



Important Visa Information for the Commercial Maritime Industry

Make sure you hold a valid visa before travelling to Australia

All travellers need to hold a valid visa to enter Australia, including seafarers. Just lodging an application is not a guarantee that one will be granted. Make sure that your application is lodged AND granted before travelling to Australia. If you arrive in Australia without a valid visa, you will be prevented from entering and the shipping company, ship's master and agent may become liable to be fined.

Make sure you lodge a fully complete application at least four weeks before you depart for Australia to give us time to process the application, and for your and the shipping company to make alternative arrangements if your application is delayed or refused.

Sometimes we may need you to give us additional information to support your application. You need to provide the requested information as soon as possible. We cannot grant you a visa until you have done so.

Getting your Maritime Crew Visa application right – the common mistakes that could delay your application:

Below are some tips and hints that you can do to make sure that your application for a Maritime Crew (Subclass 988) application can be processed as quickly as possible.

Attach a copy of your passport biopage and other identity documents

We need to confirm your identity. Make sure that you attach to your application:

- A colour copy of your current passport that shows the:
 - photo
 - personal details (name, date and place of birth, nationality etc)
 - the date the passport was issued and when it will expire
- a copy of your Seaman's book, it's validity page as well as the sign on and sign off event pages
- a colour copy of your Seafarer's card
- a colour copy of National Identity Card (both sides) if you have one, and
- if relevant, documents that prove a change of name including:
 - a marriage or divorce certificate
 - change of name documents from a relevant authority
 - documents that show other names you have been known

Include your employment contract and a statement from the shipping agent

We need to confirm that you are employed to work as a seafarer while in Australia. Attached a copy of your current employment contract.

Check your declarations

You are required to make a number of declarations before you can lodge the application. Make sure that you read them carefully and answer them correctly. False declarations, even where unintended, will delay the processing of the application and may lead to your application being refused.

Make sure the declarations you make about your health, any criminal convictions and your visa history to Australia and other countries, including where previous applications have been refused, are completely accurate.

Technical issues

If you have a technical problem with your ImmiAccount or online application you should use the ImmiAccount Technical Support Form in the first instance to request a resolve to your issue. For your more information go to: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departamental-forms/online-forms/immiaccount-technical-support-form>

Updating your application

You can update your application, or correct any information that you have provided, through the ImmiAccount used to lodge your application.

Application status updates

We give priority to the processing of visa so that your application is decided as soon as possible. As such, the Department does not respond to queries about the progress of Maritime Crew Visa applications made within 6 weeks of their lodgement.