

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO. 2012/09

Processing imported goods and passengers arriving from Japan - update

Australian Customs and Border Protection Notices 2011/40 of 17 October 2011 outlined processing requirements for passengers, cargo and maritime vessels arriving from Japan in the wake of the tsunami and nuclear emergency in March 2011.

The Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) has provided updated advice on some revised requirements for maritime vessels and the monitoring of vessels for contamination.

# Current Situation

In December 2011, the Japanese Government announced that all reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi site are in cold shutdown. This significantly reduces the likelihood of uncontrolled release of radiological material into the environment.

Radioactive contamination from previous releases is still present in the immediate vicinity of the Fukushima site. The Japanese Government has measures in place to monitor releases of radioactive material into the marine environment. A 20 km maritime restricted area remains in place.

# Maritime vessels and cargo arriving from Japan

ARPANSA has advised Customs and Border Protection that measured radiation levels at most Japanese ports are now close to typical levels of background radiation and contamination of vessels and goods at these ports is not expected. Further information on measured doses at ports is available from [www.mlit.go.jp/en/index.html or](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/index.htmlor) the International Maritime Organization at [www.imo.org.](http://www.imo.org/)

ARPANSA continues to advise that it is not considered necessary to introduce any comprehensive radiation screening measures for mail, sea or air cargo, or aircraft arriving from Japan. This is consistent with the approach being taken in a number of other countries.

# Restricted Maritime Area

Vessels should avoid transiting within the 10.8 nautical miles (20 kilometre) restricted area of the Fukushima nuclear power plant (37-19N 141-01E). Mariners are advised that the cautionary zone recommendation should be considered a minimum distance, and that prudent route planning should incorporate prevailing and changing wind and weather conditions, in addition to other precautionary measures.

ARPANSA has recommended cancelling the requirement to monitor vessels for contamination departing from all ports, including the Ports of Onahama (36-56N 140-53E), Haramachi (37-40N 141-00E) and Soma (37-50N 140-58E)

Advice previously provided on ballast water, passenger and food monitoring continue unchanged.

# Ongoing monitoring

Customs and Border Protection is working closely with ARPANSA and other Government agencies to continue monitoring the situation at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant site. Further advice will be provided if there is any significant change to the situation.

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21 February 2012