



## Fact sheet



# Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012

If your project involves plans to operate a commercial vessel carrying cargo or passengers between ports in Australia, you must obtain an appropriate licence in accordance with this Act.

## 1. What approvals do I need?

Unless an exemption applies, an appropriate coastal trading licence is required to use a vessel to carry cargo or passengers between interstate ports in Australian waters for or in connection with a commercial activity under the [Coastal Trading \(Revitalising Australian Shipping\) Act 2012](#) (the Act).

Licence types are as follows:

- **General licences** provide Australian vessels with unrestricted access to engage in coastal trading for up to five years.
- **Temporary licences** provide limited access to engage in coastal trading for 12 months for foreign-flagged vessels.
- **Emergency licences** provide access to engage in coastal trading for up to 30 days in certain emergency situations including some natural disasters and severe weather conditions.

Certain vessels or persons may be declared to be exempt from requirements under the Act in accordance with a [Ministerial direction](#).

All licences are subject to conditions. Additional requirements may apply in accordance with specific conditions. For more information on the specific licence conditions and obligations that may apply, please refer to [guidance](#) available on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) website.

## 2. Who provides the approvals?

DITRDCA administers the Act and is responsible for granting licences on behalf of the Minister responsible for the Transport portfolio.

## 3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications to gain or vary a coastal trading licence are made online through DITRDCA's [Coastal Trading Licensing System](#). This system is also used to manage reporting and notification requirements under the Act.

## 4. More information

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Further information about how to comply with requirements for coastal trading in Australian waters is available on the DITRDCA [website](#).

DITRDCA's Shipping Business Unit can be contacted by email at [sbu@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:sbu@infrastructure.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](mailto:MPFA@industry.gov.au).