



Grain harvest frequently asked questions

As at 22 November 2021

1. *As a grains harvest worker who has been in NSW to deliver trucks and heavy equipment, how can I return to Queensland?*

The Queensland Freight Protocol continues to be the mainstay support for harvest contractors in their cross-border operations.

As harvest season extends south into NSW, drivers and workers may be required to leave Queensland with their equipment. Under the freight protocol, Queensland resident operators are allowed to return to Queensland using the F pass.

For example, if a grains harvest contractor needs to move a heavy vehicle or equipment from Goondiwindi to NSW or Victoria to leave it at a depot or farm, the operators/drivers can return to Queensland by road, rail or air (from an approved airport).

While returning workers won't be with their heavy vehicle or equipment, they should carry evidence demonstrating they have been working in the Queensland grain harvest. At a minimum, evidence should include:

- a letter from their employer to show they are an employee or a business undertaking freight and logistics operations
- the mandatory records required by the protocol
- a copy of the F pass and accompanying documents.

To obtain an F pass requires evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result within the last 7 days (with a 7-day rolling period), evidence of being fully vaccinated, the keeping of records of their freight and logistics essential activities, contacts and the use of the Check In Qld app at businesses showing a QR code.

2. *Do the border arrangements continue now that Queensland has reached the 70% double vaccinated milestone?*

While domestic travellers and returning Queenslanders can now come to Queensland via air, the current situation for the agriculture and freight and logistics sectors will continue as before to ensure our supply chains remain open.

Farmers and agribusinesses can still take advantage of applications for specialist workers (S pass), freight and logistic workers (F pass), the NSW border zone class exemption (Z pass), and travel from non-restricted border zone (X pass). The information and resources are outlined on the [Business Queensland website](#).



3. *Who can be included in a single travelling group (e.g. 'harvest team') moving together across the Queensland border under an F pass (freight or logistics operator)?*

Under the Border Restrictions Direction, a freight or logistics operator includes anyone who is entering Queensland in the course of their employment as a heavy vehicle driver or non-heavy vehicle commercial freight operator and who is:

- transporting freight to, from, or through Queensland under a commercial freight operation
- providing logistics or support for the transport which requires the person to be physically present in Queensland to provide the logistics or support.

A freight and logistics operator may also include anyone essential to the delivery of freight, including two-up drivers, pilots or escorts for an oversized or over-mass vehicle.

A logistics or support worker includes a specialist mechanic, providing mechanical or engineering support for the transport of commercial freight.

All workers who meet these categories should apply for an F Pass and travel together as a harvest team to ensure timely processing by officers at the border crossing.

Process: Queensland Freight Protocol

Type of pass required: [Freight and Logistics Pass](#)—F pass

4. *I am part of a harvest crew to enter Queensland under an F pass. Can I tow a caravan along with the crew in a harvest team?*

Yes, if certain conditions can be met. When applying for an F pass, a person must clearly demonstrate that the haulage of accommodation as freight (e.g. a caravan unit) is for a commercial purpose: that is, an essential support to the uninterrupted operation of a grain harvest activity.

The application must outline that the freighted accommodation is necessary to service a lack of any alternative accommodation at specific locations. This may be the case where on farm accommodation is not available and the accommodation freighted will be essential to facilitate ongoing isolation of workers from communities in accordance with a COVID safe workplan. The application must demonstrate that reasonable attempts have been made to source alternate mobile accommodation from within Queensland.

The haulage of accommodation freight must be integral to the movement of harvester machinery and support workers across the border.

Reference: Queensland Freight Protocol

Type of pass required: [Freight and Logistics Pass](#)—F pass





5. *Can I haul a caravan separately from my harvester team that is crossing the border?*

No. A vehicle towing a caravan must be attached to the harvester machinery and harvest team as it crosses the state border. This will enable border officers to recognise the haulage as a legitimate part of a freight movement.

6. *What evidence do I need to provide if I wish to enter Queensland from the New South Wales (NSW) restricted zone under the 'Farmer and agribusiness worker class exemption'?*

You will need to provide the following evidence:

- that you have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- a negative COVID-19 test result received within 7 days prior to entering Queensland and maintain a rolling 7-day testing cycle
- that you have a quarantine management plan

You will need a [Queensland Entry Pass](#)—class exemption—Z Pass

- your identity confirming a place of residence, for example a driver licence
- employment, contract, property ownership, lease or agistment arrangements.
- a copy of the [class exemption letter](#).

Use the [Check In Qld App](#) at the Queensland farms and agribusinesses you visit.

Process: Farmer and agribusiness worker class exemption

Type of pass required: [Queensland Entry Pass](#)—class exemption—Z Pass

7. *I am involved in the grain harvest, working at grain receipt depots on either side of the Queensland–NSW border. What are the requirements for travel across the border?*

Most of the grain silos and grain harvesting areas are not in the restricted areas of the NSW border zone. Crossing into the non-restricted areas for work is allowed. You will need evidence that you have received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and apply for a Border Zone Travel Pass—X pass.

Use the [Check In Qld App](#) at the Queensland farms and agribusinesses you visit.

8. *My company is moving large grain harvesters in a harvest team, along with support vehicles and workers. Can we enter Queensland and move across the border between properties?*

Harvesters, along with support vehicles and support or logistics workers, can enter Queensland under the Queensland Freight Protocol. It is strongly recommended that you travel in a harvest team including all essential workers, across the border together with the harvester machinery. Essential workers required to support the harvest and logistics who travel in the harvest team with the heavy vehicles can enter Queensland under the F pass.

All workers will need to apply for and hold a [Freight and Logistics Pass](#)—F pass and follow the requirements of the Queensland Freight Protocol to enter Queensland. They will need to have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine by 15 October and have their second dose (or a booking) by 15 November.





They will need to have evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 7 days before entering Queensland and maintain a rolling 7-day testing cycle.

You must have a COVID safe workplan that describes your intended route and travel across the border and identifies how workers will remain isolated from the general community.

Use the [Check In Qld App](#) at the Queensland farms and agribusinesses you visit.

Process: Queensland Freight Protocol

Type of pass required: [Freight and Logistics Pass](#)—F pass

9. *I am harvester mechanic residing in Queensland and my clients are preparing for the upcoming harvest in NSW. Can I travel across to the NSW restricted border zone and back into Queensland?*

Yes, if certain conditions can be met. The work to be performed in the restricted border zone area, must be an essential agribusiness service (such as specialist harvester repairs) that can only be performed in the restricted border zone. You cannot travel outside the NSW border zone. You should only stay in NSW for the minimum possible time to carry out the critical work, and you will need to prepare a [quarantine management plan](#) that describes how you will remain isolated from the general community.

Your entry will be on the basis that you are a specialist technician undertaking the maintenance or repair of agriculture-specific infrastructure and machinery. Please note that this does not provide for the entry into NSW and return to Queensland for a technician that only services non-specialised machinery, such as standard trucks, even if they are used by the agribusiness.

To return to Queensland, you will need to apply for a [Queensland Entry Pass](#)—class exemption—Z pass.

You will need to have had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and evidence of a negative COVID-19 test within 7 days before your return.

You must carry with you the [class exemption letter](#), the border pass, your quarantine management plan, identification, and evidence of your farm ownership (e.g. rates notice) or, in the case of a specialist technician evidence, such as a contract or scope of work, that needs to be undertaken .

Once you return to Queensland, you will need to follow stay-at-home requirements for 14 days and wear a facemask whenever you can't physically distance from others.

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