

Biosecurity New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

Vessel Biosecurity Quarterly

Message from the editors

Welcome to the first 2024 edition of *Vessel Biosecurity Quarterly*, a newsletter from Biosecurity NZ which discusses the management of international vessel related biosecurity risk.

Biosecurity NZ would like to thank the shipping industry for your commitment to managing biosecurity risk by taking proactive steps to stop pests reaching New Zealand. We would also like to thank you all for continuing to provide valuable insight that has and will continue to be used to improve Biosecurity NZ's practices.

This edition includes late season information about cruise compliance, resource updates for the revised standard, news from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and more.

To find past editions of the Vessel Biosecurity Quarterly newsletter, please visit the MPI <u>website</u>. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others who may be interested. If this has been forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe, click <u>here</u> or contact us at <u>Standards@mpi.govt.nz</u>

New Zealand cruise season going well - season review

This season Biosecurity NZ introduced some changes to the management of cruise vessels. The revised <u>Craft Risk Management</u> <u>Standard Vessels</u> includes a specific section for cruise vessels. In most circumstances, cruise vessels were not able to meet the short or long-stay requirements due to unusual operating profiles, so a clause specifically for cruise vessels has been added.

The 2023/2024 summer cruise season is coming to an end and we have seen a steady flow of arrivals to our shores. Overall, cruise ships visiting New Zealand this season are doing well in meeting the biofouling requirements, which are vital to protecting our marine environment. Of the 54 cruise vessels that have arrived in New Zealand this season, 49 entered compliant with the requirements. Only five have faced issues with biofouling non-compliance.

New Zealand has seen a 25% increase in vessels arriving this season compared to last season, but biofouling-related non-compliance has decreased (5 non-compliant vessels in the 2023/24 season compared to 11 for the 2022/23 cruise season).

Biosecurity NZ has worked closely with cruise companies to help them understand and meet New Zealand biofouling rules, which are among the strongest in the world for good reason – they ensure visitors and New Zealanders will enjoy our special marine areas, such as Fiordland, for generations to come.

Biosecurity NZ would like to thank the cruise industry for your efforts to combat biofouling and for your proactive planning and engagement. We will continue to work closely together to support cruise lines and ensure smooth sailing in New Zealand shores.





New Zealand does not have approved in-water providers for biofouling - A reminder

MPI would like to remind stakeholders that New Zealand does not currently have companies approved for in-water inspection, cleaning or applying of treatments to vessels for managing biofouling. Many companies have met with and are familiar with MPI's requirements for inspections and follow our recommendations for managing biofouling risk, however none are officially approved.

For those stakeholders looking for a vessel biofouling inspection or cleaning provider, it is good practice to discuss awareness of the New Zealand requirements prior to entering into a contract with a provider. This will help ensure you receive the sufficient level of evidence needed for New Zealand to make an assessment of your vessel's biofouling risk.

Alongside the release of the Craft Risk Management Standard *Vessels* in October 2023 came the minimum evidence requirements for vessel biofouling inspections. The requirements in this section have an 18-month lead in period before enforcement to allow biofouling inspection providers have time to prepare to meet the requirement. Stay tuned for further resources and communications on this topic.

Craft Risk Management Standard and Supporting Documents Update

In October Biosecurity NZ issued the new Craft Risk Management Standard Vessels (<u>CRMS Vessels</u>).

The new standard combines the requirements from the Craft Risk Management Standard *Biofouling on Vessels Arriving to New Zealand* (2018) and the Craft Risk Management Standard *Vessels* (2018).

Following issuing of the standard, Biosecurity NZ ran two workshops to industry at the end of November 2023. These workshops aimed to communicate the changes and to make sure industry is well prepared for them. The <u>presentation slides</u> from these workshops can be found on our website.

MPI websites have been updated to reflect the changes in the standard, and include updated biofouling resources:

- <u>CRMS Frequently Asked Questions</u>
- Information for Owners and Operators of Work Vessels
- Information for owners and operators of commercial vessels
- Information for owners and operators of superyachts

If you have any questions about the standard *Vessels* or would like to discuss how to manage your vessel, please email <u>Standards@mpi.govt.nz</u>





Craft Risk Management Standard for vessels - The Figures

Statistics in this issue run from 1 January – 31 December 2023.

Biofouling Assessment

Biofouling documentation assessment commenced in 2018, after a four-year lead in period of the Craft Risk Management Standard for biofouling. Following this, vessels visiting New Zealand were moved onto an assessment schedule. Biofouling assessments are triggered by:

- time elapsed since last assessment;
- increase in risk level e.g. long lay-ups since previous assessment;
- vessel's first arrival to New Zealand;
- internal assessments after the receipt of new paperwork;
- vessels returning with active Notice of Direction (NOD), or previous assessment failures, are reassessed on return.

It's important to be aware that a failed assessment does not mean a vessel will be denied entry into New Zealand. Biosecurity NZ's response will always be in proportion to the biofouling risk of the vessel. There are many steps you can take to increase the likelihood of passing your assessments. Email <u>standards@mpi.govt.nz</u> for advice or have a look at the <u>previous issues</u> of this newsletter for tips.







Compliance Actions

A NOD is issued by Biosecurity NZ when a vessel fails to show compliance with the standard. NODs list the compliance actions a vessel must follow to manage the biofouling risk that they pose to New Zealand. These will always be in proportion to the risk the vessel poses. For instance:

- lower risk vessels may be allowed to complete their declared itinerary;
- high risk vessels may be directed to leave NZ in less than 24 hours;
- in circumstances where the risk is unclear, a vessel may be directed to undertake a hull inspection.

Thirteen vessels did not meet CRMS requirements but were not issued a NOD. MPI requirements were followed without a formal NOD being issued, however, from July 2023 all failed vessels were issued a NOD.

MPI appreciates the effort being made by the shipping industry during the past year and we hope to see the number of NODs continue to be low in 2024 as well. If you would like any assistance, please feel free to contact us at: standards@mpi.govt.nz.

Compliance measures for failed vessels

01 January - 31 December 2023



You may notice the layout of this graph has been altered. Biosecurity NZ is constantly looking for ways to better report data. This new format better breaks down Notices of Direction and provides detail into compliance following dive inspection directions, as well as directions issued when a vessel exceeds the short-stay limit.

The total number of NODs issued in 2023 is 125 (1st January – 31st December 2023)

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Lymantria complex seasonal reminders

Lymantria complex certificate of freedom and best practice

MPI would like to remind vessel operators of best practice for certificates of freedom of *Lymantria* complex. The standard *Vessels* (*CRMS Vessels*) requires that inspections be carried out in daylight hours, and that the vessel departs the risk area on the same calendar day that the certificate of freedom was issued.

If unanticipated delays occur, it is best to conduct a new inspection (in daylight) before the vessel departs the risk area or at the next location where certificates can be issued. If this is not possible then the crew should carefully inspect the vessel while underway. Any suspected moths, egg masses, or caterpillars found should be contained and recorded. Report any suspected or confirmed *Lymantria* complex finds to MPI while undergoing clearance on arrival to New Zealand.

Vessels arriving in New Zealand without a Certificate of Freedom:

- must remain at least 4 nautical miles away from nearest NZ coast or island if anchoring prior to arrival;
- arrive during daylight hours for an on-arrival Inspection by MPI (inspection charges apply);
- cargo operations may not commence until the inspection has been completed by MPI to ensure health and safety and that vessel can be managed appropriately should high risk pests be found.

You can find information about *Lymantria* complex, including imagery, which can be used to educate crew on how to spot *Lymantria* moths, egg masses, and caterpillars on our <u>MPI spongy</u> moth webpage.



Lymantria moths

Species of the *Lymantria* complex risk areas and periods

Risk Area	Requirements apply where visited any ports	Specific Risk Period
Russian Far East	South of 60 North and West of 147 longitude [excluding those ports on the Kamchatka Peninsula]	June 15 to October 15
China	North of latitude of 31 15' N	June 1 to September 30
Republic of Korea	In all areas	June 1 to September 30
Japan – Northern	In prefectures of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Akita, Tamagata	June 15 to October 30
Japan – Central	In prefectures of Niigate, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Ibaraki, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Aichi, Mie	June 1 September 30
Japan – Southern	In prefectures of Wakayama, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kagawa, Tokushima, Ehime, Kochi, Fukuoka, Oita, Saga, Nagasaki, Miyazaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima	May 15 to August 31
Japan – Far Southern	In prefectures of Okinawa	May 25 to June 30

Lymantria: The Figures

76 percent of vessels that required a certificate of freedom arrived with a valid certificate in 2023. This remains in line with the percentages seen in previous quarters.

Vessels arriving from *Lymantria* complex risk areas inside risk periods 01 January – 31 December 2023



Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) on developing guidance for in-water cleaning

New Zealand's team led by MPI, participated in the discussions at the 11th meeting of the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention & Response (PPR), on developing in-water cleaning guidance.

During PPR, member states and delegates took the opportunity to comment on papers submitted for this year's session, and a drafting group was established to develop the draft terms of reference for the correspondence group.

The main topics for the correspondence group to address are:

- planning, conducting and reporting on in-water cleaning operations, including documenting and mitigating any damage to anti-fouling coatings;
- verification and testing of in-water cleaning systems, including compatibility with anti-fouling coatings, and, if feasible, measurable performance criteria such as on removal, capture and effluent contents;
- conducting pre-cleaning and post-cleaning inspections; and
- verification or other form of expectations for in-water cleaning service providers.

With the target completion year of early 2025 and the wide scope of elements, it might not be possible to fully address all the related aspects. It was suggested that some of those elements will be left as high-level principals and the group will propose a way forward for matters that will not be included in the final guidance.

Biosecurity NZ will continue to contribute to the future development of the in-water cleaning guidance and will continue to offer our advice and expertise.





Do you have any suggestions for improvements or a topic you would like us to include in our next issue?

Would you like a meeting to discuss how best to meet the standards?

Drop us an email at standards@mpi.govt.nz