



MARS Quick Reference Guide 02 Version 1, November 2023

Release from biosecurity control for non-commercial vessels (previously known as coastal strip or coastal status)

International vessels intending to stay in Australian waters for an extended period may request a release from biosecurity control. However, the vessel may still be required to comply with relevant state or territory requirements.

Release from biosecurity control is granted after an inspection of the vessel has been completed and all biosecurity risks have been managed in an approved manner.

Release from biosecurity control will no longer apply if the vessel leaves Australian territory or interacts with another vessel subject to biosecurity control. The vessel will then return to international status and will be subject to pre-arrival reporting requirements. Refer to section 193 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

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.



The department is responsible for the biosecurity assessment and management of international crew members permanently leaving a vessel from Australian territory ports. Crew members must report any intended crew changes under (s48(2)f) of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016.

Crew are not permitted to take biosecurity risk items off the vessel. Biosecurity risk items are any items that pose a risk of introducing any exotic weed, pests or disease into Australian territory.

When to do it

Non-commercial vessels must submit a pre-arrival report (PAR) up to 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 an 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
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. Be granted pratique before disembarkation or unloading of goods.

Any changes in circumstances must be reported to the department as soon as practical.

What next?

7. The PAR will be assessed by biosecurity officers at the nominated arrival port and the vessel operator and/or the agent will be notified.
8. Biosecurity officers will engage with vessel operators on preparing for arrival and on arrival, conduct a mandatory inspection or inspections to manage any biosecurity risk.
9. Biosecurity officers may provide verbal and written permission for release from biosecurity control once any biosecurity risks have been appropriately managed.
10. The vessel operators and the nominated agent will receive an email from a biosecurity officer with Biosecurity Status Document directions including for release from biosecurity control advice.
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 (NMC). Email 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.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2023

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.