



Fact sheet



Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012

If your project involves the operation of a vessel considered to be a domestic commercial vessel, you must comply with the maritime safety framework under this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

Owners and operators of commercial vessels operating within Australian waters must meet safety requirements in relation to certification, construction, equipment, design and operational safety under the [Marine Safety \(Domestic Commercial Vessel\) National Law Act 2012](#) (National Law).

The National Law only applies to a vessel if it is considered to be a [domestic commercial vessel](#) (DCV). Vessels used in connection with a commercial, government or research activity will generally be classed as DCVs, unless they operate outside Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Foreign-flagged vessels and vessels considered to be a [regulated Australian vessel](#) (RAV), are instead subject to the maritime safety framework under the *Navigation Act 2012*. Certain parts of the *Navigation Act 2012* may also apply to DCVs, including obligations relating to safe navigation and prevention of collisions.

Unless exempt, DCVs must:

- have a unique vessel identifier
- have a certificate of survey
- have a load line certificate, if applicable
- have a certificate of operation
- be crewed by persons holding the required certificate of competency.

The National Law sets out general safety duties that must be complied with, including the requirement for DCV owners to implement and maintain a [safety](#)

[management system](#). Owners and masters must also report any vessel modifications or [marine incidents](#) to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Further details on approval requirements can be found in the [Marine Order series 501 to 507](#) and [Marine Safety \(Domestic Commercial Vessel\) National Law Regulation 2013](#), as well as in supporting [guidance notices](#) and fact sheets on the AMSA website.

To help determine applicable design and construction requirements for your vessel, visit AMSA's online application [My Boat](#).

2. Who provides the approvals?

AMSA is the national regulator for DCV safety and oversees the implementation and operation of the National Law. AMSA oversees certification requirements for DCVs. Along with its partners, AMSA inspects vessels for compliance.

3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications for required certificates are submitted directly to AMSA by completing the relevant [online form](#).

4. More information

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Further information on maritime safety requirements is available on the AMSA [website](#).

AMSA Connect can be contacted by email at AMSACONNECT@amsa.gov.au.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify potential Australian Government regulatory approvals required for your project, please refer to the [Major projects help tool](#) self-assessment.

The MPFA team can be contacted by email at MPFA@industry.gov.au.