

Harbour Master Instruction 002-2023

Title

Precautionary measures for interaction with international commercial vessels

Reference

NSW Health

Port Authority NSW COVID Control Policy

Scope

Vessel Masters and Operators – All vessels arriving and departing ports in New South Wales.

Background

Marine Pilots, pilot transfer personnel, Vessel Traffic Services and other marine service providers are essential in the safe and efficient movement of vessels through New South Wales Ports. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves over time, all stakeholders should continue to take necessary precautions to adequately manage the risks of exposure to COVID-19.

Port Authority of New South Wales employees are required to comply with the requirements of the Port Authority's COVID-19 Control Policy. This includes use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and a requirement to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

To ensure the ongoing risk of COVID-19 exposure to Marine Pilots and other key marine services personnel is minimised, your vessel needs to implement certain measures as detailed below:

Pre-Arrival and Pre-Departure requirements

- A declaration to Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) is to be made by the Master in accordance with Port Authority's COVID-19 pre-arrival reporting requirements.
- COVID-19 status of the crew to be confirmed (e.g., no change) when reporting to VTS prior to the pilot boarding.
- VTS is to be informed of any changes to the original declaration provided during pre-arrival / departure. i.e., if a crew member has developed symptoms of illness after the submission of the pre-arrival declaration or while the vessel is in port.
- All surfaces on the navigation bridge including navigation and communication equipment should be wiped down prior to the pilot boarding.
- Hand sanitiser and sterilised wipes (containing Iso Propyl alcohol) should be available on the bridge.

Requirements when under Pilotage

- Both the pilot and vessel personnel should ensure adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures, including maintaining social distancing and using appropriate PPE as per individual organisation requirements.
- Pilot may choose to access the navigation bridge via the external stairs.
- Personnel on the bridge should be limited to the watch level requirements, for safe navigation, as per the company Safety Management System.
- Crew members are to refrain from touching any of the pilot's equipment

This Harbour Master Instruction repeals *Harbour Master Instruction 20-037 Precautionary measures when engaging services of Port Authority of New South Wales Marine Pilot during COVID19*, issued 20 March 2020.

For a list of Harbour Master Instructions currently in force, please see:

[Harbour Master's Instructions - External | Port Authority New South Wales \(portauthoritynsw.com.au\)](https://portauthoritynsw.com.au)