



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Maritime Safety Authority**

# Carrying paying passengers in the Torres Strait

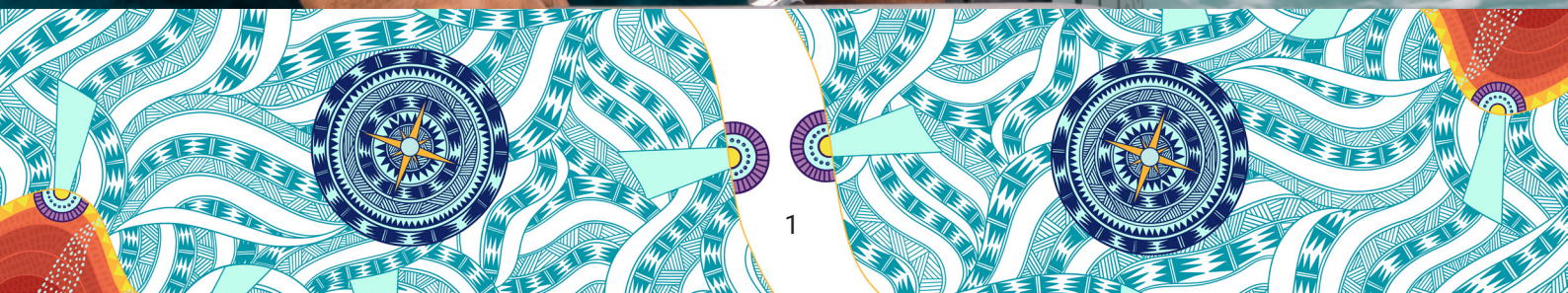
Do you want to take paying passengers on tours or between islands?

If so, your boat is a domestic commercial vessel (DCV) and must be approved by AMSA.



**Need help?**

Call AMSA Connect on 1800 627 484 or scan the QR code to visit our website



# What do I need to carry passengers?

If you want to carry paying passengers on your boat, you may need different certificates - even if you already have an AMSA certificate for fishing.

Here's what you'll need:

## Certificate of survey or exemption

A certificate of survey shows your vessel has been inspected by an AMSA-accredited surveyor and meets the safety standards for carrying passengers.

You don't need a certificate of survey if your vessel is covered by:

- Exemption 2 – Marine Safety (Certificate of survey) for Class 2 vessels
- Exemption 40 – Marine Safety (Class C restricted operations)

You may need to apply for an exemption or check if your boat has an existing one.

**Important! Even if your vessel does not require a certificate of survey, you may need documentation (such as an exemption certificate) to prove your vessel is exempt.**

## Safety management system (SMS)

This is a document that explains how you keep your crew, boat and passengers safe. All DCVs must have an SMS.

## Certificate of operation

This is an approval from AMSA that tells you:

- which boat you can use
- where and how you can use it
- any rules you must follow to keep people and the vessel safe.

## Master certificates

The Master (the person in charge of the boat) must have a valid AMSA certificate of competency, such as a coxswain.

The type of certificate you needs depends on your boat and what it's used for.

# Passenger safety checklist

If you are a passenger travelling on a boat in the Torres Strait, ask these questions to check the vessel is safe.

- Does your boat have the right AMSA certificates? (Hint: there should be a 6-digit number starting with 4 displayed on the side of the boat)
- Does the Master have the right certificates?
- What safety equipment do you have on board?
- Is the weather safe for travel?
- Is someone expecting us at our destination?

