

Biofouling News (May 2014)

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has issued the Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS) for Biofouling on Vessels Arriving to New Zealand. The Standard applies to all types of ships or other vessels that have come from or recently visited coastal waters of another country.

Biofouling is internationally accepted as a major route, along with ballast water, for the spread of marine pests to new regions. The introduction of exotic (new to New Zealand) species could have a serious impact on the productivity of aquaculture, and on the biodiversity of coastal marine life. Exotic marine species that have not previously been documented to be harmful elsewhere could have an adverse impact if introduced to New Zealand, due to the unique nature and composition of marine environments.

New Zealand does not yet have many of the most damaging marine pests that have been documented in other countries. It is timely and important that New Zealand addresses this current gap in its marine biosecurity where the other major pathway, ballast water, has been managed effectively since 2000 but biofouling has taken longer to address.

The CRMS requires vessels to arrive with 'clean hulls'. 'Clean hull' is defined for two categories of vessel, with 'short-stay' vessels allowed more light biofouling than 'long-stay' vessels which are allowed a slime layer and goose barnacles only.

Enforcement of the requirements of the CRMS for biofouling will commence on 15 May 2018 – four years from the date of issue. During this lead-in period, vessel operators are encouraged to become compliant as soon as practicable.

There are a number of measures given in the new CRMS for vessels to use to comply with the Standard, and during the lead-in period, MPI will work with vessel operators to help them decide which measures are most suitable for them. MPI will also communicate the requirements to international commercial shipping lines and other interested parties to ensure that vessel operators planning to visit New Zealand are aware of the measures and can make any changes needed to come into compliance by 2018 or earlier.

In addition, hull inspection and cleaning services. Both in New Zealand and offshore, will be encouraged to become approved by MPI during this period.

The CRMS is aligned with the 2011 International Maritime Organisation Guidelines for Biofouling Management, and following best practice according to these Guidelines is deemed to meet the requirements of the CRMS. This means that much commercial shipping is already compliant. Other options for compliance will ensure that vessels should be able to become compliant with minimal disruption.

During the four year voluntary lead-in period, action will continue to be taken on cases of severe biofouling, as has been done in the past under the Biosecurity Act (1993). MPI will also be more active in gathering information on biofouling. This will be through a Biofouling Declaration to be supplied to MPI with the Advance Notice of Arrival as an extension to the current Ballast Water Declaration. This information will help assist MPI monitor improvement in biofouling management practices by vessel operators.

Click here to view

- the [CRMS](#)
- the [Draft Guidance Document](#)

If you have any questions please contact the team at: Standards@mpi.govt.nz.