



Domestic commercial vessel inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Owner/ Master

This document sets out the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's (AMSA) measures that vessel owners and operators are required to implement on their vessels during the COVID-19 pandemic when AMSA Marine Inspectors are attending the vessel.

Relevant resources

Australian Government Department of health – health.gov.au

Home Affairs – homeaffairs.gov.au/

AMSA website – amsa.gov.au

Background

Our regulatory work helps in achieving safety in operations of domestic commercial vessels. To this effect we will continue to undertake domestic commercial vessel inspections, and other compliance activities while it is safe to do so.

To do this, AMSA is implementing the following procedures. These requirements will apply until AMSA notifies its stakeholders otherwise. This period will align with announcements by the Australian Government about measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

These measures are being put in place to protect both you as an operator of domestic commercial vessels and marine inspectors (MI) while undertaking their work. Your cooperation in this matter is of the utmost importance.

Before inspection:

Pre-boarding requirements

1. The owner/ master, will be provided the questionnaire at the end of this notice by the AMSA inspector via email asking a few questions, on any recent travel and whether you have been ill or in contact with anyone who has recently.
2. Where possible, the common areas of access and the furniture used should be wiped clean using disinfectant prior to boarding.
3. Non-essential crew to remain clear and maintain safe distance during boarding the vessel.

AMSA will also provide to you a completed questionnaire for its attending AMSA inspector.

During an inspection:

1. There is to be no physical contact between the marine inspector and any individual on-board. AMSA inspectors and vessel crew members are, so far as possible, to remain at least 1.5 metres apart.
2. AMSA inspectors will be refraining from normal pleasantries such as handshakes.

3. If requested as part of the inspection, and where possible, safety equipment and documentation is to be laid out in an area not in the enclosed cabin.
4. In the engine room maintain clear distance and use hand signs where audibility is low. Always maintain safe distance of at least 1.5 metres.

None of us want to contract COVID-19, and together we can prevent the COVID-19 disease from spreading

Question	Yes / No
Have you come into contact with anyone that has returned from overseas in the past 14 days?	
Have you come into contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days	
Do you or any of your immediate family or friends exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms?	
Have any of your crew have contracted COVID-19 or been in contact with a COVID-19 sufferer?	

In the event that after returning this form your circumstances change, that is, you come into contact with COVID-19 or go into 'self-isolation', please contact AMSA connect on 1800 627 484.

Safety on the water and for vessels and crew still remains the highest goal for AMSA during this difficult period.

