

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

8 January 2021

NSW Border Crossing Permit Scheme Directions update

From 11:59pm on 7 January 2021, the [NSW Border Crossing Permit Scheme Directions \(No 8\)](#) came into force replacing the New South Wales (NSW) Border Crossing Permit Scheme Directions (No 7).

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/nsw-border-crossing-permit-scheme-directions-no-8-covid-19-doc>

Commercial freight workers may enter Victoria from New South Wales, subject to adhering to the requirements of the Directions including applying for a permit and following a COVIDSafe Plan. Key changes in Directions (No 8) are:

- amends the conditions of entry for a commercial freight worker entering Victoria under a border permit, including removing the requirement to self-quarantine in Victoria; and
- clarifies the testing requirements for a person entering Victoria under a border permit.

Commercial freight workers entering Victoria from NSW must:

- keep a record of their travel in NSW, including each place they have stopped at and places of accommodation;
- minimise their contact with other persons (except in an emergency) while in NSW;
- practise physical distancing while in NSW;
- not carry any person as a passenger (other than for commercial freight services), while in NSW; and
- Carry a valid border permit and present the border permit on request to an authorised officer, a Victoria Police member or a Protective Services Officer.

After a commercial freight worker has entered Victoria from New South Wales, they must:

- be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) once in the 7 days after first exiting NSW under their border permit and once between 8 and 14 days after;
- provide documents of proof that they have been tested (i.e. evidence of the person's most recent test) to an authorised officer, a Victoria Police member or a Protective Services Officer when requested;
- only remain in Victoria for the period necessary to provide commercial freight services, unless the person is a Victorian resident who has entered and returned to their place of residence in Victoria;
- minimise contact with other persons while working and for 14 days after entry if the person is a Victorian resident who has entered Victoria to return to their ordinary place of residence in Victoria;
- not work if they have coronavirus (COVID-19);
- keep a record of their travel, including each place stopped at in Victoria and accommodation; and wear a face mask, unless the person is exempt from the requirement, for 14 days commencing from when the person left a hot zone or red zone (please visit <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/travel-restrictions-new-south-wales>) in all indoor spaces, outdoors where the person is unable to physical distance; and when in a vehicle with any other person with whom the person does not live with.

These changes are consistent with the [Freight Movement Protocol and Code](#), established by National Cabinet to keep freight moving across borders.

https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/files/freight-movement-code-for-the-domestic-border-controls.pdf

Information on the Directions can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website, <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>



Department
of Transport

Wide loads crossing the Victoria border from NSW

To ensure the safe and timely movement of road freight, freight workers with loads in excess of 5 metres in width, including permit holders, crossing the Victorian border from NSW, should contact the IPOC OPS line on 03 5723 0669 (managed 24 hours per day and 7 days a week) in the first instance or contact the nearest Regional Roads Victoria office, as required.

New restrictions – face masks

From 11.59pm on 3 January 2021, [the Stay Safe Directions \(Victoria\) \(No 8\)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stay-safe-directions-victoria-no-8-covid-19-pdf), came into force.

These restrictions apply across Victoria in response to the serious and evolving situation of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, and state that:

- Face masks are now mandatory in all indoor settings, including workplaces. There are exceptions, including when you are eating and drinking or if you have a lawful reason not to wear one.
- It is strongly recommended that you wear a face mask when you can't keep 1.5 metres distance from other people in all other settings.
- You must carry a face mask with you whenever you leave home. This is in case you require your face mask, for example, if you can't keep 1.5 metres distance from others.

Masks must be worn by freight operators except if the person is travelling in a vehicle by themselves or where each other person in the vehicle ordinarily resides at the same premises.

Additionally, under [the Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No 15\)](#) an employer must take reasonable steps to ensure the worker, when working at a Work Premises:

- a) carries a face covering at all times, except where subclause (2)(a) applies; and
- b) wears a face covering where required to do so in accordance with any other Directions.

Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions

From 11.59pm on 3 January 2021, [the Workplace \(Additional Industry Obligations\) Directions \(No 15\)](#) came into force and replaced the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions (No 14).

There are no changes to ports of entry directions or requirements.

Surveillance testing for workers in ports

One of the requirements of the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions (No.15) is surveillance COVID-19 testing for certain port workers. The Surveillance Testing Industry List was published on 22 December 2020 on the DHHS website <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/surveillance-testing-industry-list-covid-19>

The requirement for surveillance COVID-19 testing applies to:

- Crews of vessels entering Australian waters, including via another Australian port. Crews of vessels are required to comply with a testing frequency of 100% of crew tested prior to or on disembarking the vessel at a port of entry.
- Maritime port workers (Australia- based) who have direct, occasional or indirect contact or interactions with passengers or crew on vessels from outside Australia and/or the environment which these passengers or crew pass through or workers who may handle potentially contaminated materials.

Maritime port workers are required to comply with a testing frequency of 100% of workforce tested once per week. Employers of workers listed for testing should direct their staff to attend a fixed testing facility listed on the DHHS website <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19>

The nearest testing sites to maritime ports are:

- **Geelong Port:** Barwon Health - 155 Princes Highway (Corner of Cox Road and Princes Highway), Norlane
- **Port of Melbourne:** West Footscray, Shorten Reserve Carpark, West Footscray; The Royal Melbourne Hospital Respiratory Clinic, 300 Grattan St (entrance between Main Hospital and Emergency Department)
- **Port of Portland:** Portland District Health Service - 141-151 Bentinck Street, Portland
- **Port of Hastings:** Rosebud Hospital, Eleanora House, Rosebud; Frankston Hospital, Corner of Hastings Road and Yuille Street, Frankston

The test is free for everyone. This includes people without a Medicare card, such as visitors from overseas, migrant workers and asylum seekers. You will not have to isolate, and may continue working, whilst awaiting your test result.

Resources for maritime port of entry workers and employers

Industry guidelines for ports of entry can be found on the [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website, <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/ports-entry-services-sector-guidance>. This page also provides fact sheets about surveillance COVID-19 testing for employers and workers in ports.

Every business that is open must have a COVIDSafe Plan

Business owners in Victoria are asked to play their part in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by developing a COVIDSafe Plan and adhering to other workplace requirements.

The Victorian Government has provided a range of resources and guidelines to support businesses to reopen safely including signs, posters and templates. <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/signs-posters-and-templates>

Further COVID information

The [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website is your home for coronavirus (COVID-19) information, please visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

For information about all state or territory border restrictions specific to the heavy vehicle industry please visit the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Coronavirus (COVID-19) response website www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/coronavirus-response

Freight Victoria in the Department of Transport is the central point of contact for Victorian Government industry information. Further enquiries should be directed via email to freightvictoria@transport.vic.gov.au