

Protecting yourself and others from coronavirus

Class exemptions for maritime workers (non-freight)



This interim information is based on what is currently known about coronavirus (COVID-19) and the current situation in Tasmania. The Tasmanian Government will update interim information as needed and as additional information becomes available. Visit www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au for the latest information.

The State Controller offers the following class exemptions to eligible maritime crew from being required to quarantine in a government facility for a period of 14 days:

Class I: Maritime crew 'signing-off' a commercial or government vessel in Tasmania.

Class II: Maritime crew arriving in Tasmania to join a commercial or government vessel.

Class III: Maritime crew who are Tasmanian residents returning after disembarking at an interstate port.

These class exemptions are available to maritime crew of commercial and government vessels who are not eligible for the Category 3 exemption of the [Schedule of Specified Persons](#). These exemptions do not apply to crew of cruise ships.

All Classes

Whilst in Tasmania

Whilst in Tasmania, all exempted crew members must:

- monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, coughing, sore throat, muscular pains, shortness of breath or unexpected tiredness); and
- practice good personal hygiene, including covering coughs or sneezes, using tissues (disposed after use), and frequently washing hands including before and after eating.

If the crew member believes that they are displaying a symptom of COVID-19, they must:

- not attend work (if applicable);
- remain in their primary residence (or similar), unless to seek medical care; and
- contact the Public Health Hotline or medical practitioner, to determine if testing is required.

Applying for a class exemption

A maritime vessel, company or agent must apply for a class exemption by writing to the State Controller, with evidence as outlined on the following pages.

This application can be sent to essentialtraveller@dpiw.tas.gov.au. Applications will take a minimum of three days to process.

Penalties

It is an offence to knowingly provide false or misleading information to an emergency management worker. To do so may incur a fine of up to \$16,800.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both.

What class am I?

On the following pages the definition, conditions and required evidence are outlined for each of the three classes.

For crew of freight vessels

The following categories are considered **Specified Persons**, and are exempt from being required to quarantine in a government facility upon arrival in Tasmania (read more [here](#)):

- any person who, in the carriage of his or her duties, is responsible for the provision of transport or freight and logistics into, within, and out of Tasmania; and
- ship crew for the purpose of delivery of persons, freight and logistics into, within, and out of Tasmania, and are considered Specified Persons.

Need help or more information?

- Tasmanian Public Health Hotline **1800 671 738**
- National Coronavirus Helpline **1800 020 080**

Class I: Maritime crew 'signing-off' in Tasmania

Definition

Maritime crew signing off from commercial or government vessels (apart from cruise ships) in Tasmania in order to:

- depart Australia;
- join another vessel in Australia; or
- for Australian residents, to return to their normal place of residence in Australia;
- provided that:
 - » the crew have completed 14 days at sea, subsequent to the last crew member joining the vessel or last international port of call (whichever is the later); and
 - » that no crew are unwell during this period.

Description

This class exemption recognises the time spent at sea as the 14 day quarantine period, starting from the last point at which a new crew member joined the vessel, or the vessel's last international port of call, whichever is later.

Eligibility conditions

- The vessel must certify that no crew have reported being unwell during this period.
- All crew members must have completed the 14-days onboard the ship, as set out above.
- If a crew member disembarks a vessel that has not completed the required 14 days, they will be required to complete the balance of time remaining at a government accommodation facility.

Evidence must include:

- how the eligibility conditions will be complied with, for example:
 - » certifying that no crew have reported being unwell during the 14-day period; and
 - » certifying that the '14-days at sea' period has been complied with.
- evidence of the company's or vessel's COVID-19 management plan or crew procedure.

A strong application may also identify the names and positions of eligible crew members.

More information on how to apply for a class exemption is available at: <https://dpiwte.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/biosecurity/biosecurity-forms/covid-19-important-information-for-travellers>.

Evidence required by crew members when disembarking

On arrival to Tasmania, crew members will be required to:

- Complete a Tasmanian Arrivals Card.
- Present to an authorised officer a copy of the Class Exemption letter signed by the State Controller addressed to their employer.

Leaving the port

Tasmanian residents may proceed to their normal residence. While in Tasmania, they must comply with existing Tasmanian COVID-19 public policies, including the "stay at home" and gatherings directions.

They must also monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 and practice good hand hygiene.

Crew leaving Tasmania (to return home interstate or join another vessel) must do so promptly, and take the first available flight (or ship) out of the state.

Class II: Maritime crew arriving in Tasmania to join a vessel.

Definition

Maritime crew arriving in Tasmania from interstate (i.e. have not been overseas in the last 14 days) to join a commercial or government vessel (apart from cruise ships), provided that they transit directly from their port of arrival to the vessel and undertake necessary precautions during the period of transit.

Eligibility conditions

To be eligible for this exemption, crew must:

- transit promptly from their port of arrival (e.g. airport) to the commercial vessel. During transit, they must undertake all hygiene and social distancing precautions.

Once they are on the vessel, crew members should:

- use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when interacting with others (port workers and other crew members who will be leaving the vessel for shore leave or sign-off);
- practice good personal hygiene and cleaning/sanitising surfaces and common areas;
- use separate facilities to other crew members (where possible); and
- maintain appropriate social distancing.

Crew must stay on the vessel other than to complete necessary vessel maintenance tasks.

This class exemption only applies to those transiting from interstate. Anyone who has arrived to Australia within the 14 days prior to travelling to Tasmania must seek an individual exemption from the State Controller.

Evidence must include:

- how the eligibility conditions will be complied with, including
 - » proof of transport to be used by crew between port of arrival and the relevant vessel (eg. booking receipts);
 - » how the crew member will be supported to comply with the social distancing requirements on the ship (e.g. separate facilities, access to PPE equipment).
- evidence that the vessel that the work relates to is expected to be in that port at the specified time and that the crew member will be able to transit promptly to the ship; and
- evidence of the company's COVID-19 management plan or crew procedure.

A strong application may also identify the names and positions of eligible crew members.

More information on how to apply for a class exemption is available at <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/biosecurity/biosecurity-forms/covid-19-important-information-for-travellers>

Evidence required by crew members on arrival to Tasmania

On arrival to Tasmania, crew members will be required to:

- Complete a Tasmanian Arrivals Card; and
- Present to an authorised officer a copy of the Class Exemption letter signed by the State Controller addressed to their employer.

Class III: Maritime crew who are Tasmanian residents returning after disembarking at an interstate port.

Definition

Maritime crew members who:

- are normally resident in Tasmania;
- have disembarked from commercial or government vessels (apart from cruise ships) at an interstate port;
- and provided that:
 - » they have transited promptly from port of arrival to port of departure without delay;
 - » the vessel they were on completed 14 days at sea, subsequent to the last crew member joining the vessel or last international port of call (whichever is later); and
 - » no crew are unwell during this period.

Eligibility conditions

To be eligible for this condition, companies or vessels must demonstrate that:

- the vessel spent at least 14 days at sea, subsequent to the last crew member joining or last international port of call (whichever is later);
- no crew reported being unwell during this period; and
- crew members transit promptly (as reasonably able) from their interstate port of arrival to the airport in order to travel to Tasmania.

If the company or vessel is unable to demonstrate or guarantee the prompt transit requirement to the satisfaction of the State Controller, crew members will be subject to normal quarantine requirements.

Evidence must include:

- how the eligibility conditions will be complied with, for example:
 - » proof of compliance with the '14-days at sea' condition;
 - » proof of crew members intended prompt transit (e.g. flight bookings).
- evidence of the company or vessel's COVID-19 management plan or crew procedure.

A strong application may also identify the names and positions of eligible crew members.

More information on how to apply for a class exemption is available at: <https://dpiwte.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/biosecurity/biosecurity-forms/covid-19-important-information-for-travellers>

Evidence required by crew members on arrival to Tasmania

On arrival to Tasmania, crew members will be required to:

- Complete a Tasmanian Arrivals Card.
- Present to an authorised officer a copy of the Class Exemption letter signed by the State Controller addressed to their employer.

On leaving the port of arrival

Maritime crew members eligible for this exemption may proceed to their normal residence upon arrival in Tasmania.

They must comply with existing Tasmanian COVID-19 public policies, including the "stay at home" and gatherings directions.

They must also monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 and practice good hand hygiene.