

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO. 2011/ 40

Processing imported goods and passengers arriving from Japan - update

Australian Customs and Border Protection Notices 2011/13 of 25 March 2011 and 2011/15 of 5 April 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, including some revised requirements for maritime vessels, and information on the selective screening of some cargo.

# 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/)

The Japanese Government and industry have established processes for monitoring of goods exported from Japan. The radiation protection criteria used for this contamination screening is consistent with Australian and international guidance. 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, such as the UK, Canada and New Zealand. When considered appropriate, ARPANSA will undertake selective screening to provide reassurance of the effectiveness of existing protective measures and arrangements.

# Exclusion and Cautionary Zones

As a precautionary measure, ARPANSA and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) have reminded shipping lines that both the exclusion zone and cautionary zone promulgated by the Japanese Government should also be applied to ships transiting the area. Vessels should not transit within 11 Nautical miles (20km) radius of the Fukushima nuclear power plant (37-19N 141-01E), and avoid transiting within 16 nautical miles (30km). 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.

***The exclusion zone should be observed until further notice, and vessels should note any NAVAREA warnings and advice.***

In the event a vessel bound for an Australian port transits through the 16 nautical miles (30km) cautionary or exclusion zones, it is requested the vessel’s master submit transit information,

including the date and total time within the exclusion area, to ARPANSA. Such reports should be submitted via the AMSA incident reporting system.

ARPANSA has also recommended that vessels departing from the ports of Ports of Onahama (36-56N 140-53E), Haramachi (37-40N 141-00E) and Soma (37-50N 140-58E) should be monitored for contamination by the local authorities, in accordance with the Japanese Government requirements, and that they have certification that no contamination above the safety limits was found.

Further details are available at [www.amsa.gov.au/Shipping\_Safety/Incident\_Reporting.](http://www.amsa.gov.au/Shipping_Safety/Incident_Reporting)

# Ballast water

At this stage, normal ballast water arrangements remain in place, as current water exchange requirements will act to minimise any risk. ***No additional precautions are required in respect of ballast water, at this time.***

# Food testing

FSANZ has requested that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) tests certain dried, fresh or frozen foods originating from the Japanese prefectures of Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tokyo, Tochigi and Yamagata. These foods will be referred to AQIS for testing. Foods that pass testing will be released, foods that fail must be re exported or destroyed.

# Passengers

There is no change to the previous advice in ACN 2011/13 that advised no testing is required of passengers arriving from Japan. However travellers should consult the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade “Smarttraveller” website (www.smarttraveller.gov.au) as precautionary advice for Australians travelling to Japan was reissued on 8 September 2011.

# Ongoing monitoring

Customs and Border Protection is working closely with ARPANSA and other Government agencies to monitor the current situation. Stakeholders will be advised if there is any change to current advice. Further information can be obtained from the ARPANSA website ([http://www.arpansa.gov.au/).](http://www.arpansa.gov.au/))

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