk items**

An on-arrival interview with the operator provides a biosecurity officer with the opportunity to verify the biosecurity status of the vessel, people, and goods including any animals or hitchhiking pests onboard. The common biosecurity risks associated with arriving yachts and superyachts are waste, timber pests, food, plant material, hitchhikers, animals and people who may be unwell.

### **When to do it**

Non-commercial vessels should submit an electronic pre-arrival report 90 days to 12 hours prior to the estimated arrival of the vessel into Australian territory.

### **How to do it**

Navigate to the department's non-commercial vessel webpage at: [Non-commercial vessel arrival biosecurity reporting - yachts and private superyachts - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels/non-commercial-vessels) for comprehensive information and biosecurity requirements on reporting impending arrival in Australian territory, preparing for arrival and what to expect from the biosecurity inspection.

1. Give notice of impending arrival 90 days to no less than 12 hours before arrival in Australian territory.
2. Submit the electronic Pre-Arrival Report (PAR) , available from: [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels/non-commercial-vessels](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels/non-commercial-vessels)
3. Report any changes in arrival into Australian territory using the department's biosecurity [Vessel Contacts](#) of key biosecurity port office contact details.
4. Non-commercial vessels arriving from an international destination (the previous port) may only arrive at some Australian ports if the port has been determined as a First Point of Entry (FPOE) for non-commercial vessels under s229 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The FPOEs for non-commercial vessels are:
  - a. Northern Territory (NT): Darwin
  - b. Queensland (QLD): Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Coral Sea Marina Airlie Beach, Gladstone, Gold Coast Broadwater, Mackay, Townsville, and Port Kennedy (Thursday Island and Horn Island)
  - c. New South Wales (NSW): Coffs Harbour, Newcastle, Sydney

- d. Western Australia (WA): Fremantle
  - e. Tasmania (TAS): Hobart, Launceston (Bell Bay)
  - f. External Territories: Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island.
5. Enter Australia through a designated FPOE for non-commercial vessels.
  6. On arrival, notify biosecurity officers of any crew that will be permanently disembarking.
  7. Be granted pratique before disembarkation or unloading of goods.
    - a. Biosecurity officers may provide verbal followed up by written approval for crew to disembark.

### **What next?**

8. The PAR will be assessed by biosecurity officers at the nominated arrival port and the vessel operator and/or the agent will be notified.
9. Biosecurity officers will engage with vessel operators on preparing for arrival and on arrival, conducting a mandatory inspection or inspections managing any biosecurity risk.
10. The vessel operator and any nominated agent will receive an email from a biosecurity officer with Biosecurity Status Document directions including pratique status.
11. Vessel operators should report any changes in arrival into Australian territory using the department's biosecurity key biosecurity port office contact details [Vessel Contacts](#).

### **Vessel reporting requirements and the *Biosecurity Act 2015***

Vessel operators and shipping agents are reminded:

- to read and understand the Biosecurity Status Document directions and conditions
- keep a copy of the current document on board the vessel for the duration of the voyage in Australia
- that any changes in circumstances during the voyage in Australian waters, particularly changes to the health of people on board, must be submitted via MARS or reported to the NMC as soon as practical
- that a failure to report accurately or comply with a requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* may result in penalties, including infringement notices, civil penalties, or criminal prosecutions.

### **More information**

Where you do not receive an email or for urgent arrival issues, contact the National Maritime Centre. Email [maritimenc@aff.gov.au](mailto:maritimenc@aff.gov.au) Phone within Australia: 1300 004 605. Phone outside of Australia: +61 8 8201 6185.

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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