



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

AMSA EX15

Marine Safety (Scientific research and educational activities) Exemption 2025

I, Kaylene Dale, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (the National Marine Safety Regulator under section 9 of the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law*), make this instrument under subsection 143(1) of the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law*.

Dated 11 June 2025

Kaylene Dale

Chief Executive Officer

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is *Marine Safety (Scientific research and educational activities) Exemption 2025*.

2 Duration

This instrument commences on 1 July 2025 and ceases to have effect at the end of 30 June 2029.

3 Definitions

In this instrument:

Great Barrier Reef Region has the same meaning as in section 3 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law — see Schedule 1 to the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012*.

Note **National Regulator** is defined in the *Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law* — see section 6.

NSCV — see section 6 of the national law, meaning of *National Standard for Commercial Vessels*.

NSCV Part B means Part B — General requirements of the NSCV.

special personnel has the same meaning as in NSCV Part B.

specified operation, for a domestic commercial vessel, means the use of a vessel up to 7.5 m long for scientific research or educational activities of a scientific research or educational organisation.

Torres Strait zone means the specified area described in Schedule 1.

4 Exemption

A person is exempt from the requirement to hold a certificate of competency that would be required for a specified operation if the person is:

- (a) for duties undertaken as master of the vessel — at least 16 years old; and
- (b) as follows:
 - (i) an employee of a scientific research and educational organisation; or
 - (ii) approved, or is a member of a group approved, in writing by the National Regulator.

5 Conditions

- (1) The person may carry out the specified operation only in:
 - (a) the Great Barrier Reef Region; or
 - (b) the Torres Strait zone; or
 - (c) in smooth or partially smooth waters, as defined in NSCV Part B; or
 - (d) other waters approved in writing for the specified operation by the National Regulator.
- (2) The person must hold any licence that would be required to operate the vessel recreationally in the waters where the person carries out the specified operation and complies with the conditions of that licence.

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- (3) The person may perform functions and undertake duties on a vessel if the vessel:
- (a) is owned by a scientific or educational organisation; and
 - (b) carries only a master, special personnel or employees of the owner.

Note The owner of a vessel has obligations in relation to the vessel's safety management system including that the master received the vessel induction, familiarisation, drills and training in accordance with clause 9 of Schedule 1 of *Marine Order 504 (Certificates of operation — national law) 2024*.

Schedule 1 Torres Strait zone

(sections 3 and 5)

