

Pratique for overseas vessels

AQIS fact sheet

Pratique is the permission, granted by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), for passengers and crew to disembark in Australia from an overseas vessel, even though the vessel remains under quarantine control.

WHAT IS A QUARANTINE PRE-ARRIVAL REPORT?

All incoming vessels must provide AQIS with a Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report for Vessels (QPAR), which includes ballast water management details. The QPAR provides important information to AQIS so that a quarantine risk assessment of the vessel can be made prior to arrival.

The declaration must be submitted between 12 and 48 hours before arrival at the first Australian port.

If a vessel fails to send a QPAR or provides insufficient information, the vessel will be subject to a physical inspection by a quarantine officer.

If a request for pratique is refused and formal clearance is required, the Master of the vessel must fly the quarantine flag (yellow flag or quarantine lights if at night).

Under no circumstances are passengers and/or crew permitted to leave the vessel, nor is any person permitted to board the vessel without permission of a quarantine officer.

All vessels entering Australia must enter through a proclaimed first port of entry, unless otherwise approved by AQIS (see first port of entry into Australia fact sheet).

WHERE SHOULD I SEND THE DECLARATION?

All commercial vessels should send their QPAR to the nominated agent in the first port of entry in Australia, who will forward it to AQIS for assessment and appropriate action.

All non-commercial vessels should, where possible, nominate an agent to act on their behalf. Where this is not possible, all pratique communications should be made through the AQIS office in the first port of entry into Australia.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

The Master of a vessel must provide correct answers to a series of prescribed questions as listed on the QPAR, for example:

- vessel particulars such as name, identifiers, agent and voyage-related details;
- health questions highlighting illness and/or death of passengers and crew on board the vessel;
- animal-related questions;
- ballast water management information;
- pest and disease (eg. Asian gypsy moth, bees) and
- previous cargoes of grain, meal or livestock.

WHAT IS THE RISK?

It is an offence to knowingly give false information and/or fail to comply with the reporting requirements of AQIS. The maximum penalty is one year's imprisonment.