

COVID-19 – Requirements for all vessels calling at the Port of Port Hedland

Issue date: 17 June 2022

This bulletin supersedes 02/2022 dated 22 March 2022.

Compliance with this Marine Safety Bulletin and its appendices is mandatory for all vessels calling Port Hedland.

Key Objectives:

To outline the current requirements and considerations for vessels calling at the Port of Port Hedland.

Which vessels have additional COVID-19 requirements?

- Vessels arriving from an overseas port.
- Vessels arriving from non PPA ports, within Australia.
- International cruise ships.
- Vessels that have ill crew or passengers, suspected cases or existing concerns of COVID-19 infection on board.

PART 1

The following conditions and requirements are applicable to ALL ships calling the Port of Port Hedland:

- The 'transit time' from Dropping Last Outward Sea Pilot (DLOSP) to Pilot boarding at Port Hedland will be considered as part of the required period.
- Crew temperature records taken twice daily since the last 14 days must be maintained on board and made available to PPA and the terminal when requested. For on signers within the last 14 days, temperature records must be maintained since they have embarked on the vessel.
- Until the vessel departs Port waters, Masters must send an amended 'Human Health update' to Quarantine Authorities in case of any change to health status on board.
- Prior to POB (berthing and unberthing), the Master must ensure strict adherence to the requirements given in Appendix 1 of this Marine Safety Bulletin - Requirements for all vessels prior to pilot boarding and during pilotage passage.
- The Master must ensure that all crew temperatures are recorded 2 hours prior to POB time and the status is to be reported to the Port Hedland VTS via VHF, prior to arrival and departure.
- COVID-19 Vessel Questionnaire (Appendix 2) must be submitted to respective terminals in adequate time prior to arrival and must be suitably amended prior to berthing if required.

PART 2

The following conditions must be reviewed by terminals prior to nominating a vessel to berth at the Port of Port Hedland.

2.1 Berthing between 0 to 7 days since departure from the last port of call:

The following considerations will apply:

- a. Crew health declaration by the Master - Refer MSB 05/2022 Appendix 2 - Covid-19 Questionnaire.
 - b. All crewmembers testing negative to a COVID detection test. The tests must be conducted between 24 to 48 hours prior to the earliest requested POB time.
 - c. Free Pratique being granted to the vessel by DAWE (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment).
- The vessel will not be subject to the requirement of any minimum 'transit period' from the last port.
 - The terminal must complete the review of all above points before nominating the vessel for berthing.

2.2 Berthing after completion of 7 days since departure from the last port of call:

The following considerations will apply:

- a. Crew health declaration by the Master - Refer MSB 05/2022 Appendix 2 - Covid-19 Questionnaire.
 - b. Free Pratique being granted to the vessel by DAWE (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment).
- The vessel will be permitted to berth after completion of 7 days 'transit period' from the last port.
 - The terminal must complete the review of all above points before nominating the vessel for berthing.

Notes:

- The COVID detection test mentioned in this MSB, must be completed between 24 to 48 hours prior to the earliest requested POB time, and may be:
 - Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) approved by a National Regulatory Authority (NRA) responsible for approving COVID-19 self-tests.
 - OR
 - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Reverse Transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR) test carried out by a shore diagnostics facility.
- For vessels arriving from other PPA ports (e.g., Dampier), the COVID detection tests are not required to be conducted again prior to vessels arrival at Port Hedland provided these tests were conducted and returned a negative result for all crew before arrival at that PPA port.
- PPA may revise the requirements of this bulletin without notice.
- All vessels arriving in Port Hedland must submit 'Port of Port Hedland Covid-19 Vessel Questionnaire' to the terminal directly or through the shipping agent. PPA may request additional information as required.

This bulletin is supplemented by three appendices:

1. Requirements for all vessels prior to pilot boarding and during pilotage passage
2. Port of Port Hedland Covid-19 Vessel Questionnaire ([Link](#))

Any questions or feedback regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin should be addressed to the Port Hedland Marine Operations Team.



Heathcliff Pimento
Harbour Master (Port Hedland)

Requirements for all vessels prior to pilot boarding and during pilotage passage (Applicable for all vessels)

Prior to the marine pilot boarding a vessel (berthing and unberthing), the master must ensure strict adherence to the requirements given in this Appendix to the Marine Safety Bulletin 05/2022.

- All crew temperatures are to be recorded two (2) hours prior POB and health status to be reported to VTS via VHF. This is applicable for berthing and prior to unberthing.
- Up to two (2) hours prior to the marine pilot embarking the vessel, all surfaces that the marine pilot is likely to come in contact with during the pilotage passage, must be sanitised using hospital grade disinfectant solutions or equivalent that contain virucidal (virus killing) properties. Surfaces include:
 - Wheelhouse – Bridge front panel, bridge equipment, chart table, pilot use table, radar, binoculars etc
 - All stairway hand rails, elevator, all door and door handles in passages that the pilot is likely to pass through from the main deck to the bridge (inside accommodation or external as applicable)
- So far as practicable, the ship's crew must comply with the 'social distancing' requirements and maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from the marine pilot and when in an enclosed area, there should be an average of 1 person for each 4m².
- When using the elevator, a crew member is to escort the marine pilot to the elevator while maintaining the required social distance. The marine pilot is to ride alone in the elevator and another crew member is to receive the pilot at the topmost deck. In the absence of an elevator, external access from the main deck to the bridge may be the preferred option.
- Bridge team to wear appropriate PPE at all times during the pilotage passage. The use of face mask is mandatory. Used PPE must be disposed in isolated bins. Non-essential personnel must refrain from entering the bridge during the pilotage passage. Essential personnel entering the Bridge during pilotage, must comply with the recommended hygiene and sanitary requirements.
- Non-essential crew interaction with the marine pilot and helicopter pilots (if required) must be kept to a minimum while maintaining the recommended social distance.
- Hand sanitiser should be readily available for use on the Bridge. Bridge toilets must be adequately equipped with liquid soap, warm water and paper towels.
- The marine pilot shall be available for temperature checks, if required by ship's procedures.
- Ship's crew are encouraged to practice a NO - HANDSHAKE policy to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

The above actions must be complied with before and during pilotage. Master to positively confirm understanding and compliance via the agent.

If a marine pilot observes a noncompliance by the vessel with the above requirements, the below actions will be taken:

- Photographic evidence of the alleged non-compliance
- Harbour Master will be informed of the alleged non-compliance
- Vessel will not be allowed to berth until the noncompliance has been rectified

The below requirements are issued to provide clarity on sanitization measures to be carried out on vessels prior to pilot boarding at the Port of Port Hedland, and the social distancing practices to be observed by ship's crew. These steps are necessary to limit the spread of COVID - 19.

1. Ship's staff must prepare a sanitized Pilot area in the wheelhouse with hand-sanitizers and binoculars for Pilots use.



2. Bridge toilet must be properly equipped with soap, disposable paper towels and sanitizing wipes to minimise risk of transmission of germs.



PORT OF PORT HEDLAND COVID-19 VESSEL QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION 1 – VESSEL DETAILS

Vessel Name		IMO number	
Terminal		Shipping Agency	
ETA Port Hedland (dd/mm/yyyy hh:mm)		Proposed ETB (dd/mm/yyyy hh:mm)	

SECTION 2 – MSB INFORMATION

Does the vessel have the latest PPA Marine Safety Bulletin relating to Covid-19 onboard (MSB 05/2022)	
Does the vessel fully comply with the requirements of Appendix 1 of this Marine Safety Bulletin	

SECTION 3 – CREW HEALTH DETAILS

Are body temperatures of all crew being recorded twice daily?	
Have any crew members been unwell, had a fever(>37.4°C) or shown symptoms of COVID 19 in the last 14 days? (For on signers within the last 14 days - since they have embarked on the vessel).	
Provide details of any illness or symptoms:	

SECTION 4 – ADDITIONAL CONTROLS

Will the vessel conduct voluntary Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) or PCR/RT-PCR prior to or on arrival at Port Hedland, as described in section 2.1 of this Marine Safety Bulletin	
Details of additional controls:	

SECTION 5 – TERMINAL REVIEW² (MANDATORY)

Name of Reviewer:	
Position:	
Terminal:	
Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	

NOTE 1 (FOR MASTER/VESSEL)

Master must ensure to provide this questionnaire, via email to the terminal directly or through their agent.

NOTE 2 (FOR TERMINAL)

Terminal must review the details in the form. Section 5 must be completed by the terminal.