



## GENERAL MESSAGE

10 August 2020

### COVID-19 Queensland specific border restrictions for agribusiness

**New Qld border restrictions came into effect over the weekend. Here is what you need to know, as provided by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.**

The Border Restriction Direction (No. 11) came into effect at 1am on Saturday 8 August 2020. This direction will limit people coming into Queensland from a COVID-19 hotspot. Anyone can enter Queensland, unless they've been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days, or are a confirmed case of COVID-19. All of Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are currently declared hotspots.

People who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days will only be able to enter Queensland if they are a returning Queensland resident or required to enter for a limited range of essential activities.

#### **People who are exempt from Queensland border restrictions**

There are very limited circumstances which allow exempt people to enter Queensland from a COVID-19 hotspot.

#### **Transporters of freight and logistics**

Exemptions continue to be in place for people providing an essential activity in Queensland, such as transporters of freight and logistics to ensure the delivery of essential food and supplies. People who fall into this category do not need to apply for an exemption from the Chief Health Officer to undertake transport of freight or logistics into, from or through Queensland. However, they will need to complete a [Queensland Border Declaration Pass](#).

People working in transport and logistics must remain isolated from the general public in their vehicle or accommodation until they depart Queensland, or for 14 days, whichever period is shorter. They must also keep and retain records of close contacts while you are in Queensland for 2 weeks after you arrive in Queensland.

#### **Specialist worker**

Agribusiness, commercial fishing and food manufacturing are considered essential activities in Queensland. A specialist worker can only enter Queensland from a COVID-19 hotspot if they are providing a service critical to Queensland (for example, critical agricultural operations necessary to maintain food supply). Exemptions will be considered on a case by case basis and will be very limited.

A business or company seeking an exemption to bring specialist workers into Queensland from a COVID-19 hotspot must provide evidence that:

- the services can't be obtained in Queensland
- the services must be provided without delay (or in a specified time critical period)
- the person needs to be physically present in Queensland to complete the duty
- the company or service provider has a plan in place that follows the requirements specified by the Chief Health Officer to manage risks associated with COVID-19 (for example a workplace health management plan).

Upon arrival in Queensland, an exempt specialist worker will need to provide the following information:

1. their status as an approved specialist worker; and
2. name of employer; and
3. that they are entering Queensland to go directly to work; and
4. the location of the worksite; and
5. the location of where they will be accommodated in Queensland while performing the essential activity.

### Application process

The status of the person as a specialist worker must be approved by the Chief Health Officer through the exemption process. To apply for a specialist worker exemption:

1. Complete the application for [specialist worker exemption form](#)
2. Your application will be assessed against the criteria outlined in the [industry applicants guidelines](#)
3. If approval is given, a letter will be sent to your business/company advising that the specialist worker(s) has been granted an exemption from the Chief Health Officer
4. The business/company should provide a copy of the letter to the relevant specialist worker to support their Border Declaration Pass on entry to Queensland.

For further information on these current arrangements including a list of frequently asked questions go to [https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/coronavirus-support/border-restrictions-agriculture/\\_nocache](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/coronavirus-support/border-restrictions-agriculture/_nocache)



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