

MSIC Application Guide

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Welcome

In the following pages you will find information for the nationwide Maritime Security Identification Card (MSIC) Scheme. This guide will explain what an MSIC actually is, why it may be relevant to you and other important information.

1. What is an MSIC?

An MSIC is a nationally consistent identification card which is issued to identify a person who has undergone a background check. It shows that the holder has met the minimum-security requirements to work unescorted or unmonitored in a maritime security zone.

The MSIC is not an access card and possession of an MSIC does not provide the right of entry to a maritime security zone. Access is managed by the port or facility operator.

2. What an MSIC looks like

An MSIC must state your name, expiry date and unique identification number.

If you change your name, your MSIC is valid for only 30 days from the day on which you made the change. You will need to notify Fremantle Ports of any changes and provide evidence before a replacement MSIC can be issued.

A valid MSIC must have a current background check and not be expired, cancelled or defaced. If you are unsure whether your MSIC is valid, contact your issuing body to confirm.



3. MSIC Expiry

MSICs are valid for up to four years, with a background check required every two years. Those requiring an MSIC may apply for a two or four-year MSIC.

4. Types of MSIC

Standard MSIC

A Standard MSIC will be issued to all eligible persons over the age of 18 years and be valid for either two (2) or four (4) years from the date approved by AusCheck.

The same process is required for new and renewal standard applications.

Under 18 MSIC

If you under 18 years at the time of application, the MSIC will expire either six (6) months after the person turns 18, or 2 years from the date of approval from AusCheck - whichever date is earlier. If you are under 14 years of age you will also require a letter from your guardian consenting to the background check.

MSIC based on an ASIC

A person who holds an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) has already undertaken background checks by AusCheck. The valid ASIC must be presented at application for MSIC. The expiry of the MSIC will mirror the ASIC expiry.

5. What is a Maritime Security Zone (MSZ)

A Maritime Security Zone, or MSZ is an area within regulated ports, around and on board regulated Australian ships, which have additional security requirements, as defined by the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003*.

You will require an MSIC if you have reason to enter the following areas within Fremantle Ports:

- **Victoria Quay (Berths E-H, inclusive of Small Craft Pens)**
- **North Quay (Berths 1, 2 & 11, 12)**
- **Kwinana Bulk Terminal (Jetty)**
- **Kwinana Bulk Jetty.**

6. Who can issue an MSIC?

Only authorised Issuing Bodies may issue an MSIC.

Fremantle Ports is an authorised issuing body enabled to provide application and consent forms for background checks, process applications and print cards.

Cards are issued under advice by the Department of Home Affairs, AusCheck.

MSIC Process

To apply for MSIC, you will need to come into the Fremantle Ports Security Service Centre (Fremantle or Kwinana) and apply in person, bringing specific documentation as stated below. Your application will then be lodged with AusCheck to undergo the MSIC background check to determine whether you are eligible to hold an MSIC. Once a decision has been reached, Fremantle Ports will notify you of the decision (by email).

When you lodge your application at the Security Service Centre, you will also need to provide several pieces of evidence to enable Fremantle Ports to verify your identification.

7. Where to apply

Once you have your application form and support documentation, make an appointment with the Security Service Centre at Fremantle or Kwinana to lodge your application. Appointments can be made via the online booking service on the Fremantle Ports website [MSIC / Port Access - Fremantle Ports](#) or directly via [Fremantle Ports](#).

Fremantle Ports Security Service Centre:



Security Service Centre Fremantle (Monday-Friday 8am-4pm)

Postal address:

PO Box 95, Fremantle 6959

Street address:

1 Cliff Street, Fremantle [↗](#)

Email: ssc@fremantleports.com.au

Phone: +61 8 9430 3417

We are closed public holidays.



Security Service Centre Kwinana (Monday-Friday 8am-3:30pm)

Postal address:

PO Box 95, Fremantle 6959

Street address:

1 Riseley Rd, Naval Base [↗](#)

Email: ssc@fremantleports.com.au

Phone: +61 8 9430 3417

8. What to Bring

To apply for MSIC, you will need to bring:

- **identification** documentation
- evidence of your **operational requirement** to access a MSZ at least once per year
- evidence of your **right to work in Australia** (non-Australian Citizens)
- payment.

Fremantle Ports will:

- ensure you have an operational need
- be satisfied as to your identity
- be satisfied that you have the right to work in Australia and
- have been given approval by AusCheck.

9. Operational Need

To apply for MSIC you must have an occupation or business related need to enter a MSZ at least once per year. You will need to provide evidence of this when you apply for MSIC. This evidence can be in the form of a letter from:

- your employer
- a port facility with whom you are engaged or
- a maritime industry participant.

The operational need letter must be on company letterhead, be signed and state why you need an MSIC (i.e. shipping agent at Fremantle Ports) and that you 'need to work unescorted in a Maritime Security Zone at least once per year'. A sample letter can be located at:

<https://www.fremantleports.com.au/the-port/msic-port-access/msic>

If you are self-employed and require access to Fremantle Ports, you will need your own company letter as well as a letter from the company who uses your services who requires you to access Fremantle Ports.

10. Identification Documentation

All ID must be original documents and not extracts or photocopies. You will need one document from each of the following Categories (A-D). If a document is written in a language other than English, a NAATI translation will also be required.

Your identification documents must contain exact name matches unless the name variation is supported by a Government issued linking document (e.g. marriage or change of name certificate).

If you are unsure of any of the below, please call 08 9430 3417 for clarification.

Category A – start of your identity in Australia

A Category A document must have your full name, be Australian issued and be one of:

- Australian (full) birth certificate
- Australian citizenship certificate
- Australian citizenship by descent (official extract issued by Australian government)
- Australian visa (with supporting passport) *must be checked on VEVO*
- Australian protection visa (with supporting CTD) *must be checked on VEVO*
- Australian immicard *must be checked on VEVO*

Category B – your identity linked by photo and signature

A Category B document must be government issued, have your photo and signature, be current and valid and be one of:

- Passport (Australian, foreign or a CTD)
- Driver licence (Australian or foreign)
- Australian proof of age card
- Working with children/vulnerable people card

Category C – evidence of your identity within the community

A Category C document must be current, valid and be one of:

- Medicare card
- Marriage or change of name certificate
- ASIC or MSIC
- Bank card (credit or ATM card)
- A Category B document that has not already been used for the current MSIC application

Category D – evidence of your current residential address

A Category D document is only required if the document used for A B or C do not have your current residential address. This document must be less than 6 months old, state your name and current residential address and be one of:

- Utility or bank account statement
- Rates notice
- Current lease or tenancy agreement

11. Right to work in Australia

You will need to prove you have a right to work in Australia.

Australian Citizen

Your Category A identification document will evidence your right to work in Australia.

Australian Working visa

Fremantle Ports is able to verify your 'work right' status via the VEVO website. Please ensure your details are correct within the VEVO website before your appointment and remember to bring your VISA's support document (passport, immicard, etc).

Further information regarding citizenship and right to work status can be obtained by visiting <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/> or by calling 131 881.

Crew members of Australian Registered Ships

If you are not a resident of Australia, but you are a crew member of an Australian Registered Ship, you will need to give a copy of the ship's register, verified by the Master of the vessel.

12. Pricing*

* MSIC application prices will substantially increase from 1 July 2026. This is largely due to the increase in the AusCheck background checking fee - refer to [Fees for background checks | auscheck](#)).

Standard MSIC prices are as follows:

Up to COB 30 June 2026:

Type	Price (inc. GST)	Price (ex GST)
MSIC with Fremantle Ports Access - 2 years	\$315	\$286.36
MSIC with Fremantle Ports Access - 4 years	\$530	\$481.82
MSIC Only - 2 years	\$285	\$259.09
MSIC Only - 4 years	\$485	\$440.91
Fremantle Ports Access Only Card	\$215	\$195.45

From 1 July 2026 (please note the increase for MSIC applications):

Type	Price (inc. GST)	Price (ex GST)
MSIC with FPA Access - 2 years	\$533	\$484.55
MSIC with FPA Access - 4 years	\$922	\$838.18
MSIC with FPA Access - Under 18	\$288	\$261.82
MSIC with FPA Access - ASIC Based	\$195	\$177.27
MSIC Only - 2 years	\$489	\$444.55
MSIC Only - 4 years	\$866	\$787.27
MSIC Only - Under 18	\$242	\$220.00
MSIC Only - ASIC Based	\$180	\$163.64
Fremantle Ports Access Only Card	\$215	\$195.45

13. MSIC Application Refusal

Fremantle Ports can refuse to process an application for MSIC if:

- the MSIC Application Form is incomplete
- the applicant does not provide the requisite proof of identity or
- the applicant does not provide the proof of an operational need to hold an MSIC.

In these circumstances, the application will not be processed until all the requirements are met.

14. MSIC Background Check

AusCheck, under the Department of Home Affairs, is responsible for coordinating the background checks of MSIC applicants. The background checking process includes a criminal records check undertaken by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and a security assessment conducted by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO).

A full list of offences you will be checked against can be found in the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Regulations 2003*. If you have been convicted of any of the offences listed, you may be ineligible to receive an MSIC. If you are unsure whether your application will be successful, we recommend you seek additional information from AusCheck prior to applying for an MSIC.

MSIC applicants under the age of 18 will be security assessed by ASIO, but they will not undergo a criminal records check. Written guardian consent is required for all applicants under 14 years of age.

MSIC Holder Responsibilities

All MSIC holders are responsible for the security of their MSIC and ensuring their details are maintained and kept up to date.

15. Use of MSIC

- only you are permitted to use your MSIC
- your MSIC must be clearly visible and worn above waist height, on the front or side of your body or on your upper arm.

16. Notifying Fremantle Ports

You will need to notify Fremantle Ports (as your issuing body) if you:

- lose your MSIC or if it is stolen or destroyed (in writing, within 7 days)
- change your name (within 30 days - following which it is an invalid card)
- change any of your contact or employer details.

You must also notify AusCheck if you are convicted of a maritime security relevant offence and sentenced to imprisonment (within 7 days).

17. Return of MSIC to Issuing Body

You must return your MSIC to Fremantle Ports within 30 days if:

- it has expired



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