



Maritime Security Identification Card at Fremantle Ports Frequently Asked Questions

*Adapted from the Department of Transport and Regional
Services MSIC Q&A*

July 2009

What is a Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC)?

The MSIC is a nationally consistent identification card which confirms that the holder has met the minimum background checking requirements to work in a maritime and/or offshore security zone. An MSIC is not an access control card, and possession of an MSIC does not provide the right of entry to any facility within a maritime security zone. Access to maritime security zones is managed by the Maritime Industry Participant. At Fremantle Maritime Industry Participants include Fremantle Ports, P&O, Patrick, BP, Alcoa and CBH.

What are maritime security zones?

Maritime security zones are areas within regulated Ports, around and onboard regulated Australian ships which have additional security requirements, as defined by the Maritime Transport Security and Offshore Facilities Act 2003 (the Act).

At Fremantle these areas include the North Quay and Victoria Quay berths and customs controlled areas including the container terminals, Kwinana Bulk Terminal, Kwinana Bulk Jetty and the private facilities in the Outer Harbour.

The MSIC will also cover security zones on offshore oil and gas facilities.

How do I know if I will need an MSIC?

If you require unmonitored access within a maritime security zone you will require an MSIC.

When did the MSIC Scheme commence?

All persons unmonitored within a maritime security zone have been required to hold and display an MSIC since 1 January 2007.

Where can I apply for an MSIC?

Once your operational need for an MSIC has been confirmed you can apply through an MSIC issuing body. Fremantle Ports is an issuing body. Review the application information on the Fremantle Ports' website (www.fremantleports.com.au) or call (08) 9430 3322 or (08) 9430 3384.

What is an MSIC issuing body?

An MSIC issuing body can be a regulated Maritime Industry Participant (MIP) or another body, such as an employee union, industry association or private company who has been nominated by a MIP. Issuing bodies will be authorised by the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) following approval of an MSIC Plan.

As an issuing body Fremantle Ports has its MSIC Service Centre at the Fremantle Ports Administrative Building at 1 Cliff Street, Fremantle. The centre began operating on 1 May 2006.

What documents will I need to fill in and provide to get an MSIC?

The following will need to be completed and signed:

- MSIC application form.

The following will need to be provided:

- Proof of identity documents;
- Confirmation of right to work in Australia;
- Evidence of operational need to have an MSIC.

What Background Checks will I undergo?

AusCheck (a department of the Attorney-General's Office) will coordinate a background check by using the information you provide to Fremantle Ports to ask the following Government agencies for information about you:

The Australian Security Intelligence Agency (ASIO):

ASIO will check your name on a database of known persons involved with politically motivated violence. ASIO will also keep your information and use it as necessary for national security purposes.

A politically motivated violence is any act or threat of violence or unlawful harm that is intended or likely to achieve a political objective, whether in Australia or elsewhere.

Should ASIO make any recommendation against the issuing of an MSIC, you will be informed of the recommendation and how you can have it reviewed by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

CrimTrac:

If you are over 18, CrimTrac will check your criminal history in the database of all Australian legal jurisdictions and supply a copy of your criminal record to AusCheck. CrimTrac will not use your information for any other purpose.

What is the role of MSIC issuing bodies during the implementation phase?

MSIC issuing bodies, such as Fremantle Ports, will be responsible for confirming an applicant's identity and their Citizenship or right to work in Australia. They will also provide application and consent forms for background checks. The issuing body will also be responsible for producing an MSIC.

What happens if I am unsuccessful in obtaining an MSIC?

AusCheck will give you a written statement of reasons why you are not eligible to hold an MSIC. You will also receive advice on your appeal rights.

If you are unsuccessful in your appeal or chose not to appeal, you will not be able to enter a maritime security zone. It is a matter for your employer to redeploy you outside of the maritime security zone and if not being able to obtain an MSIC will affect your employment status.

Will issuing bodies and employers have access to the information and details of the background checks that were conducted on me?

Only the Australian Government will have access to background checking information. Issuing bodies will only receive written advice from AusCheck that states whether they can or cannot issue an MSIC.

How long is an MSIC valid for?

An MSIC is valid for 5 years unless you leave the regulated Australian maritime environment for 12 months or longer or you no longer have an operational need to be within a maritime security zone. In this case, your card may be cancelled before the 5 year validity period has elapsed.

What happens to my card if it is cancelled?

If your card is cancelled you will need to return it to the issuing body who issued your card.

What happens if my card was cancelled but I now find myself working in the industry again?

If you return to the industry after this time or you find once again you have a need for an MSIC and it is before the date the card would have expired, you will need to sign a statutory declaration stating there has been no change to your criminal record and your card will be reissued to you with the original expiry date. Even if there has been no change to your criminal history the issuing body may decide that new background checks will need to be undertaken. If this is the case your new card will expire five years from when this new check was conducted.

What happens at the end of the 5 year validity period?

Your card will expire and you will need to apply for a new one. You will need to undergo another background check before your replacement card can be issued. These checks should be initiated before your MSIC expires, so you don't lose the ability to work unmonitored within a maritime security zone.

How long will it take to get an MSIC from when I submit my documentation?

The total time taken to obtain an MSIC will depend on whether you have provided the appropriate documentation or if additional information is sought by the background checking

agencies. Additional time should also be allocated for administration processes and determination of your eligibility required by the issuing body and AusCheck.

How much will it cost to get an MSIC?

Fremantle Ports offers two MSIC card options:

- 1. Combined MSIC / Security Access Card \$235.00
- 2. MSIC ONLY (excludes Fremantle Ports' Access) \$213.00

The cost includes the AusCheck background checks, identification photo and the card.

When do I have to display my MSIC?

You are required to display an MSIC while in a maritime security zone.

How do I need to display my MSIC?

You should wear your MSIC above waist height; at the front or side of your body; with the whole front of the MSIC clearly visible.

What will happen if I don't display an MSIC?

Inappropriate display of, or not displaying, an MSIC could lead to a fine.