Maritime Security Identification Cards (MSICs)

Information for Indigenous Australians
Are you an Indigenous Australian who is part of, or wishing to gain employment in, the maritime or offshore oil and gas industries (maritime sector)? If you are then you may need to get an MSIC as part of your job requirements.

What is an MSIC?

An MSIC is a security identification card that shows that you have had a background check and are ok to work unescorted in a security zone.

Depending on your needs, an MSIC is generally valid for either two or four years.

Do I need one?

Your employer will be able to tell you if you need an MSIC for your job.
There are some jobs in the maritime sector that are made easier by holding an MSIC, because you can work unescorted. For example if you work on a ship, or are a driver who delivers goods to a port, or even if you work at a container terminal on a port.

**How do I apply?**

Applying is simple and all you need to do is contact an MSIC issuing body (an organisation that facilitates the relevant background checks and issues the card). Issuing bodies can be found all over Australia, and you may be able to apply online or at your local port. You can find a list of the issuing bodies at the following webpage:


When applying for an MSIC you will need to:

1. show identification (e.g. birth certificate and drivers licence);
2. provide a passport-size photo or they may take one of you (depending on the issuing body); and
3. confirm why you need an MSIC (this is called operational need, this can be confirmed with a letter from your employer).

If the background checks are successful, you will then be issued an MSIC.

**How much does an MSIC cost?**

Costs of an MSIC vary depending on which issuing body you use and whether you need a 2 year or 4 year card. The cost of an MSIC is sometimes covered by your employer. If not, you should contact your issuing body.
Background checking

MSIC background checking is a process carried out by the Australian Government to decide a person’s suitability to hold an MSIC.

The checks consist of:

• an assessment of a person’s criminal convictions against a criteria set out by law (not all criminal convictions are relevant);
• a national security assessment; and
• if relevant, confirmation of the right to work in Australia.

What if I have criminal convictions?

Having criminal convictions does not necessarily stop you from holding an MSIC as not all convictions are relevant to holding a card. Offences like general driving offences, speeding fines, parking tickets and minor drug or violence offences are not considered during this process.

However, a person will be initially refused an MSIC if they have been convicted of relevant offences and were sentenced to imprisonment (including suspended sentences). However, even if initially refused, this might just mean a more detailed review is required and your issuing body can talk you through that.

If you are concerned that your criminal history might initially stop you from getting an MSIC, you should talk to AusCheck (the Government agency who carries out the check).

If you have a criminal record, no one will be told about your convictions, not even your employer or issuing body. It is up to you who you tell about your criminal history.
Identification requirements

What kind of ID do I need to apply for an MSIC?

When applying for an MSIC you will need to show some identification.

You must have ONE Primary Document

**Primary**

Only one form of identification accepted from this category

Full birth certificate (extracts are not accepted)

Current Passport

Citizenship certificate

And either ONE Secondary document or TWO Tertiary documents

**Secondary**

ONE of the following forms of ID (with your photo or signature)

Licence (e.g. drivers licence)

Government employee identification

Australian tertiary student identification

Verifiable reference (e.g. from a bank verifying they have known you for at least 12 months and signed by both yourself (the applicant) and the bank referee).

**Tertiary**

TWO of the following (with your name and address)

Statement from your employer about your employment

Copy of a record issued under a law about land titles

Rates notice

Bank document about a mortgage or other security

Electoral roll extract

Other record issued under a law in force in Australia

Contact an issuing body if you do not think you have relevant identification. They will be able to help you work out if other identification documents you have might be acceptable.
What if I don’t have a birth certificate?
Contact the Births, Deaths and Marriages registry in the State or Territory where you were born. They will be able to help you with the process of obtaining your certificate. Once you have all the relevant identification, you will be able to apply for an MSIC.

What if my birth isn’t registered?
If your birth hasn’t been registered, you can make a late registration. The relevant Births, Deaths and Marriages registry will be able to walk you through this process if required.

State and Territory Births, Deaths and Marriages Registries

- New South Wales: www.bdm.nsw.gov.au or phone 137 788
- Australian Capital Territory: www.ors.act.gov.au or phone 02 6207 3000
- Queensland: www.qld.gov.au/bdm or phone 137 468
- Victoria: www.bdm.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 369 367
- Northern Territory: www.bdm.nt.gov.au or phone 08 8999 6119
- Western Australia: www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au or phone 1300 305 021
- Tasmania: www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm or phone 1300 135 513
- South Australia: www.cbs.sa.gov.au/bdm or phone 131 882

What else do I need to know?

- You should apply early for an MSIC. Background checks can take time.
• You may be able to work as a visitor in a maritime area while you are applying for an MSIC as long as you have an MSIC holder supervising you (provided such access is authorised by the port operator).

• Your identity documents need to all show the same name and must match exactly i.e. no nicknames or aliases or maiden names, unless you have additional documentation supporting a name change (e.g. marriage certificate).

• Exemptions cannot be given if someone does not have the required identification.

What do I need to know if I’m granted an MSIC?

• An MSIC does not give a person an automatic right to enter a maritime secure area. To gain access to an area this must be approved by the port operator.

• MSICs must be displayed at all times whilst working unsupervised in a maritime secure area.

• You must never loan or share your MSIC with another person or use someone else’s MSIC to gain access to a port.

• Fines can apply if an MSIC is used inappropriately.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about MSICs in general, the full list of relevant offences, or information about the discretionary card process visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/MSIC or contact the Identity Security Section on 02 6274 7748 or ldsecurity@infrastructure.gov.au.

For more information on the background checking process or if your offences might be relevant to your MSIC application contact AusCheck at www.ag.gov.au/auscheck Phone: 02 6141 2000 or Email: auscheck@ag.gov.au
This document is an initiative of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development as part of their Reconciliation Action Plan 2012–2014 to assist Indigenous Australians access the MSIC scheme.