



COVID-19 Safety Plan

Overview

As of 15 June 2020, all workplaces will be required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan. This includes commercial fishing vessels, which are considered a workplace under Tasmanian WHS legislation.

A COVID-19 Safety Plan must address the six minimum standards prescribed in the Work Health and Safety Regulations. The Plan will ultimately identify any risks that could lead to the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace and implement strategies to mitigate these risks.

This document provides a Model Template for a COVID-19 Safety Plan. You may need to refine this Plan to suit the specific operations of your business and / or vessel.

In this Model Template Plan:

ESSENTIAL CONTROLS	Are things you must implement in some way to comply. If you cannot achieve the essential control, you should document why not and what other controls you have in place to mitigate any identified risks.
POTENTIAL CONTROLS	Are extra things you could consider implementing to better mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace.
OTHER CONTROLS	Allows you to add any further measures you may need to implement for their specific operations or risk profile i.e. if you are in a high risk COVID-19 demographic what else will you consider.

For fishing vessels, consideration should also be given to general hygiene when transiting to and from the vessel; when launching boats at ramps and when on jetties and wharves. These risks are not directly relevant to the workplace but are relevant to general fishing operations, so should be considered.

It is also important to be aware that what you, a worker, subcontractor or visitor does in their own personal time can influence the potential spread of COVID-19 in a workplace.

It is important that everyone is aware they have a Duty of Care to be responsible in their own time and to not put others (including in a workplace) at risk of COVID-19.

A WorkSafe Tasmania Inspector will have the authority to ask for your COVID-19 Safety Plan, so keep a copy (hard copy or electronic) ready. And once again, to be compliant you will need to implement the essential controls.



COVID Safe Plan for a Single-Handed Commercial Fishing Vessel

Business Name:

Date Completed:

Person responsible for
review and update of plan?

1. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Managing risks to health and safety (Regulation 55B)

A single-handed commercial fishing vessel operation does not have any risks associated with transfer of COVID-19 between workers.

Once at sea, a single-handed commercial fishing vessel has no external COVID-19 influences or risks.

The key risks are associated with subcontractors or visitors boarding the vessel. This is dealt with later in this COVID-19 Safety Plan.

2. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Cleaning and Hygiene (Regulation 55C)

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and good personal hygiene help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Cleaning means physically removing germs, dirt and organic matter from surfaces.

Disinfecting means using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. It is important to clean before disinfecting because organic matter and dirt can reduce the ability of disinfectants to kill germs.

For more information visit <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19>.

Cleaning

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Clean and disinfect any surfaces on the vessel that a third party / visitor to your vessel comes into direct contact with.

Hygiene

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Wash hands in soapy water (if possible) or use hand sanitiser when boarding vessel.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Ask all persons boarding the vessel to wash hands in soapy water or to use hand sanitiser upon boarding.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Wear gloves when unloading catch to a third party.



ESSENTIAL CONTROL: If selling fish direct to the public, ensure appropriate hygiene when handling cash/cards.

OTHER CONTROLS FOR CLEANING AND HYGIENE:

Supplies

- Appropriate hand sanitiser / surface wipes for disinfecting hands and surfaces (use at least 60% alcohol-based products).
- Detergent/cleaning sprays and rags for cleaning surfaces.
- Disinfectant to disinfect surfaces.
- Soap for cleaning stations.
- Awareness of Safety data sheets for any chemicals and disinfecting products.
- Gloves / other PPE as required

3. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Restrictions on entry to the workplace (Regulation 55D)

There are risks associated with any third party (subcontractors, family and friends) boarding a single-handed vessel.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Minimise who boards your vessel to essential persons only (subcontractors and direct family).

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: If any subcontractor or visitor could answer yes / show signs of any of the following, deny entry / remove from workplace.

- Do you have a cough, sore throat, runny nose, fever or in general feeling ill?
- Have you been in close contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19?
- Have you been asked to self-isolate for 14 days? This includes travelling from interstate to Tasmania in the last 14 days.
- Have you tested positive to COVID-19?

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: If possible (noting it may not be) display the NO ENTRY signage attached on the wheelhouse.



- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Ensure subcontractors and visitors are aware of the vessel COVID-19 controls.
- POTENTIAL CONTROL: Implement a temperature screening procedure for all people boarding the vessel. Deny vessel boarding if temperature is above 37.4°.
- OTHER CONTROLS:

If you or someone visiting your vessel contracts COVID-19, it is important to be able to identify everyone who came into close contact with that person. Close contact is face-to-face contact for more than 15 minutes with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Have a register of all persons boarding and disembarking the vessel (i.e. system or understanding of who was on your vessel, and face-to-face for longer than 15 minutes).
- If suitable for use, use the template vessel boarding register attached.

4. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Physical distancing at the workplace (Regulation 55E)

You must consider physical distancing when a third-party boards the vessel, transiting to and from the vessel launch site and when on boat ramps, wharves and jetties.

- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: When possible, ensure all persons maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from each other.
- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: When possible, do not have more persons in a space than 1 person for every 4-metre squared space.
- OTHER CONTROLS: cleaning, disinfecting, hygiene and limiting who enters the workplace (vessel) provide alternative controls.

5. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Providing instruction, training, and supervision in respect to COVID-19 (Regulation 55F)

This section is not relevant to a single-handed commercial fishing vessel as there are no workers.



6. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Responding to an incident of COVID-19 in the workplace (Regulation 43)

If anyone who boarded a vessel (skipper, subcontractor, family) contracts COVID-19:

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Contact Public Health for advice (1800 671 738).

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Contact all close contacts of the infected person. The vessel boarding register will assist.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Follow all other directions from Public Health such as the need for 14-day isolation, getting tested for COVID-19 and cleaning the vessel to the appropriate standard.

OTHER CONTROLS:

REVIEW

Review this document when the COVID-19 situation changes or when a new risk is identified.



Do not enter this facility if you:

- Have COVID-19.
- Have been instructed to quarantine and your 14 days are not yet finished.
- Are unwell, including with fever (or night sweats/chills) or respiratory symptoms, e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat.

