



Australian Government

Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Application for a Maritime Crew (Temporary) visa (subclass 988)

Form

1273

Please read all of the following information carefully before you complete your application.

Further information is available from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) website www.immi.gov.au/sea

About this form

This is the paper application form for a Maritime Crew visa. Paper applications must be lodged in Australia. Where a paper application is submitted by an agent acting on behalf of an applicant, a form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient* may also be required to be completed by the applicant to authorise the agent to act for them. Internet applications are encouraged as they require just one simple electronic form to be completed and are lodged and processed much faster than paper applications. More information about internet applications is available on the website www.immi.gov.au/e_visa

Who should use this form?

You may use this form to apply for a Maritime Crew visa if you are currently employed or under offer of employment as a member of the crew of a non-military ship for international voyages to Australia and the ship is:

- used for commercial trading purposes or for carrying paying passengers; or
- owned and operated by a foreign government to do scientific research; or
- approved for 'public vessel' status by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In general terms, foreign crew of cargo vessels and cruise ships (other than New Zealand citizens) are required to hold a Maritime Crew visa. Crew of yachts do not normally qualify for this visa.

You may use this form to apply for a Maritime Crew visa if you are the spouse, or dependent child (generally under 18 years of age), of a member of the crew of a ship described above, and intend to travel on the same ship as that person.

A third party such as an agent may complete this form on your behalf if you consent to provide the third party with all the details asked for in the application form, and you sign the completed form.

If you are in doubt whether you qualify for a Maritime Crew visa please contact the Brisbane Global Processing Centre.

When should you use this form?

You may use this form ONLY if you are outside Australia. You cannot apply for a Maritime Crew visa if you are in Australia.

About the Maritime Crew visa

A Maritime Crew visa is a special type of visa available only to members of crew (including supernumerary crew) of certain ships travelling to Australia, or the spouse and dependent children of such crew, if they intend to accompany the crew member when travelling to Australia as a member of the crew of the ship. A Maritime Crew visa must be held by crew at the time of signing onto a ship in Australia, regardless of the method by which they travel to Australia to join the vessel.

Note: You cannot use a Maritime Crew visa for air travel to Australia.

If you have been granted a Maritime Crew visa and you have to travel to Australia by air to enable you to join your ship in Australia, you must obtain another type of visa which permits travel by air, such as a transit visa or an electronic travel authority (ETA). It is against the law for an airline to carry you to Australia if you only hold a Maritime Crew visa. If this occurs your Maritime Crew visa will be ceased.

Maritime Crew visa validity and legal requirements to maintain the visa

Because the Maritime Crew visa is only granted electronically and there is no visa label, it is important that you understand that you must continue to satisfy the legal requirements under which you were granted the visa and its specific requirements while you are in Australia, or your visa will cease and will be invalid (see 'Visa validity' below).

If your visa becomes invalid, you will be prevented from leaving your vessel while it is in Australia, or you may be removed from the vessel and placed in detention until arrangements for your departure from Australia are made.

Visa validity

A Maritime Crew visa normally remains valid for 3 years from the date it is granted.

Note: Your Maritime Crew visa will automatically cease and be invalid if:

- you do not sign onto your ship within 5 days of arriving in Australia by air on a transit visa and hold no other visa (other than a Maritime Crew visa) to remain in Australia; or
- any other visa that you hold is cancelled, or if you are in Australia on any other type of visa (other than a Maritime Crew visa) and that visa expires and you become unlawful; or
- you sign off your ship and you do not depart Australia within 5 days, obtain another type of visa or sign onto another non-military ship in that time; or
- the ship on which you travel to Australia is ceasing its international voyage status and is declared 'imported' for domestic consumption by the Australian Customs Service (Customs), and within 5 days you do not depart Australia, sign onto another non-military ship, or you do not obtain another suitable visa from the department to authorise your continued lawful stay in Australia. The master of the vessel should inform the crew if Customs 'imports' the vessel.

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If there are compelling reasons beyond your control which may prevent your departure from Australia within the 5 day sign off period, you must contact an authorised officer of Customs or the department to consider an extension to the 5 day period while you are still lawful.

Your Maritime Crew visa will also be ceased if:

- you no longer satisfy the legal requirements under which you were granted the visa; or
- you perform work while in Australia other than work that is required in relation to the usual operational requirements of the ship; or
- it is determined that your presence in Australia is undesirable.

Health

The health of you and your family is your responsibility. You will not be covered by Australia's national health scheme unless you are from a country that has a reciprocal health care agreement with Australia. Any costs associated with any medical treatment required by you or your family when in Australia is your responsibility. You may wish to discuss this with your shipping employer. If, at the time you enter Australia on your vessel, you are suffering from any infectious disease, or one which may pose a public health threat in Australia such as tuberculosis, the master of your vessel will be required to notify the relevant quarantine authorities in Australia.

Ways to apply for a Maritime Crew visa

There are 2 ways to apply for a Maritime Crew visa:

- via the internet www.immi.gov.au/e_visa; or
- completing this application and sending it to the Brisbane Global Processing Centre.

Internet applications are more convenient for visa applicants and are processed much faster than paper applications.

Note: A paper application for a Maritime Crew visa can **only** be lodged at the Brisbane Global Processing Centre in Australia (see below for contact details). Australian visa offices outside Australia **cannot accept** an application for a Maritime Crew visa.

Applying for a Maritime Crew visa

Applications for a Maritime Crew visa may be made using a shipping agent or some other third party who is acting with your consent, or by applicants applying directly. To apply for a Maritime Crew visa, you must hold a valid current passport, details of which will have to be entered in the application form.

Note: A Maritime Crew visa cannot be applied for while you are in Australia.

Application charge

There is no application charge for the Maritime Crew visa.

Who can you include in this application?

Only one passport-holder can apply on each form. A separate application is required for each Maritime Crew visa applicant.

How to apply

To apply by mail or courier you will need to complete this application in English, in BLOCK LETTERS using a pen.

Please answer all questions fully and correctly. You may arrange for another person to help you complete the application, but you must sign it. If you have been assisted in completing the application, you should read the application after completion and only sign the declaration if the information in it is true and correct.

False or misleading information may lead to refusal of your application or your visa being ceased.

The completed application form must be lodged in Australia at the following address:

By mail: Brisbane Global Processing Centre
Department of Immigration and Citizenship
GPO Box 9984
BRISBANE QLD 4001
AUSTRALIA

By courier: Brisbane Global Processing Centre
Department of Immigration and Citizenship
Adelaide Street
BRISBANE QLD 4001
AUSTRALIA

Please carefully check that the details of your passport provided in the application are accurate because if the visa is granted it will not be evidenced by a visa label. These details will only be checked when you arrive in Australia. If the visa granted does not match your passport details, you may not be permitted to enter Australia.

What happens after you lodge your application?

As a guide, processing of your paper application will usually take about 4 weeks from the date it is received. Consideration of your application will take longer if you are asked to provide further information or attend an interview to enable a decision to be made.

If your visa application is approved

If your visa is approved, the Brisbane Global Processing Centre will send a notification of grant by letter or e-mail. Please keep this notification with you when you travel to Australia as it provides:

- your visa grant number;
- the validity date of your visa;
- the legal requirements to maintain the visa.

Note: Your visa is linked to the passport number you submitted with your application, therefore you must use the same passport to travel to Australia. If you obtain a new passport, you must advise the Brisbane Global Processing Centre by e-mail or mail of the new passport details before you travel to Australia or you may not be permitted to enter Australia.

If your visa application is not approved

If your visa is not approved, the Brisbane Global Processing Centre will send you a notification letter or e-mail advising you of the reason for refusing your application.

A decision to refuse the grant of a Maritime Crew visa is not reviewable by the Migration Review Tribunal.

Enquiries

All enquiries about the Maritime Crew visa must be made to the Brisbane Global Processing Centre in Australia either by e-mail to MCV@immi.gov.au or by mail to the application lodgement address above.

Options for receiving written communications

You may authorise another person to receive all communications, both written and electronic, about your application with the department. You will be taken to have received any documents sent to that person as if they had been sent to you.

To do this you will need to complete Question 24 *Options for receiving written communications* and form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient*. For an explanation of what a migration agent or exempt agent or authorised recipient can do please read the sections below.

To change or end the appointment of your migration agent or exempt agent or authorised recipient you must promptly advise the department in writing. You can do this by using form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient*.

Authorised recipient information

An authorised recipient is someone you appoint to receive written communications about your application with the department.

All written communication about your application will be sent to your authorised recipient, unless you indicate that you wish to have health and/or character information sent directly to you.

The department will communicate with the most recently appointed authorised recipient as you may only appoint one authorised recipient at any time for a particular application.

Migration agent information

A migration agent is someone who can:

- advise you on the visa that may best suit you;
- tell you the documents you need to submit with your application;
- help you fill in the application and submit it;
- communicate with the department on your behalf.

If you appoint a migration agent, the department will assume that your migration agent will be your authorised recipient, unless you indicate otherwise.

Your migration agent will be the person with whom the department will discuss your application and from whom it will seek further information when required.

You are not required to use a migration agent. However, if you use a migration agent, the department encourages you to use a registered migration agent. Registered agents are bound by the Migration Agents Code of Conduct, which requires them to act professionally in their clients' lawful best interests.

Immigration assistance

A person gives immigration assistance to you if he or she uses, or claims to use, his or her knowledge or experience in migration procedure to assist you with your visa application, request for ministerial intervention, cancellation review application, sponsorship or nomination.

In Australia a person may only lawfully give immigration assistance if he or she is a registered migration agent or is exempt from being registered. Only registered migration agents may receive a fee or reward for providing immigration assistance.

If an unregistered person in Australia, who is not exempt from registration, gives you immigration assistance they are committing a criminal offence and may be prosecuted.

Migration agents in Australia

Migration agents in Australia must be registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) unless they are exempt from registration.

Migration agents outside Australia

Migration agents who operate outside Australia do not have to be registered. The department may give some overseas agents an ID number. This number does not mean that they are registered.

Note: Some Australian registered migration agents operate overseas.

Exempt agents

The following people do not have to be a registered migration agent in order to provide immigration assistance, but they must not charge a fee for their service:

- a close family member (spouse, child, adopted child, parent, brother or sister);
- a sponsor or nominator for this visa application;
- a member of parliament or their staff;
- an official whose duties include providing immigration assistance (eg. a Legal Aid provider);
- a member of a diplomatic mission, consular post or international organisation.

Further information on migration agents

Information on migration agents, including a list of registered migration agents, is available on the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) website www.themara.com.au

You can also access information about migration agents on the department's website www.immi.gov.au

Consent to communicate electronically

The department may use a range of means to communicate with you. However, electronic means such as fax or e-mail will only be used if you indicate your agreement to receiving communication in this way. The department may also contact people by mail, telephone or in person. However, if you have an e-mail address, this may speed up communication.

To process your application, the department may need to communicate with you about sensitive information, for example, health, police checks, financial viability and personal relationships. Electronic communications, unless adequately encrypted, are not secure and may be viewed by others or interfered with. If you agree to the department communicating with you by electronic means, the details you provide will only be used by the department for the purpose for which you have provided them, unless there is a legal obligation or necessity to use them for another purpose, or you have consented to use for another purpose. They will not be added to any mailing list.

The Australian Government accepts no responsibility for the security or integrity of any information sent to the department over the internet or by other electronic means.

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About the information you give in this form

The department is authorised to collect information provided on this form under Part 2 of the *Migration Act 1958* 'Control of Arrival and Presence of Non-Citizens'. The information provided will be used for assessing your eligibility for a visa to travel to, enter and or remain in Australia and for other purposes relating to the administration of the Migration Act.

The information provided might also be disclosed to agencies who are authorised to receive information relating to adoption, border control, business skills, citizenship, education, employment, health assessment, health insurance, health services, law enforcement, payment of pensions and benefits, refugee services, taxation, review of decisions and registration of migration agents.

Relevant information about you will be disclosed to Federal, State and Territory police to assist in your location and possible detention in the event that you become an unlawful non-citizen. You will become an unlawful non-citizen if your visa is ceased or cancelled (for breach of visa conditions for example), or expires and you do not hold another visa authorising you to remain in Australia.

The collection, access, storage, use and disclosure by the department of the information you provide in this form is governed by the *Privacy Act 1988* and, in particular, by the 11 Information Privacy Principles. The information form 993i *Safeguarding your personal information*, which is available from offices of the department or from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/, gives details of agencies to which your personal information might be disclosed.

The department has authority under the *Migration Act 1958* to collect a range of personal identifiers from non-citizens, including visa applicants, in certain circumstances. For more detailed information you should read information form 1243i *Your personal identifying information*, which is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* also relates to your personal information. Under this Act you can apply for access to documents containing your personal information. You or someone authorised to access information on your behalf can apply to do this at any office of the department in Australia. There is no fee for accessing your own information. If you are overseas, you must provide an address in Australia to which copies of your personal records can be sent. More information on how to make a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* is given on the form 424A *Request for access to documents*.

Home page **www.immi.gov.au**

General enquiry line Telephone **131 881** during business hours in Australia to speak to an operator (recorded information available outside these hours).
If you are outside Australia, please contact the Brisbane Global Processing Centre.

Please keep these information pages for your reference



Note: A separate application is required for each person applying for a Maritime Crew visa. Spouse and dependent children must complete an individual application form.

Application details

- 1** Are you applying as: (*tick one box only*)
- a crew member (or under offer of employment as a crew member) on a non-military ship **▶ Go to Question 3**
 - the spouse of a crew member
 - the dependant child of a crew member
- 2** Does your spouse or parent currently hold, or have they applied for, a Maritime Crew visa?
- No **▶ You are not eligible to apply**
 Yes
- 3** What is your first intended arrival date in Australia after you lodge this application (*if known*)?
- DAY MONTH YEAR

Your details

- 4** Your full name as shown in your passport or travel document
- Family name
 Given names
- 5** Other names you have you been known by (*including name at birth, previous married names, aliases*)
-
- 6** Sex Male Female
- 7** Date of birth
- DAY MONTH YEAR
- 8** Place of birth
- Town/city
 Country
- 9** Current marital status
- Married Separated Widowed
 Engaged Divorced Never married
 De facto

- 10** Details from the passport that you will use to enter Australia
- Passport number
 Country of passport
- Date of issue
- DAY MONTH YEAR
- Date of expiry
- DAY MONTH YEAR
- Issuing authority/
 Place of issue as shown in your passport
-

Note: You must have a valid current passport and visa to enter Australia. You must notify the Brisbane Global Processing Centre before travelling to Australia if you want permission to enter Australia on a different passport to the one in this application.

- 11** Are you a citizen of the country of passport given above?
- No
 Yes
- 12** Do you hold any citizenship other than the nationality provided with the passport details above?
- No
 Yes **▶ What other countries are you a citizen of?**
-
- 13** **If you are applying as a spouse or dependent child** of a crew member, please provide the following details of that crew member
- Crew member's full name as shown in their passport or travel document
- Family name
 Given names
- Sex Male Female
- Date of birth
- DAY MONTH YEAR
- Crew member's passport details
- Passport number
 Country of passport
- Date of issue
- DAY MONTH YEAR
- Date of expiry
- DAY MONTH YEAR
- Issuing authority/
 Place of issue as shown in passport
-

Continued on the next page **▶**

Assistance with this form

20 Did you receive assistance in completing this form?

No ► Go to Question 24

Yes ► Please give details of the person who assisted you

Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Family name

Given names

Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
POSTAL CODE

Telephone number or daytime contact

	COUNTRY CODE	AREA CODE	NUMBER
Office hours	()	()	

Mobile phone

21 Is the person an agent registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA)?

No

Yes ► Go to Question 24

22 Is the person/agent in Australia?

No ► Go to Question 24

Yes

23 Did you pay the person/agent and/or give a gift for this assistance?

No

Yes

Options for receiving written communications

24 All written communications about this application should be sent to:
(Tick one box only)

Myself ► All written communications will be sent to the address for communications that you have provided in this form.

OR

Authorised recipient

OR

Migration agent ►

OR

Agent exempt from registration

You must complete form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent or exempt agent or other authorised recipient* and attach it to this application form. Form 956 is available from the department's website
www.immi.gov.au

Declaration

25 I have read the 'Maritime Crew visa validity and legal requirements to maintain the visa' section of this form and I certify that the information supplied on or with this form is correct.

Note: Any information in this application, including employment details, may be checked. Any false information could result in the refusal of your visa.

Signature of applicant

<input type="text"/>

Date

DAY	MONTH	YEAR
/	/	