Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Land Transport Industry – COVID-19 Response Update 17 November 2020

The Land Transport Industry (Industry) is playing a critical role during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, highlighting the importance of the Industry in supporting Australian communities and the economy by providing essential supplies of food, medicine and other goods. To maintain the safety of Industry members and the wider community, operators must continue to adhere to best practice health advice for cleaning, hygiene and physical distancing.

This update is a part of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' (the Department) continuing ongoing engagement with Industry, regulators, other Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments as we move towards recovery.

The Department has developed the collection of resources in this Update to assist Industry. Industry should continue to refer to the Australian Government websites at www.australia.gov.au and www.health.gov.au, along with relevant state and territory government websites, for the most up to date advice.

Recent Updates

Freight Movement Code Update

As border restrictions change across Australia, the Freight Movement Code for Domestic Border Controls will continue to be an important means for government and industry to manage COVID-19 transmission risks. The Australian, State and Territory Governments reaffirm the importance of social distancing, record keeping, COVIDSafe work plans and not working while symptomatic. Transport agencies are currently working with Industry and Health agencies to review best practice for a-symptomatic COVID-19 testing.

Jurisdictions Border Controls

As we get closer to the end of the year, State and Territory Governments have announced changes to their border controls. A COVID-19 cluster in Parafield, South Australia has also caused changes to border controls. Industry are encouraged to regularly review state and territory webpages to keep across these changes. Recent changes include:

QLD has declared Adelaide a hotspot. (link)
WA has declared SA a medium risk area. (link)
TAS has declared SA a medium risk area. (link)
NT has declared SA a hotspot. (link)

Industry are encouraged to remain vigilant and, should you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, immediately stop working until a negative COVID-19 test has been received.

National Cabinet Update

On 13 November 2020, the National Cabinet met for the 31st time to discuss Australia's COVID-19 response. At this meeting the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory agreed to a new 'Framework for National Reopening Australia by Christmas'. The National Reopening Framework builds on the 3-Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia agreed by National Cabinet on 8 May 2020 and sets a pathway for the removal of domestic border restrictions where it is safe to do so.

The importance of the Industry is captured in the National Reopening Framework, noting the Freight Movement Protocol and Code should continue to apply when border controls are in place.

- National Cabinet Media Release: www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-2
- Framework for National Reopening Australia by Christmas: www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/framework-national-reopening-nov2020.pdf
- 3-Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia: www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/covid-safe-australia-roadmap.pdf

Resource: Framework for National Reopening, page 3

Close Contact Record Keeping

Under the Freight Movement Code for the Domestic Border Controls – Freight Movement Protocol (Code), industry operators are required to keep a record of all close contacts to assist with contact tracing. Record keeping is vitally important as it allows governments to quickly and accurately respond to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Freight operators are responsible for maintaining their own close contact record and should not rely on the record keeping of premises they visit. An optional Record Keeping Form has been developed for Industry use. The Form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Monitoring Heavy Vehicle Driver Shortage

On 23 October 2020, the Commonwealth hosted a meeting with representatives from industry as well as the Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments to discuss issues freight operators are experiencing due to driver shortages. Whilst there are long-term skills shortage concerns, border controls have also caused challenges relocating drivers. Governments are working to address the long-term factors, but will continue to monitor any acute issues resulting from COVID-19.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Australians have experienced significant levels of stress and uncertainty. For many people across Australia, COVID-19 has had a significant effect on mental health and personal wellbeing. The Head to Health website provides digital mental health resources, including information, advice and professional support.

Head to Health: https://headtohealth.gov.au/

The 24/7 Beyond Blue Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service is available **1800 512 348**.

Members of the freight industry may already be experiencing mental health concerns due to long periods of isolation, strict time schedules and high-pressure situations. The Healthy Heads in Trucks & Sheds Foundation is an initiative between road transport, warehousing and logistics operators to support drivers and logistics workers with issues relating to mental health and physical wellbeing. Further information about Healthy Heads in Trucks & Sheds is available at: www.healthyheads.org.au/.

If you need help right now, it is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anywhere in Australia:

Lifeline 24-hour crisis line - **131 114**

Beyond Blue Support Service – **1300 22 4636**

Suicide Call Back Service – **1300 659 467**

Australian Emergency Telephone Number – **000**

Resources

Australian Government Resources

General COVID-19

- Essential Information updates from the Australian Government are available at: www.australia.gov.au.
- The COVIDSafe app has been released to help speed up contacting people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Downloading the COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Please read the information from the Department of Health at: www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app before downloading.
- Health advice and resources are available from the Department of Health at: www.health.gov.au.
- Safe Work Australia has COVID-19 information for the workplace at: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces.

Economic Response

- Details of the Australian Government economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available from the Treasury at: www.treasury.gov.au, including specific support for affected businesses at: www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses.
- The Australian Tax Office provides information about the JobKeeper Payment at: www.ato.gov.au/general/JobKeeper-Payment/

Regulator Resources

- The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) provides regular updates on their dedicated COVID-19 webpage. Information about the NHVR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: www.nhvr.gov.au/coronavirus
- The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator has a Fact Sheet on their response to COVID-19 pandemic, available at: www.onrsr.com.au.

State and Territory Government Resources

Jurisdiction	Requirements
Queensland	Border Information: www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/border-closing Queensland Border Declaration Pass (Freight and Logistics): www.qld.gov.au/border-pass/freight-and-logistics COVID Testing Facilities: www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/testing-and-fever-clinics
Western Australia	Border Information: www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-travel-wa G2G Pass: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/g2g-pass-travel-exemptions-frequently-asked-questions Controlled interstate border: www.wa.gov.au/organisation/covid-communications/covid-19-coronavirus-controlled-interstate-border FAQ: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/freight-and-logistics-drivers-frequently-asked-questions
South Australia	Border Information: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions Cross Border Travel Registration: https://forms.police.sa.gov.au/Runtime/Runtime/Form/CrossBorderTravel COVID Testing Facilities: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/testing+and+tracing/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres
Tasmania	Border Information: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/coming-to-tasmania G2G PASS: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/g2g-pass COVID Testing Facilities: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers Quarantine Conditions: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers/quarantine-conditions-for-essential-travellers
Northern Territory	Border Information: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/quarantine Border Entry Form: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/quarantine#section2 Exemption Application: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/exemptions#/person_providing_services_for_transport_or_freight_of_goods COVID Testing Facilities: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/symptoms-testing
New South Wales	Border Information: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/border-restrictions COVID-19 NSW Border Entry Permit: www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit COVID Testing Facilities: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics
Victoria	COVID webpage: www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus COVID Testing Facilities: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19
Australian Capital Territory	Border Controls: www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/travelling-and-transport Exemption Application: www.covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application COVID Testing Facilities: www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/symptoms-and-getting-tested

COVID-19 Record Keeping Form

The Freight Movement Code provides that records should include details of the destination and any onward and return travel, accommodation, any close contact. Records should be kept for a minimum *of two weeks.*
A **Close Contact** is a face-to-face contact for 15 minutes or more, or a person sharing an enclosed space for a prolonged period. Records should include contacts that have occurred during and outside of working hours.
Locations recorded should include any accommodation, even where there was no close contact involved.

Route				
Date	**Time (in / out)**	**Location (e.g. destination, rest stop)**	**Contact Name**	**Details (Phone / Email)**
Route				
Date	**Time (in / out)**	**Location**	**Contact Name**	**Details (Phone / Email)**

Route				
Date	**Time (in / out)**	**Location**	**Contact Name**	**Details (Phone / Email)**
Route				
Date	**Time (in / out)**	**Location**	**Contact Name**	**Details (Phone / Email)**

Health Contact Numbers:

NSW - 1300 066 055	QLD - 13 43 25 84	SA - 1300 232 272	ACT - (02) 5124 9213
VIC - 1300 651 170	WA - 1300 316 555	TAS - 1300 135 513	NT - 1800 020 08