



## **MARS Quick Reference Guide 08** Version 2, November 2023

# Release from biosecurity control for commercial vessels

(previously known as coastal strip or coastal status)

International vessels intending to stay in Australian waters for an extended period may request a release from biosecurity control. However, the vessel may still be required to comply with relevant state or territory requirements.

Release from biosecurity control is granted after an inspection of the vessel has been completed and all biosecurity risks have been managed in an approved manner.

Release from biosecurity control will no longer apply if the vessel leaves Australian territory or interacts with another vessel subject to biosecurity control. The vessel will then return to being subject to biosecurity control and to pre-arrival reporting requirements. Refer to section 193 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

### **What you must do**

The vessel master or nominated shipping agent must submit a request for release from biosecurity control on the Pre-Arrival Report (PAR) or submit a Release from Biosecurity Control Service Request using [MARS](#).



Release from biosecurity control inspections are only completed at certain Australian ports. The master or agent should refer to the department's website to learn how to prepare for a release from biosecurity control inspection: [Release of biosecurity control of commercial vessels - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#)  
Goods and activities of biosecurity concern include:

### **When to do it**

The vessel's agent or master can submit a Release from Biosecurity Control Service Request following the submission of an electronic Pre-Arrival Report (PAR) or a Non-First Port of Entry (NFP) application.

### **How to do it post arrival**

Release from Biosecurity Control Service Requests may be submitted using MARS through the Request a Service menu or by selecting the Release from Biosecurity Control Service Request icon.

### **Look for these icons**

1. Access the department's online web services at <https://online.agriculture.gov.au/selfservice/>
2. A service request can only be submitted if a port visit exists for that voyage. A port visit is created when a PAR or Non-First Point of Entry (NFP) application is submitted by the vessel operator or nominated shipping agency.

3. Select the MARS Maritime icon



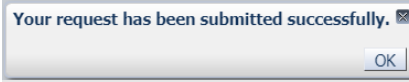
MARS Maritime

4. Select the Release from Biosecurity Control icon on the MARS home screen



Release from Biosecurity Control Request

5. Type in the vessel name or IMO number (you can also use Call Sign, Registration/Official number of the vessel)
6. Select the vessel
7. Select the correct voyage number
8. Select the port and arrival date
9. Nominate the Port Agency and Billing Agency
10. Select Submit
11. A confirmation pop up message will be displayed if the Release from Biosecurity Control Service



Request was successfully submitted.

**Any changes in circumstances must be reported to the department as soon as practical.**

### What next?

12. The Release from Biosecurity Control Service Request will be assessed by biosecurity officers at the nominated arrival port.
13. A release from biosecurity control inspection, along with any other required inspections, will be queued in MARS for biosecurity officers to assess and manage.
14. Vessel operators and the agency nominated for the voyage can search and check the status of the service request in MARS through the Search - Application/ Service Request function. Search by Application Type then Voyage number and review the Voyage Details Applications Received tab.



**I want to Search for Information**

Application/Service Request

## Vessel reporting requirements and the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

Vessel operators and shipping agents are reminded:

- to read and understand the Biosecurity Status Document directions and conditions
- keep a copy of the current document on board the vessel for the duration of the voyage in Australia
- that any changes in circumstances during the voyage in Australian waters, particularly changes to the health of people on board, must be submitted via MARS or reported to the NMC as soon as practical
- that a failure to report accurately or comply with a requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* may result in penalties, including infringement notices, civil penalties, or criminal prosecutions.

## More information

For urgent issues, follow up on the report by contacting the National Maritime Centre (NMC). Email [maritimenc@aff.gov.au](mailto:maritimenc@aff.gov.au)

Phone within Australia: 1300 004 605. Phone outside of Australia: +61 8 8201 6185

Learn about commercial vessel biosecurity requirements [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/aircraft-vessels-military/vessels)

For more details on using MARS, refer to the [MARS Vessel Master or MARS Vessel Agent User Guides](#).

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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