



# First point of entry biosecurity standards (ports)

## Cruise vessel standard - additional human health facilities and procedures

Version 1.0

### 1 Purpose

This document is for authorities and operators at Australian ports determined as a first point of entry (FPOE) for passenger vessel baggage (i.e. locations where cruise passengers disembark from vessels subject to biosecurity control). It provides additional guidance on how to meet their responsibilities under section 58 of the [Biosecurity Regulation 2016](#) to:

- effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with port operations
- enable Australian Government biosecurity officers and human biosecurity officers to perform government biosecurity risk management functions.

This document should be read in conjunction with the [First point of entry biosecurity standards \(ports\): Guide to meeting section 58 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016](#) (FPOE Standards).

### 2 Context

The current FPOE Standards do not adequately address the increased human biosecurity risk presented by COVID-19. To effectively manage the increased risk and enable biosecurity officers and human biosecurity officers to perform their functions, FPOE operators are to implement the additional facilities and procedures detailed in the table below.

A comprehensive review of the FPOE Standards is anticipated to commence in 2022 which will consider all components of the FPOE Standards, including all aspects of the cruise vessel standard.

### 3 Additional human health facilities and procedures

The table below details the additional facilities and procedures that port authorities must have in place to effectively manage biosecurity risk, and to enable biosecurity officers and human biosecurity officers to manage human biosecurity risk associated with disembarking cruise passengers. The table below supersedes the following sections of Table 5 Cruise vessel standard (traveller personal effects) in the [FPOE Standards](#):

- Travellers – human health facilities
- Travellers – human biosecurity incident (risk) response

Cruise vessel standard - additional human health facilities and procedures

Standard	Evidence	Responsibility
Travellers – human health facilities	<p>Provision of a Health Room (or dedicated health area, if approved by the department) for screening and isolating ill travellers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is single-purpose (not used as a general first aid room or for any purpose other than as a human health room)</li> <li>• has signage indicating it is a biosecurity area e.g. Biosecurity Area – Authorised Personnel Only</li> <li>• is in close proximity to the Primary Line and toilet facilities but at least 10 metres from passenger flow (noting environmental factors will be taken into consideration and the room/area may need to be further than 10m from the passenger flow in some locations)</li> <li>• allows easy access and movement of people who may need to be supported or moved by stretcher or wheelchair</li> <li>• has an impervious floor</li> <li>• is climate controlled and has adequate ventilation e.g. in an airconditioned building, with optimum air exchanges and flow</li> <li>• has adequate lighting to facilitate assessment of ill travellers</li> <li>• has solid walls or partitions that enable privacy and are cleanable. Fabric partitions or screens can be used but they must be disposable after use</li> <li>• contains at minimum 2 chairs, a table and an adjustable examination bed with a waterproof cleanable surface</li> <li>• be large enough to accommodate required furniture and have capacity for three persons, at least 1.5 metres apart</li> <li>• be stocked with PPE, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N95 surgical facemasks (with guidance for fit testing of these masks)</li> <li>- nitrile surgical gloves</li> <li>- hand sanitiser that is 70% Alcohol or greater</li> <li>- first aid kit</li> <li>- defibrillator</li> <li>- cleaning equipment including departmentally approved disinfectant (such as Virkon or chlorine-based bleach with at least 1% sodium hypochlorite)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• contains a receptacle for clinical waste that meets State / Territory legislated requirements or a biosecurity waste receptacle that meets the FPOE Standards Table 2 Waste goods management standard</li> </ul>	Berth owner/operator
Travellers – human biosecurity incident (risk) response	<p>Written evidence that is easily accessible to staff that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procedures to isolate the ill traveller from other people in the terminal/facility, for instance ensuring spaces are clear before the ill traveller moves through to exit the building or to use a bathroom</li> <li>• requirement to clean and disinfect the Health Room, and other areas an ill traveller has been in contact with, after each use, including disposing of biosecurity/clinical waste</li> <li>• record keeping for cleaning of the Health Room and other areas</li> <li>• requirement to regularly check and replenish supplies and equipment in the Health Room</li> <li>• nominated contact for coordinating the actions of the berth or port (existing requirement of FPOE Standards)</li> </ul>	Berth operators

Note that the measures above only need to be implemented at biosecurity entry points (BEP) for passenger vessel baggage (i.e. cruise terminals and other locations within the port that facilitate passenger disembarks from cruise vessels). BEP are listed in the FPOE determination for each port. Determinations are accessible through the department's webpage [First points of entry – information for arriving vessels and goods](#) or via the search tool at the [Federal Register of Legislation](#).

Travellers that are identified as ill while on the vessel are to be confined to their cabins or the on-board medical facility while awaiting assessment by biosecurity officers or human biosecurity officers, noting that urgent or life-threatening medical needs must not be delayed. Travellers that are identified as ill after they have disembarked the vessel, and have not completed incoming passenger processing, should be brought to the attention of a biosecurity officer for assessment and potential movement to the Health Room for isolation and/or further assessment.

## 4 Action required

If you own or operate a location where cruise passengers disembark, please review the new requirements and implement any changes.

To seek advice or to arrange assessment of your procedures and facilities, please contact the department at [biosecurityfirstpoints@awe.gov.au](mailto:biosecurityfirstpoints@awe.gov.au).

The new requirements must be in place before cruise passenger disembarks resume at your location.

## 5 More information

For more information, please contact the department at [biosecurityfirstpoints@awe.gov.au](mailto:biosecurityfirstpoints@awe.gov.au).