

MARINE NOTICE

Marine Notice 3/2006
Supercedes 03/2001

Compulsory Insurance Requirements in Australian Waters

This notice is to inform ship owners and operators that from 6 April 2001, ships that have a gross tonnage of 400 or more and that are carrying oil as cargo or bunkers are required to carry a “relevant insurance certificate” when visiting an Australian port. This requirement does not apply to oil tankers that are already required to have insurance under the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1992.

The requirement is implemented by the *Protection of the Sea (Civil Liability) Act 1981*. Regulations made under the Act provide that the following information must be included in a “relevant insurance certificate”:

- the name of the ship;
- the name of the ship’s owner;
- the name and business address of the person who is providing insurance or other financial security in respect of the ship to cover the liability of the ship’s owner for pollution damage;
- the commencement date of the insurance coverage;
- the amount of cover provided under the insurance or other financial security, which must be no less than the limit of any liability applicable under relevant international law (note: for most vessels, this will be the Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims Convention).

The regulations have been designed to enable the requirements to be met in most instances by the carriage of an original or certified copy of a normal P&I Club Certificate of Entry. Ship owners will therefore only need to consider additional or amended documentation to be carried on board where:

- a P&I Club Certificate of Entry is not carried on board; or
- a P&I Club Certificate of Entry is carried on board but does not include all of the items listed above.

The “relevant insurance certificate” will need to be produced on request during port State Control inspections and during inspections by the Australian Customs Service when ships are entering and leaving Australia. Each of an original, certified, signed duplicate or electronically generated copy of the certificate is acceptable. The only exception to this is during the insurance renewal period 20 February to 20 April each year, when a facsimile copy or letter from the P&I Club confirming insurance is being renewed will also be acceptable. Electronically generated copies should clearly indicate that they have been produced electronically and are therefore not signed.



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Queries regarding the regulations should be directed to Environment Protection Standards, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, on (02) 6279 5007 or email Environment Protection Standards

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