



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Maritime Crew visa - information for crew manning agents

Crew manning agents may be required by shipping operators to help arrange Maritime Crew visa (MCV) applications for ships' crew, and to arrange other visas (such as a Transit visa) to allow crew to fly to Australia to join a ship. The following is essential information for crew manning agents. For more information about the MCV visit: www.immi.gov.au/sea

- The MCV commenced on 1 July 2007. From this date, foreign sea crew may apply for the MCV. Crew manning agents should ensure that foreign crew hold an MCV before travelling to Australia.
- Crew manning agents are advised to ensure that an MCV is held by every crew person that is likely to come to Australia, including those crew who are not scheduled to travel. This will make it easier if crew need to arrive in Australia at short notice.
- MCV applications may only be lodged while crew are outside Australia.
- Internet (online) applications are quick and easy to complete, and will usually be assessed and finalised within three days. Paper-based applications will take about four weeks to finalise once received.
- Crew manning agents may lodge an MCV application on behalf of crew, or crew can apply themselves. The application form is available from www.immi.gov.au/sea
- Crew will not be expected to attend interviews for their MCV application. However, on occasion this may be necessary and applicants will be advised when this is required.
- Crew manning agents can confirm at any time if crew hold an MCV by doing an internet check on the department website.

Flying to Australia to join a ship

- The MCV does not allow travel to Australia by air. Crew will need to hold another visa to allow travel to Australia by air, such as a Transit visa or an Electronic Travel Authority.
- Crew need to hold an MCV at the time they sign-on to a ship or they may be restricted on board the ship when it docks in Australia.
- Crew sign-ons and sign-offs must be advised to Australian Customs 24 hours in advance. New Customs forms require passport, arrival/departure and vessel details of crew.