

South African Maritime Safety Authority



Marine Notice No. 21 of 2004

Australia's enforcement of passport and identity document requirements for foreign crew of non-military ships

TO SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' AGENTS AND OPERATORS, MASTERS AND CREW OF SHIPS

Summary

This Marine Notice advises about the Australian Government's policy on the enforcement of passport and identity document requirements for foreign crew of non-military ships.

Attention is drawn to the following media release issued by the Australian Government.

Quote

From 1 July 2004 foreign crewmembers arriving in Australia without both a passport and a valid Seafarers Identity Document will not hold a Special Purpose Visa and will be restricted onboard the vessel.

The Australian Government introduced the new documentary requirements on 1 November 2003. However, to assist industry in meeting this requirement the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) introduced a transition period to 30 June 2004 to allow crew to obtain the correct documentation.

During this period Australian Customs Service officers have been distributing information pamphlets to inadequately documented crew and their respective masters.

From 1 July 2004 all foreign crew are required to hold:

- *a valid national passport; and*
- *a seafarers Identity Document that both identifies the holder and states their employment onboard that vessel.*

Any foreign crewmember who does not hold both a passport and a valid Seafarers Identity Document on arrival in Australia will not hold a Special Purpose Visa. Inadequately documented crew cannot be immigration cleared on arrival and will be restricted onboard the vessel.

In addition the Australian Government will issue the master/owner/agent/charterer of the ship with an infringement in respect of each inadequately documented crewmember. The penalty for each crewmember is currently AUD\$ 5,000.

Questions regarding Australia's immigration requirements for crewmembers can be sent to DIMIA via the following e-mail address: seaports@immi.gov.au

12 May 2004

Unquote

17 June 2004

SM6/5/2/1
SM10/11/R

Issued by and obtainable from:
The South African Maritime Safety Authority
Block E, Hatfield Gardens
333 Grosvenor Street
Hatfield, Pretoria

PO Box 13186
Hatfield 0028

Tel: +27 12 342 3049
Fax: +27 12 342 3160
E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za