

AusCheck — who, what, why and when

Anyone who needs access to a secure area of a Security Controlled port must hold a valid MSIC.

The Australian Government has established AusCheck, a new division in the Attorney-General's Department to coordinate background checks on all people that require Maritime Security Identification Cards (MSICs).

AusCheck will conduct all relevant MSIC background checks required by the maritime industry in accordance with the Maritime Transport Security Regulations 2003. Background checks were previously sent to DOTARS for assessment.

What happens next?

The results of all background checks will continue to be forwarded directly to your Issuing Body. Details of a person's criminal history will not be revealed to an Issuing Body. An AusCheck approval does not guarantee you will be issued with an MSIC. Nor does it entitle you to access to a secure area.

The final decision to issue you with an MSIC rests with your Issuing Body. Decisions about access remain with facility operator.

What information do I need to provide to get an MSIC?

You will need to provide your Issuing Body with sufficient identification and address details to commence the background checking processes. You may also need to provide information to verify visa details on foreign passports.

All new applications and renewals for MSICs will be forwarded to AusCheck by your Issuing Body or employer when AusCheck commences operations.

The information collected will be forwarded to CrimTrac, ASIO and — where applicable — the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for background checking.

Will the cost of an MSIC increase?

AusCheck has undertaken a series of comprehensive costing and resource analyses to ensure the delivery of a professional product to the maritime industry. In most cases the cost of a background check for an MSIC will increase.

The AusCheck scheme is based on a cost-recovery basis. This means that any cost increase between this and the previous regime will be passed onto the MSIC applicant via the Issuing Body.

Benefits

AusCheck's operations will be a considerable improvement on existing paper-based arrangements.

AusCheck will use a custom built, state of the art computer system which will speed up the processing of applications by sending electronic requests for background checking information.

This will reduce data duplication which will mean much faster turn around times for applications and the ability to track an application's progress on-line.

AusCheck will provide an on-line card verification service available to be checked 24 hours a day.

I already have an MSIC — do I have to be checked?

Existing card holders will have a fresh background check upon renewal of their current cards.

So how do I get an MSIC?

Apply through your Issuing Body.



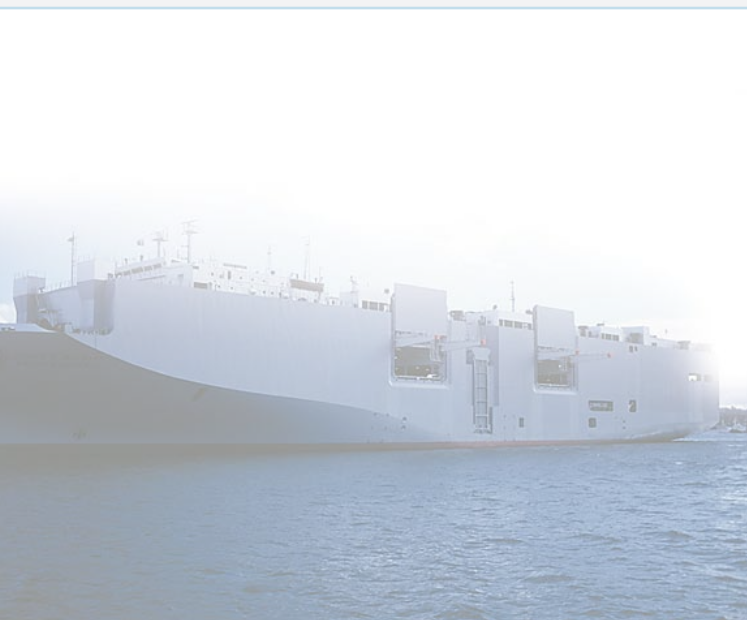
What if I receive an adverse finding?

Most background checks get a positive finding from AusCheck.

However, if your background check suggests an adverse finding, you will be invited to provide further information.

You have the right to appeal an adverse decision.

This brochure is provided for general information only and is not to be read or used as a substitute for legal advice.



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
AusCheck

Where do I find more information?

email: AusCheck@ag.gov.au

Or check out the AusCheck website for more details:

www.ag.gov.au/AusCheck



Do you need an MSIC?

An information brochure for those who access or work in a maritime security zone of an Australian port and need to hold an MSIC