

10. Work permits

10.1 General

In order to be able to perform certain work on ships in the port masters, owners or their agents must first apply for and obtain the necessary permits before that work can proceed. Applications for approval by the Regional Harbour Master must be submitted via the QSHIPS programme and by fax or email to the relevant authorities. The required terms and conditions are completed by the Regional Harbour Master's office and the agent may then print off the completed permit for passing to the master of the applicable vessel.

Refer to the Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited port notices for further information.

- Hot works – on or within facilities or ships;
- Bunkering;
- Immobilising a ship;
- Operation of propellers at a wharf;
- Ship to ship/shore transfer operations;
- Life boat drills; and
- Night Fuel Transfer.

10.2 Permit requests

Who	To	Permit	When	Comments
All ships	FNQPCL	Overside work	48 hours prior to arrival	Lodged to FNQPCL.
All ships	FNQPCL	Hot work	48 hours prior to arrival	Lodged to FNQPCL and berth operator.
All ships	RHM/	Immobilisation	24 hrs prior to event	Lodged to RHM via QSHIPS, email or fax and to FNQPCL.
All ships	FNQPCL	Immobilisation at anchor	24 hrs prior to event	Lodged to RHM via QSHIPS, email or fax.
All ships	RHM/	Night Fuel Transfer	24 hr prior to event	Lodged to RHM via QSHIPS, email or fax and to FNQPCL.
All ships	RHM/FNQPCL	Lifeboat drills	Prior to event	Lodged to RHM via QSHIPS email or fax.

Table 8 – Permit requests

The legend refers to the comments section above:

RHM: Regional Harbour Master

FNQPCL: Far North Queensland Ports Corporation

10.3 Work permits description

10.3.1 Immobilisation main engines

Ships wishing to immobilise main engines must lodge an application via QSHIPS, through their agent, to the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) and to the port authority via email or fax at least 24 hours prior to the requested immobilisation.

Master's wishing to immobilise main engines are to state, when seeking approval, the estimated time to make main engines operational in an emergency. In the event main engines would not be available within a reasonable amount of time the Master is to supply a risk assessment and contingency plan to the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) for approval.

Ships are not to immobilise main engines until they have received permission from the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns).

Permission may not be given for more than 24 hours during the cyclone season (November to April) or more than 48 hours during the rest of the year

Masters are to contact Cairns VTS on VHF 16/12 prior to commencement and again on completion of immobilisation of main engines.

10.3.2 Hot work permit

Ships wishing to carry out repairs and any form of metal work, which includes performing hot work, must lodge an application in writing with the Port Authority, Ports North Qld, via the online web portal.

<https://www.portsnorth.com.au/srp/forms-permits/permit-to-work/>

Once approval has been granted by the relevant port authority, the ship's agent is to lodge an advice via QSHIPS to the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns).

Masters are to contact Cairns VTS on VHF 16/12 prior to commencement and again on completion of any such hot works.

10.3.3 Boat drills

Ships wishing to put boats in the water for painting, maintenance purposes or to carry out lifeboat drills, must first obtain clearance from the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) and the Port Authority, Ports North Qld via the online web portal.

<https://www.portsnorth.com.au/srp/forms-permits/permit-to-work/>

This clearance is to be obtained by the vessel's agent.

The ship's agent is to lodge an advice via QSHIPS to the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns)

Masters are requested to contact Cairns VTS on VHF channel 16/12 prior to commencement and again on completion of such drills when the boats have been returned on board and secured

10.3.4 Engine trials

Ship's wishing to carry out engine trials must lodge an application with Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited prior to the event.

10.3.5 Notification of handling of bulk liquids – Night Fuel Transfer

Under the [*Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995*](#) Maritime Safety Queensland is both the statutory and combat agency for response to all ship sourced oil spills. It is therefore a requirement for owners/agents or masters of vessels to notify Maritime Safety Queensland of the intention to load, unload or transfer any form of bulk liquids to, from or between vessels. Such notification is required to be lodged with Cairns VTS via QSHIPS and the port authority, Ports North Qld, via the online web portal

<https://www.portsnorth.com.au/srp/forms-permits/permit-to-work/>

For the purposes of this notification, it would be deemed that the liquids will be transferred by pipeline to, from or between vessels.

The operations of bunkering and the pumping of sullage/sludge from vessels, by road, barge or ship transfer, are to be included within this notification.

Masters of vessels conducting bulk liquid transfers, as specified above, are required to notify Cairns VTS on VHF channel 12 of the time of commencement of such transfer/bunkering operation and again the time when the operation is completed.

10.3.6 Overside maintenance work

For environmental reasons, the port authority has strict guidelines on the performance of overside maintenance work on ships within the port limits. Ships wishing to undertake overside maintenance work must:

- comply with the conditions spelt out in the port authority port notice – overside maintenance; and
- lodge a request, with the port authority, Ports North Qld, via the online web portal for permission to undertake overside work; when granted, masters must comply with the conditions of the permit.

<https://www.portsnorth.com.au/srp/forms-permits/permit-to-work/>

Scraping of the hull is not permitted within port waters.