

Crew Change Guide – Australia

1. Be aware you will need to comply with BOTH federal government requirements and the requirements of the State/Territory the ship visits.
 - a. The requirements are inconsistent between Federal and State and between individual States.
 - b. Check carefully all relevant requirements including the arrival State direct from overseas, and the state where the crew will embark/disembark the vessel.
 - c. Exemptions may be available for 14 day quarantine in some locations, however assume that 14 day quarantine is required until an exemption is obtained.
 - d. MIAL has prepared a COVID-19 Australian Border Closures Table to assist obtain the most accurate and up-to-date advice across the Australian jurisdictions. Please visit [here](https://mial.com.au/our-work/novel-corona-virus-update) (<https://mial.com.au/our-work/novel-corona-virus-update>) to obtain the table and sign up to receive frequent updates.
2. If you have any crew that have been onboard longer than 11 months, expect to encounter questioning and/or issues from AMSA and/or ITF.
3. If you have extended crew beyond 11 months, ensure you have Flag State approval for the extension.
4. Expect rigorous PSC on all matters about the MLC if any crew have been on board more than 11 months. List of current inspections and findings by AMSA is available [here](#).
5. Don't assume flag state approval / dispensation to sail short (or other non-compliance) will be accepted by Port State.
6. Ensure all crew have plenty of time left on their Maritime Crew Visa – we recommend at least 3 months. If they will expire soon, renew these visas while outside of Australia.
7. Make sure you are ready to mobilise people if a crew change becomes necessary. Make sure you have plenty of crew ready with Maritime Crew Visas, Transit Visas and if possible Visitor Visa to cover the time period that may be required for crew quarantine (14 days from arrival) and domestic transit – see [here](#) for application process, if in doubt choose tourist stream. Visa FAQ available [here](#).
8. Have a repatriation plan ready – flights confirmed, ports where crew change will happen confirmed, relief crew confirmed, etc.
9. For crew signing off – ensure plenty of time left on Maritime Crew Visa and Passport.
10. Aviation Incoming Passenger Cap does not apply to seafarers flying into Brisbane. Seafarers are exempt from the cap in that State and no airline should use that as a reason to bump a crew member from a flight.
11. For flights to all other cities, book crew on business class fares coming into Australia to ensure they do not get bumped from a flight due to the incoming passenger cap.
12. Be aware that there is currently limited availability of internal flights in Australia.
13. Brisbane, Queensland is the most workable port to undertake crew change in within Australia. Other ports in Queensland also more workable than any other location in Australia.

This information has been prepared by Maritime Industry Australia Ltd in good faith to be of general assistance. MIAL is not responsible if you rely on this information. Please note, MIAL are at capacity servicing the needs of our Members during this COVID crisis and are not able to assist non-Members at this time. Membership enquiries to: alison.saunders@mial.com.au or contact your port agent for assistance.

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