



AIMPE



Hon Scott Morrison,
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra

21st January, 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Request for vaccination priority for maritime personnel

The Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers (AIMPE) and the Australian Maritime Officers Union (AMOU) write to raise matters relating to the Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy adopted by the National Cabinet last year.

AIMPE and AMOU represent Engineer Officers and Deck Officers respectively throughout all sectors of the Australian maritime industry. Members of AIMPE and AMOU carry out a wide range of roles which bring them into contact with ships which travel between Australia and overseas ports all around the world.

Included among these personnel are Marine Pilots who board foreign ships to assist with berthing and departures, Marine Surveyors who board ships to ensure compliance with marine rules and regulations and tug personnel who exchange ropes with these ships on a daily basis. There are many other maritime personnel who interact to varying degrees with the personnel on foreign ships in Australian ports.

In addition, there are many Australian maritime personnel working in the Offshore Oil and Gas sector who either interact with foreign personnel on board foreign vessels or who are impacted by the quarantine procedures which have been implemented by States and Territories around Australia to stop the spread of COVID-19. Many of the personnel routinely travel inter-State when going to and from work (typically for 4-5 week periods of duty on a vessel although there have been extensions during the pandemic to reduce frequency of movements).

AIMPE and AMOU request clarification of the vaccination policy in relation to domestic travel between the various States and Territories. Is it the intention of National Cabinet that Australians who have received the approved vaccination will be exempt from domestic travel quarantine requirements? It is emphasised that this query does not apply to international travel at this point in time.

AIMPE and AMOU also request that National Cabinet agree that Australian maritime personnel are regarded as critical services personnel required for societal functioning for



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the purposes of the Australian COVID-19 vaccination policy. This would enable maritime personnel who wish to obtain a vaccination to do so as part of a prioritised occupation.

It is noted that Singapore has already announced that they will be undertaking a vaccination program for 10,000 maritime personnel – see attached release from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Byrne
Federal Secretary

Mark Davis
Executive Officer

Cc State Premiers and
Territory Chief Ministers

Att. 1



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Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Over 10,000 Frontline Maritime Personnel to Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations by End January

18 January 2021

Singapore became one of the first countries to prioritise COVID-19 vaccinations for frontline maritime personnel. These workers go onboard vessels at our port and come in contact with people from outside of Singapore. This vaccination exercise is part of the national COVID-19 vaccination strategy to protect frontline personnel and their family members, as well as residents living in Singapore.

2 Under the Sea – Air Vaccination Exercise (SAVE), over 10,000 frontline maritime personnel are expected to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by end January. These frontline personnel include port workers, harbour pilots, cargo officers, marine surveyors and marine superintendents who are required to work onboard ships in our port. They carry out essential works including navigation, refuelling, ship repair and maintenance, as well as operations to transfer cargoes. Harbourcraft and ocean-going crew who are Singaporeans and long-term residents living in the community are also prioritised for vaccination. Together, these personnel play a major role in keeping the Port of Singapore open and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of goods.

3 More than 700 personnel have been vaccinated over the past few days to prepare for the full roll-out of SAVE. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has received about 6,000 registrations for vaccination this week.

4 Due to the better protection offered by vaccination, frontline maritime personnel who have completed their full course of vaccination will be subjected to fewer testing requirements. Going forward, those who are currently on the 7-day Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) will be tested every 14 days; those who are currently on the 14-day RRT will be tested once a month.

5 Ms Quah Ley Hoon, Chief Executive, MPA, said, “We rely on our frontline maritime personnel for the transportation of what we need everyday, including food, medical supplies, and consumer goods. We hope that the vaccination can give them peace of mind when they perform their work onboard ships. This will provide an additional layer of protection, and keep their family and the community safe. We strongly encourage them to come forward for early vaccination.”

6 The first maritime worker to be vaccinated was PSA Marine harbour pilot, Mr Loh Kah Wai, 55. He said, “The vaccination keeps me safe and enables me to do my job with less worry. It’s one more layer of protection, not just for me but for my fellow harbour pilots and my family.”



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7 Frontline maritime personnel can receive their COVID-19 vaccinations at the vaccination centre at Raffles City Convention Centre. Prior appointments are required. MPA, Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) and Enterprise Singapore (ESG) are reaching out to the companies involved to schedule appointments. Eligible companies can submit vaccination bookings via <https://covidvaccination.mpa.gov.sg>, which requires a booking code. Companies which have not received a booking code can write to vaccinate@mpa.gov.sg.

8 All frontline maritime personnel are encouraged to adhere to their scheduled appointments to minimise individual wait time and to better utilise precious healthcare resources.

Source: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/248c9175-37b4-49c5-916a-7600ab8cc08d>