



Ship Type: All

Trade Area: Australia

## **Bulletin 519 - 04/07 - New Visa Requirements - Australia**

**The Association is aware of new visa requirements for crew entering Australia, as advised by the Department of Immigration & Citizenship via the Club's local correspondents in Queensland, Australia.**

As of 1 January 2008, all crew on board non-military ships entering Australia must have a Maritime Crew Visa (MCV). This is a new visa that will become available from 1 July 2007. Brian White & Associates, the Club's nominated marine consultants and lawyers in Queensland, Australia, have prepared the following brief outline of the MCV requirements.

### **Who needs a MCV?**

All crew on board non military ships that come into port in Australia. Only Australian and New Zealand citizens/residents are exempt.

### **When can you apply for a MCV?**

After 1 July 2007. Application forms will be available online or from Australian Embassies and Consulates. Please note that this is a formal visa application process; it includes security clearances and may take time to process.

### **Who can apply for a MCV?**

Shipping agents, crew manning agents and operators may lodge a MCV application on behalf of crew or crew can apply themselves. To lodge a MCV application you will need details of the crew passports.

### **When do you need a MCV?**

All foreign crew entering Australia must have a MCV by 1 January 2008. After this date, crew arriving in Australia by sea must remain on board the ship until they have been cleared by Australian Customs. Crew will need to have a valid national passport, a MCV as well as another document that establishes the crewmember's employment on the ship (e.g. seaman's discharge book, crew list, etc).

### **Shipping operators**

Shipping operators are advised to ensure that every crewmember who is likely to visit Australia (including those that are not scheduled to travel) obtain a MCV before 1 January 2008. This will make it easier if crew need to arrive in Australia at short notice.

### **Medical evacuation to Australia**

Please note that all crew on board non-military ships coming into port in Australia must have a MCV. If a crewmember requires a medical evacuation from a ship that is not coming into port in Australia but is in Australian waters, then a medical emergency visa can be issued. However, the Department of Immigration & Citizenship recommends that all crew entering Australian waters should apply for a MCV regardless of whether or not they intend on coming into port. This ensures that there will not be any problem obtaining a visa if a crewmember needs to be evacuated to Australia.

Please note that crew who enter Australia and fail to have a MCV after 1 January 2008 will be restricted on board the ship and the operator, master, charterer, owner and agent may each be held liable for a fine of A\$5,000.

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