

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA RELATING TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS FOR CRUISE SHIPS

On 1 February 2020, the Prime Minister of Australia announced that any foreign travellers who have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 will be refused entry to Australia, in order to minimise the potential spread of Novel Coronavirus.

Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family, legal guardians and spouses will be exempt from these measures, but will be required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from their arrival into Australia. Limited exemptions also exist for airline and cruise ship crew, where they have taken appropriate precautionary measures.

The Australian Border Force (ABF), working with partner agencies, will establish advanced screening and reception arrangements to facilitate identification of those individuals to whom these measures apply.

The ABF acknowledges the impact this will have on operations and travel plans. The following arrangements are now in place:

For cruise ships from China

If a traveller is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or their immediate family, legal guardian or spouse), cruise ships operators are required to contact the Border Operation Centre at +61 1300 368 126.

In most circumstances, if the traveller does not meet the above travel conditions they will be denied boarding (the mechanism for which will be visa cancellation). Arrangements will be made to reinstate visas as appropriate following the lifting of these measures.

All non-essential crew are to remain on board the vessel. Where crew are required to disembark to conduct vessel functions, they are required to wear personal protective equipment.

For industry members engaging with cruise ships, such as ship surveyors and maritime pilots, please ensure you refer to the Department of Health website (www.health.gov.au) for guidelines on the use of personal protective equipment.

For cruise ships from other locations

Cruise ship staff should ask the traveller if they have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or since 1 February 2020. Staff should also examine the passport to determine if there has been any travel stamp for mainland China on or since 1 February 2020.

If the travellers advise they have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or since 1 February 2020 and are not an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or their immediate family, legal guardian or spouse), the cruise ship operators is required to contact Border Operations Centre at +61 1300 368 126.

In most circumstances, if the traveller does not meet the above travel conditions they will be denied boarding (the mechanism for which will be visa cancellation). Arrangements will be made to reinstate visas as appropriate following the lifting of these measures.

Additional messages for travellers

If you arrive in Australia and it is determined that you have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or since 1 February 2020, your visa will be cancelled and you will be restricted on board the cruise ship or placed in an alternative place of detention for a quarantine period.

Please do not travel to Australia unless you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or their immediate family, legal guardian or spouse) if you have travelled in China in the last 14 days.

The Australian Government will review these arrangements in 14 days.

The ABF appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time. For additional support, please contact the Border Operation Centre at +61 1300 368 126.