



July
2016
QRG 06

Vessels exposed to offshore installations

MARS quick reference guide

Biosecurity



A domestic vessel that leaves Australia and interacts with an installation becomes an 'exposed conveyance' (exposed vessel) and is subject to biosecurity control when it returns to Australia in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015, Section 193(1) (a) and (b)*; unless an exception can be met. For the purposes of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, exposure results from being in physical contact with, in close proximity to, or being contaminated by an installation.

What must you do

Masters of domestic vessels entering Australia following exposure to an offshore installation must notify the department of their intention to enter either a First Point of Entry or Non-First Point of Entry (NFP).

The Pre-Arrival Reports (PAR) and the NFP application must be completed by the vessel master (or agent on their behalf) to notify the department of a vessels' impending arrival.

When completing the PAR and NFP application in MARS, the vessel master should select their port of origin as **Administrative Port (Installations in International Waters)**.

When to do it

Exposed vessels are required to submit a PAR and notify the department of any intention to unload goods in Australia, unless an exception applies, as noted below.

The PAR must be submitted 96 to 12 hours prior to arrival for each voyage in Australia. Any change in circumstances must be reported to the department as soon as practicable through a new PAR.

NFP applications, where required, should be submitted at least 10 working days prior to arrival.

When there are exceptions to lodging a PAR?

Where conditions are met under the *Biosecurity (Exposed Conveyances – Exceptions from Biosecurity Control) Determination 2016*, exposed conveyances can claim an exception from being subject to biosecurity control. This Determination can be found at legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L00851. If a vessel satisfies the conditions required to claim an exception, it is also excepted from providing a PAR.

More information relating to vessels exposed to offshore petroleum installations can be found in the Offshore Petroleum Installation - Biosecurity Guide located at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/offshore_installations.

How to do it

From the MARS home screen, the **PAR** and **NFP Application** can be accessed either from the **Submit Applications** drop down menu or by clicking on the **Pre-Arrival Report/Non First Point of Entry** shortcut. PAR and NFP reporting may be completed manually in MARS by direct data entry or by uploading an XML data file.

Both reporting options are described in the **Pre-Arrival Report** or **Non-First Point of Entry Quick Reference Guides**. *For detailed steps on how to submit a PAR/NFP, refer to the MARS User Guide.*

Note: Any changes in circumstances must be reported to the department as soon as practicable.

What now?

- 1 The PAR/NFP application will be assessed by the department. Where there are no identified risk factors, you will receive a Biosecurity Status Document (BSD) which communicates the department's biosecurity conditions and expectations. The BSD will be emailed to the agent. The vessel's email address must be included in the **Vessel Details** section for the master to receive a copy of the BSD.
- 2 You can search for and check your biosecurity status in MARS using one of the information icons below.



Vessel



Application/
Service Request

- 3 For urgent issues, you can follow up on your biosecurity clearance status by phoning the Maritime National Coordination Centre.
- 4 The department's service responsibilities and standard of service commitment are detailed in Client Service Charter available at agriculture.gov.au/about/commitment/client-service-charter

NOTE: Screenshots provided in these guides are accurate at the time of printing and may look different in MARS.



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