

Darwin Port – Covid-19 Control Measures Summary

Background

Darwin Port takes the health and wellbeing of employees, contractors, users of the Port and the local community seriously. We are continually updating our Business Continuity Plan in response to the developing situation with Coronavirus (**Covid-19**).

Darwin Port has always applied strict biosecurity processes to its operations to protect the Northern Territory (**NT**) and Australia from unwanted pests and diseases. The emergence of Covid-19 prompted strict compliance with Australian Border Force (**ABF**), Department of Health and Biosecurity information and restrictions to all operations. Additionally, advice from the Northern Territory Government and the requirements under the Chief Health Officers directions are applied to daily business practice.

A vessel is only allowed to berth once it has reported and is deemed a 'healthy ship' by Federal Government authorities. All Australian ports follow the same procedure.

Control Measures

Darwin Port has implemented a range of protocols and procedures aimed at minimising the impact of Covid-19 on the Port employees, stakeholders and the NT public.

Darwin Port has implemented social distancing initiatives dividing employees into three work groups at different locations and using video conferencing and other electronic communications to replace face to face meetings.

Vessels arriving from overseas ports are legally required to complete all ABF and Biosecurity health declarations prior to arrival and to notify of any crew member displaying symptoms of illness. This reporting is done routinely as part of the pre-arrival process and the ship's master is held accountable for accurate declaration. Vessels arriving from interstate must comply with the relevant directions of the NT Chief Health Officer.

Vessels' masters must complete a pre-arrival declaration received by the Port not less than 24 hours prior to arrival. The declaration confirms the health status of persons on board and that all recommended health precautions are being practiced on board.

Darwin Port has developed a Safe Work Procedure, including risk profiling, detailing the risk mitigation measures to be followed in order to reduce the likelihood of exposure to the Covid-19 virus by one of our marine pilots and pilot boat crew.

Harbour Control applies a pre arrival protocol approximately two hours prior to the pilot boarding the vessel to check the wellness status of those on board and to check that the crew are wearing PPE during contact with the Port's pilots.

Vessels arriving in Darwin within 14 days of departure from this last port are subject to strict criteria imposed by ABF. All crew must remain on board except when required to carry out essential vessel services on the wharf, during which they must wear PPE. ABF suspends all maritime crew visas until the 14-day quarantine period has been completed.



In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health, Darwin Port facilitates health checks for crew on board ships arriving inside the 14-day quarantine period. The health checks are carried out by third party health professionals at the time of arrival alongside a Darwin Port wharf.

Systems have been established to minimise face-to-face contact between ship's crew and shore personnel. All persons required to board the ship will use PPE, which is disposed of after use. Where direct contact cannot be avoided, social distancing, sneeze and sanitation techniques are applied.

For further information concerning Covid-19 control measures please contact Ian Niblock at ian.niblock@darwinport.com.au or 8919 0850.

Please refer to the following websites for further information:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-marine-industry>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-cruise-industry>

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-marine-pilots>

<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls>

<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls/entering-the-territory-by-sea>

Australian Border Force – Restrictions on Commercial Marine Vessels and Crew

Australian Border Force – Restrictions on Cruise Ships