



RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA BY AIRCRAFT

Travel restriction on all non-Australian citizens and non-residents

15 May 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, entry to Australia is restricted for all non-Australian citizens and non-residents.

Australian citizens and permanent residents, their immediate family members and New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia are permitted to travel home.

All passengers arriving in Australia are subject to the Australian Government's mandatory quarantine period of 14 days at their Australian port of arrival, in designated accommodation. Refer also to the ABF's advice ***Quarantine requirements for passengers entering Australia 9 April 2020***.

Exemptions to the restriction on entry into Australia

The entry restriction does not apply to the following persons:

- Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family.
- For the purposes of the measures introduced in response to COVID-19, the definition of 'immediate family' in *Regulation 1.12AA Member of the immediate family, of the Migration Regulations 1994* assists. For these purposes, immediate family includes legal guardians, spouse, de facto partner, provisional partner visa holders and dependent children of a traveller eligible for entry to Australia.
- New Zealand citizens ordinarily resident in Australia (subclass 444 visa)
- Airline crew and maritime crew, including general aviation crew, medevac and air ambulance crew
- Diplomats accredited to Australia and currently resident in Australia, and their immediate family
- Nationals of all Pacific Island Forum countries and Timor Leste, plus residents of New Caledonia and French Polynesia. transiting through Australia to or from Pacific Island Forum Country
- Foreign nationals transiting Australian airports where their onward flight is confirmed at the time of uplift and they do not leave the airport

Exemptions determined by the ABF Commissioner:

The Commissioner of the ABF may consider an exemption in relation to the travel restrictions currently in place for:

- Foreign nationals travelling at the invitation of the Australian Commonwealth Government for the purpose of assisting in the COVID-19 response or whose entry would be in the national interest;
- Critical medical services, including air ambulance and delivery of supplies, that regularly arrive into Australia from international ports;
- Persons with critical skills (for example, medical specialists, engineers, marine pilots and crews, persons critical to operations of vessels) by exception;
- Persons providing, or requiring access to, critical skills in Australia (for example mining, shipyard and maritime safety) by exception;
- Person or any person in class of persons who, in the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer does not pose a risk of significant harm to the public health and will provide an essential service while in Australia;
- Case-by-case exceptions may also be granted for humanitarian or compassionate reasons.

Exemptions must be granted **prior to** these travellers undertaking travel to Australia.

Exemptions may be applied for through the Department of Home Affairs website at

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/covid19-enquiry-form>



Australian BORDER FORCE

Arrangements for flights to Australia

Airline staff should ensure that only exempt travellers board a flight to Australia.

- Where possible, the Australian Advanced Passenger Processing will be used to deny uplift for all other travellers.
 - The Australian Government will honour all “okay to board” messages that airlines receive.
- Airlines must contact the Border Operations Centre at +61 1300 368 126 prior to non-exempt travellers boarding the flight.

The following industry groups are exempt from the mandatory 14 day quarantine requirements:

- Airline, medevac and air ambulance crew, including off-shift crew who are travelling as passengers on an aircraft to reposition at another location
 - Airline crew who have been on international flights must self-isolate in their crew accommodation or home for 14 days after arrival, or until their next flight, whichever is shorter.
 - Essential flight-related duties from a regulatory or safety perspective may be undertaken during this time (eg flight simulation training, safety and security training).
 - Medevac and air ambulance crew may request an exemption from self-isolation requirements to return to duties beyond the essential flight-related duties already exempt. A request for exemption must be made to the relevant **state or territory**, and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

All aircrew are advised to take particular care on lay overs, to use dedicated private transport and to avoid crowded public spaces. Airline crew should monitor for symptoms and not fly if they are ill. Refer to Health’s [Advice on managing the health risks from COVID-19 on international flights](#) 6 May 2020.

Additional messages for travellers

- Please do not travel to Australia unless you meet an existing exemption.
- If you arrive in Australia as a non-exempt traveller, your visa may be cancelled and you will either be returned to your home country when flights are available or placed in an alternative place of detention for a quarantine period.
- Upon arrival in Australia you will be transported to designated accommodation for a mandatory quarantine period of 14 days.
- Travellers will not be permitted to travel domestically (including to their home residence) or continue on any domestic connections until the 14-day mandatory quarantine period has been completed. This applies to all travellers entering Australia.
- Travellers will not be permitted to undertake onward domestic transit to an international flight departing from another airport. These passengers will be required to quarantine at the first point of arrival in Australia.
- You may put the health and wellbeing of Australians at risk if you don’t not follow this advice.

For general information concerning the Novel Coronavirus please refer to the Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)

These arrangements are under constant review as the COVID-19 situation evolves, and will be revised based on updated health advice.

The Australian Border Force appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time.