



INFORMATION SHEET

CUSTOMS

Passenger Ships

Customs Approved Ports

All commercial vessels arriving in, or departing from Papua New Guinea must enter an approved Customs port (as required under the *Customs Act*), which is also an approved port for the purposes of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (as required under the *Merchant Shipping (Maritime Security) Regulations 2005*). Additionally, commercial vessels may not visit places within Papua New Guinea other than approved Customs ports.

Contact details for all Customs approved ports can be found by accessing the Customs website at www.customs.gov.pg

Exceptions

Amendments to the *Customs Act* that came into force in January 2006 now allows Customs, in certain circumstances, to grant passenger vessels permission to enter or depart Papua New Guinea via non-Customs approved ports, and to grant passenger vessels a cruise permit to visit places within Papua New Guinea that are not approved Customs ports.

Operators must submit their written applications at least 30-days in advance of the arrival of the vessel to allow Customs and other border agencies the time required to

consider their applications. Customs will try to assist operators but it should be noted that applications could be refused due to lack of resources or other factors.

All approvals will be subject to conditions imposed by Customs to ensure compliance with various border legislation and may include full cost recovery for the use of border agencies resources that would normally be free of charge when provided in a Customs approved port. Failure to comply with any of the conditions imposed may lead to the approval being revoked and, in some cases, prosecution.

Passenger and Crew Processing

Customs, the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) and Department of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship Division (Immigration - DFAI) officers can process passengers and crew either en-route to Papua New Guinea or on arrival in Papua New Guinea. Processing large numbers of passengers and crew on arrival can cause delays in disembarkation. These delays may be avoided if arrangements are made for officers to join the vessel at the last overseas port.

Processing large numbers of passengers and crew on departure can also cause delays in embarkation. These delays may be avoided if suitable arrangements are made with the border agencies to ensure this requirement is allocated sufficient time within the cruising schedule.

Customs Requirements

The following is a brief guide to Customs requirements for arriving vessels, their passengers and crew:

Arrivals

Advance Notice of Arrival

Passenger vessel owners or operators, or their agents, are required to supply advance notice of arrival and specific information at least 48 hours prior to a vessel's arrival into Papua New Guinea.

Documents required to be presented on arrival

- Papua New Guinea Customs Inward Report and supporting documentation;
- Papua New Guinea Customs, Quarantine and Immigration Passenger Arrival Cards (to be completed individually by all passengers);
- Valid travel document for each person on board;
- Valid visa for each person (excluding crew) on board;
- Maritime Declaration of Health

Importation of Prohibited and Restricted Items

Papua New Guinea has strict laws to protect its citizens and its pristine natural environment and penalties may be imposed on passengers and crew if they breach those laws by illegally importing, or attempting to import:

- Illicit drugs;
- Animal or plant material

- or soil;
- Firearms, weapons or ammunition;
- Endangered species of flora and fauna and products derived from these endangered species;
- Objectionable articles (indecent);
- Some food items;
- Some medicinal products including performance-enhancing drugs;

If passengers or crew are unsure about the items in their possession, they must make a declaration on the relevant forms.

Departures

Documents required to be presented on departure

- Papua New Guinea Customs Outward
- Report and supporting documentation;
- Papua New Guinea Immigration Passenger Departure Card for all passengers;
- Valid travel document for each person on board;

Exportation of Prohibited and Restricted Items

Papua New Guinea has strict laws to protect its natural environment and cultural heritage from being exploited and penalties may be imposed if passengers and crew breach those laws by illegally exporting, or attempting to export:

- Firearms;
- Controlled drugs;
- Unrefined Gold;
- Endangered species of flora and fauna and products derived from these endangered species;
- Animals, Birds and other wildlife;
- Cultural heritage artifacts including
- World War II relics;

This information is provided as a guide only.

For more information please contact your nearest Customs office or write to The Chief Commissioner of Customs, PO Box 923, Port Moresby, NCD or call +675 312 7500 visit our website at www.customs.gov.pg

Legislative References:
Customs Act Section 25(3)