



**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

**Attachment C**

## **Inwards Travel Restrictions Operation Directive**

### **Situation**

1. From 20 March 2020, travel restrictions have been in place prohibiting travel into Australia of all foreign nationals, unless exempt. The travel restrictions have been successful in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Australia and were implemented on the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).
2. The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister through the National Security Committee to consider on a case by case basis a request for inwards travel where there are compassionate or compelling circumstances.
3. The ABF Commissioner or authorised senior APS decision makers (APS 6 to SES Band 1) will consider inwards requests.
4. The following categories of people are automatically exempt from travel restrictions and are not required to request an individual exemption. Evidence must be provided:
  - an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
  - an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - a New Zealand citizen usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members
  - airline crew, maritime crew, and associated safety workers
  - a diplomat accredited to Australia, including their immediate family members (each member of the family unit must hold a valid subclass 995 visa)
  - a person transiting Australia for 72 hours or less.
  - a person recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme
  - a person who holds a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa
5. Non-citizens apply in advance of planned travel via the Travel Exemption Portal:  
<https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>
6. All people arriving in Australia are required to undertake a mandatory government controlled 14 day quarantine period at designated facilities (for example, a hotel) in their port of arrival, unless they have received an exemption from the relevant state or territory government health authority.

### **Explanation**

7. The inwards travel restrictions for people coming to Australia do not apply to the following categories of people:

Category	Details
Australian citizens and	Airline assesses identity documentation at time of boarding. Where evidence is not clear, airlines will contact the Border Operations Centre for advice.

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Category	Details
permanent residents	
Immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents	<p>The travel restrictions do not apply to immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents. Holders of a Partner visa (subclasses 100, 309, 801 and 820) or a Child visa (subclasses 101, 102, 445) are permitted to board and do not need to submit an exemption request.</p> <p>Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visas are <b>not</b> covered by these arrangements.</p> <p><b>Temporary visa holders or people who do not hold a substantive visa</b></p> <p>Non-citizens claiming to be immediate family members who hold temporary visas or have applied for a visa need to provide documentary evidence that they are an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident through the Travel Exemption Portal for assessment.</p> <p>Examples of documentary evidence may include: a marriage certificate, de-facto or civil partnership registration, shared financial commitments, joint residence arrangements or birth certificates.</p> <p>If a person is holding a Bridging Visa B (BVB), assessing officers should check to determine which subclass of visa application is in progress. If the visa application in progress relates to one of the Child or Partner visas referred to above (excepting Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visas), officers should take that into account in line with the intent and purpose of this exemption category. Officers should still take all available evidence and circumstances into consideration.</p>
New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members	<p>New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia need to provide evidence of residency in Australia. New Zealand citizens can provide this at check-in at time of boarding. If New Zealand citizens would like their evidence of residency assessed by the Department prior to travel to Australia, they can submit a request via the Travel Exemption Portal.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government issued documentation (for example Australian issued driver's licence, Medicare card, registration as an Australian resident with the Australian Tax Office)</li> <li>• Evidence of current employment or approved study in Australia (or financial support evidenced through a local bank statement) or</li> <li>• Ownership or rental of a property in Australia (e.g. utility bills, rates notices, lease agreement)</li> <li>• The location of immediate family members</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Length of time spent onshore in Australia prior to last departure (movement record history) and significant ties onshore should all be taken into consideration when determining residency status.</p>
Aviation, maritime crew and associated safety workers and essential workers	<p>Australia's travel restrictions do not apply to aviation and maritime commercial crew.</p> <p><b>Maritime Crew</b></p> <p>Maritime crew includes any person required to be part of a crew supporting the operation of a commercial vessel or physically working on an offshore installation (i.e. oil and gas) in Australian waters.</p> <p>A commercial vessel is any vessel that is in Australia for commercial trading purposes that is not a Superyacht or Cruise Ship. Commercial activity includes:</p>

Category	Details
	<p>support in the movement of freight and important industries (such as the resources industry) or provision of port services, maintenance services, marine pilots and marine surveyors.</p> <p>Marine pilots are included under the definition of maritime crew for purposes of travel to and from Australia by air. Arriving military crew are exempt in line with commercial crew. <u>This provision does <b>not</b> apply to maritime crew on cruise ships, small craft, or superyachts.</u></p> <p><b>Aviation Crew</b></p> <p>Aviation crew includes airline, medevac and air ambulance crew, including off-shift crew who are travelling as passengers on an aircraft to reposition at another location. Aviation crew also includes US Air Marshalls travelling in the course of their duties.</p> <p>ABF considers the presence of professional animal attendants to be essential for the safe operation of an aircraft carrying live cargo. Therefore, for the sole purpose of Australia's travel restrictions, aviation crew <u>includes</u> professional animal attendants, where the cargo includes live animals. Please note that the status of professional animal attendants as crew does not apply in any other context, and that an attendant must hold a valid visa.</p> <p><b>Associated safety workers</b></p> <p>A safety worker is someone who is involved or responsible for the development, management or monitoring of safety of the aviation, maritime and transport sectors (i.e. engineer, technicians, safety coordinators). Travellers should provide evidence of their employment and reason for travel. All other safety workers should apply for an exemption.</p>

**Diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members**

Travel restrictions do not apply to Diplomatic (subclass 995) visa holders. This includes both diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members.

**People transiting through Australia for 72 hours or less**

People can transit through Australia if their transit time in Australia is 72 hours or less. All transit passengers must hold a valid visa or be eligible for Transit Without a Visa (TWOV) arrangements.

People transiting through Australia for more than 72 hours will need to request an exemption.

**People recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme**

Travel restrictions do not apply to Temporary Work (International Relations) (subclass 403) visa holders under the Seasonal Worker Program stream and Pacific Labour scheme stream.

- The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister (through the National Security Committee) to consider on a case by case basis requests for exemption to travel restrictions. Refer to the Commissioner's Guidelines (*website link to be added*) for information relating to individual exemption requests.

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## Inwards Travel Restrictions Operation Directive

### Situation

1. From 20 March 2020, travel restrictions have been in place prohibiting travel into Australia of all foreign nationals, unless exempt. The travel restrictions have been successful in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Australia and were implemented on the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).
2. The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister through the National Security Committee to consider on a case by case basis a request for inwards travel where there are compassionate or compelling circumstances.
3. The ABF Commissioner or authorised APS decision makers (APS 4 to SES Band 1) will consider inwards travel requests.
4. The following categories of people are automatically exempt from travel restrictions and are not required to request an individual exemption. Evidence must be provided:
  - an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
  - an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - a New Zealand citizen usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members
  - a person who has been in New Zealand for 14 days or more immediately prior to arrival by air in Australia
  - airline crew, maritime crew, and associated safety workers
  - a diplomat accredited to Australia, including their immediate family members (each member of the family unit must hold a valid subclass 995 visa)
  - a person transiting Australia for 72 hours or less
  - a person recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme
  - a person who holds a Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188) visa
5. Non-citizens, including those in Australia who wish to depart and return at a later date, apply in advance of planned travel via the Travel Exemption Portal:  
<https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>
6. Unless arriving on a quarantine-free flight from New Zealand, all people arriving in Australia are required to undertake a mandatory government controlled 14 day quarantine period at designated facilities (for example, a hotel) in their port of arrival, unless they have received an exemption from the relevant state or territory government health authority.

### Explanation

7. The inwards travel restrictions for people coming to Australia do not apply to the following categories of people:

Category	Details
Australian citizens and permanent residents	Airline assesses identity documentation at time of boarding. Where evidence is not clear, airlines will contact the Border Operations Centre for advice.
Immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents	<p>The travel restrictions do not apply to immediate family of Australian citizens and permanent residents. Holders of a Partner visa (subclasses 100, 309, 801 and 820) or a Child visa (subclasses 101, 102, 445) are permitted to board and do not need to submit an exemption request.</p> <p>Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visas are <b>not</b> included in these arrangements. Prospective Marriage visa holders can request an exemption from Australia's travel restrictions for consideration on a case-by-case basis. An intention to marry is not sufficient evidence to demonstrate that a person is the immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident. Prospective Marriage visa holders need to provide evidence that they meet an individual exemption category.</p> <p><b>Temporary visa holders or people who do not hold a substantive visa</b></p> <p>Non-citizens claiming to be immediate family members who hold temporary visas or have applied for a visa need to provide documentary evidence that they are an immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident through the Travel Exemption Portal for assessment.</p> <p>Examples of documentary evidence may include: a marriage certificate, de-facto or civil partnership registration, shared financial commitments, joint residence arrangements or birth certificates.</p> <p>If a person is holding a Bridging Visa B (BVB), assessing officers should check to determine which subclass of visa application is in progress. If the visa application in progress relates to one of the Child or Partner visas referred to above (excepting Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visas), officers should take that into account in line with the intent and purpose of this exemption category. Officers should still take all available evidence and circumstances into consideration.</p>
New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members	<p>New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia need to provide evidence of residency in Australia. New Zealand citizens can provide this at check-in at time of boarding. If New Zealand citizens would like their evidence of residency assessed by the Department prior to travel to Australia, they can submit a request via the Travel Exemption Portal.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government issued documentation (for example Australian issued driver's licence, Medicare card, registration as an Australian resident with the Australian Tax Office)</li> <li>• Evidence of current employment or approved study in Australia (or financial support evidenced through a local bank statement) or</li> <li>• Ownership or rental of a property in Australia (e.g. utility bills, rates notices, lease agreement)</li> <li>• The location of immediate family members</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Length of time spent onshore in Australia prior to last departure (movement record history) and significant ties onshore should all be taken into consideration when determining residency status.</p>

Category	Details
Those who have been in New Zealand for 14 days or more travelling to Australia via air	<p>All Non-citizens who have been in New Zealand for 14 days or more prior to travel are exempt from travel restrictions.</p> <p>An individual can travel on a red or green flight, however, if travelling on a red flight, they will be required to quarantine on arrival in accordance with state/territory regulations.</p> <p>Travellers seeking to board a quarantine-free flight to Australia must make a declaration prior to boarding the flight that they have been in New Zealand for the past 14 days.</p> <p>This instruction is limited to aviation travellers only.</p> <p>Airlines will assess a person's declaration and subsequent eligibility for quarantine-free travel arrangements. Border Operations Centre will provide support to airlines, through the APP process.</p> <p><b>ABF Primary line</b> – ABF primary line officers for green channel flights from New Zealand will engage with passengers to advise them to check and comply with State or Territory border measures that may impact onward domestic travel. This instruction covers all passengers arriving at international ports on safe zone flights, regardless of whether an interstate address has been declared on the health declaration card.</p> <p><b>Action required:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary line officers should confirm arriving passengers' intended address details listed on the health declaration card are complete and accurate.</li> <li>• Officers should advise passengers to check and comply with local health and quarantine requirements prior to travelling to any other state or territory while in Australia. The following script has been prepared to support staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>You may travel on to locations in New South Wales and the Northern Territory without needing to quarantine.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Should your intention be to travel interstate, you should check local requirements, including quarantine regulations, prior to attempting further travel.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Some states and territories may require travellers from safe zone countries to undertake a mandatory quarantine period upon entering their jurisdiction.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Aviation, maritime crew and associated safety workers and essential workers	<p>Australia's travel restrictions do not apply to aviation and maritime commercial crew</p> <p><b>Maritime Crew</b></p> <p>Maritime crew includes any person required to be part of a crew supporting the operation of a commercial vessel or physically working on an offshore installation (i.e. oil and gas) in Australian waters.</p> <p>A commercial vessel is any vessel that is in Australia for commercial trading purposes that is not a Superyacht or Cruise Ship. Commercial activity includes: support in the movement of freight and important industries (such as the resources industry) or provision of port services, maintenance services, marine pilots and marine surveyors.</p> <p>Marine pilots are included under the definition of maritime crew for purposes of travel to and from Australia by air. Arriving military crew are exempt in line with commercial crew. <u>This provision does not apply to maritime crew on cruise ships, small craft, or superyachts.</u></p>



Category	Details
	<p><b>Aviation Crew</b></p> <p>Aviation crew includes airline, medevac and air ambulance crew, including off-shift crew who are travelling as passengers on an aircraft to reposition at another location. Aviation crew also includes US Air Marshalls travelling in the course of their duties.</p> <p>ABF considers the presence of professional animal attendants to be essential for the safe operation of an aircraft carrying live cargo. For the purposes of <b>Australia's COVID-19 international travel exemptions</b>, an 'animal attendant' is exempt from travel restrictions if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accompany a live animal on an inbound or outbound international cargo flight; and</li> <li>• Remain in Australia for a short lay-over period, until their outbound flight.</li> </ul> <p><b>Associated safety workers</b></p> <p>A safety worker is someone who is involved or responsible for the development, management or monitoring of safety of the aviation, maritime and transport sectors (i.e. engineer, technicians, safety coordinators). Travellers should provide evidence of their employment and reason for travel. All other safety workers should apply for an exemption.</p>
<b>Diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members</b>	Travel restrictions do not apply to Diplomatic (subclass 995) visa holders. This includes both diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members.
<b>People transiting through Australia for 72 hours or less</b>	<p>People can transit through Australia if their transit time in Australia is 72 hours or less. All transit passengers must hold a valid visa or be eligible for Transit Without a Visa (TWOV) arrangements.</p> <p>People transiting through Australia for more than 72 hours will need to request an exemption.</p>
<b>People recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme</b>	Travel restrictions do not apply to Temporary Work (International Relations) (subclass 403) visa holders under the Seasonal Worker Program stream and Pacific Labour scheme stream.

8. The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister (through the National Security Committee) to consider on a case by case basis requests for exemption to travel restrictions. Refer to the Commissioner's Guidelines <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel-restrictions> for information relating to individual exemption requests.



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  - airline crew, maritime crew, and associated safety workers
  - a diplomat accredited to Australia, including their immediate family members (each member of the family unit must hold a valid subclass 995 visa)
  - a person transiting Australia for 72 hours or less
  - a person recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme
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5. Non-citizens, including those in Australia who wish to depart and return at a later date, apply in advance of planned travel via the Travel Exemption Portal:  
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### Explanation

7. The inwards travel restrictions for people coming to Australia do not apply to the following categories of people:



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New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members	<p>New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia need to provide evidence of residency in Australia. New Zealand citizens can provide this at check-in at time of boarding. If New Zealand citizens would like their evidence of residency assessed by the Department prior to travel to Australia, they can submit a request via the Travel Exemption Portal.</p> <p>Acceptable evidence may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government issued documentation (for example Australian issued driver's licence, Medicare card, registration as an Australian resident with the Australian Tax Office)</li> <li>• Evidence of current employment or approved study in Australia (or financial support evidenced through a local bank statement) or</li> <li>• Ownership or rental of a property in Australia (e.g. utility bills, rates notices, lease agreement)</li> <li>• The location of immediate family members</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Length of time spent onshore in Australia prior to last departure (movement record history) and significant ties onshore should all be taken into consideration when determining residency status.</p>
Those who have been in New Zealand or Australia for 14 days or more	All Non-citizens who have been only in New Zealand or Australia for 14 days or more prior to travel are able to travel between Australia and New Zealand, without requiring an exemption from travel restrictions.

Category	Details
travelling to Australia via air	<p>An individual can travel on a red or green flight, however, if travelling on a red flight, they will be required to quarantine on arrival in accordance with state/territory regulations.</p> <p>Travellers seeking to board a quarantine-free flight to Australia must make a declaration prior to boarding the flight that they have been in New Zealand for the past 14 days.</p> <p>This instruction is limited to aviation travellers only.</p> <p>Airlines will assess travellers' health declaration and subsequent eligibility for quarantine-free travel arrangements. Border Operations Centre will provide support to airlines, through the Advance Passenger Processing (APP) process.</p> <p><b>ABF Primary line</b> – ABF primary line officers processing green flights from New Zealand will engage with travellers and advise them to check and comply with state or territory restrictions that may impact onward domestic travel. This instruction covers all travellers arriving at international ports on green flights, regardless of whether an interstate address has been declared on the health declaration card.</p> <p><b>Action required:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary line officers should confirm arriving travellers' intended address details listed on the health declaration card are complete and accurate.</li> <li>• Officers should advise travellers to check and comply with local health and quarantine requirements prior to travelling to any other state or territory while in Australia. The following script has been prepared to support staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Should your intention be to travel interstate, you should check local requirements, including quarantine regulations, prior to attempting further travel.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Some states and territories may require travellers from safe zone countries to undertake a mandatory quarantine period upon entering their jurisdiction.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Australia's travel restrictions do not apply to aviation and maritime commercial crew.

#### Maritime Crew

Maritime crew includes any person required to be part of a crew supporting the operation of a commercial vessel or physically working on an offshore installation (i.e. oil and gas) in Australian waters.

A commercial vessel is any vessel that is in Australia for commercial trading purposes that is not a Superyacht or Cruise Ship. Commercial activity includes: support in the movement of freight and important industries (such as the resources industry) or provision of port services, maintenance services, marine pilots and marine surveyors.

Marine pilots are included under the definition of maritime crew for purposes of travel to and from Australia by air. Arriving military crew are exempt in line with commercial crew. This provision does not apply to maritime crew on cruise ships, small craft, or superyachts.

#### Aviation Crew

Aviation crew includes airline, medevac and air ambulance crew, including off-shift crew who are travelling as passengers on an aircraft to reposition at another location. Aviation crew also includes US Air Marshalls travelling in the course of their duties.

ABF considers the presence of professional animal attendants to be essential for the safe operation of an aircraft carrying live cargo. For the purposes of **Australia's COVID-19 international travel exemptions**, an 'animal attendant' is exempt from travel restrictions if they:

Aviation,  
maritime crew  
and associated  
safety workers  
and essential  
workers

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Category	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accompany a live animal on an inbound or outbound international cargo flight; and</li> <li>Remain in Australia for a short lay-over period, until their outbound flight.</li> </ul> <p><b>Associated safety workers</b></p> <p>A safety worker is someone who is involved or responsible for the development, management or monitoring of safety of the aviation, maritime and transport sectors (i.e. engineer, technicians, safety coordinators). Travellers should provide evidence of their employment and reason for travel. All other safety workers should apply for an exemption.</p>
<b>Diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members</b>	Travel restrictions do not apply to Diplomatic (subclass 995) visa holders. This includes both diplomats accredited to Australia and their immediate family members.
<b>People transiting through Australia for 72 hours or less</b>	<p>People can transit through Australia if their transit time in Australia is 72 hours or less. All transit passengers must hold a valid visa or be eligible for Transit Without a Visa (TWOV) arrangements.</p> <p>People transiting through Australia for more than 72 hours will need to request an exemption.</p>
<b>People recruited under the Government approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme</b>	Travel restrictions do not apply to Temporary Work (International Relations) (subclass 403) visa holders under the Seasonal Worker Program stream and Pacific Labour scheme stream.

- The ABF Commissioner has been authorised by the Prime Minister (through the National Security Committee) to consider on a case by case basis requests for exemption to travel restrictions. Refer to the Commissioner's Guidelines <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/travel-restrictions> for information relating to individual exemption requests.