



Clearance procedures for yachts and pleasure craft

Biosecurity New Zealand is responsible for ensuring unwanted pests, diseases and other organisms are prevented from entering New Zealand.

You must arrive at one of New Zealand's approved places of first arrival, where a biosecurity inspector will inspect and clear your vessel and passengers for entry into New Zealand.

Once inside New Zealand waters (12 nautical miles from the coast) please ensure all rubbish is contained in closed leak-proof containers or sealed in strong plastic bags. A biosecurity inspector will direct the disposal of all your rubbish on arrival.

As soon as possible, you must notify Maritime NZ Radio on 4125 kHz or 6215kHz or VHF Ch 16 of your expected arrival time. On contact, ask the radio operator to notify New Zealand border agencies (New Zealand Customs Service and MPI) of your ETA and intended port of entry so they can prepare for your arrival.

The main entry ports are:

- Opuā Marine Park, Opuā
- Marsden Cove Marina, Whangarei
- Viaduct Harbour Marina, Auckland (superyachts only)
- Westhaven Marina, Auckland (yachts less

than 22m only)

- Vessel Works Marine Precinct, Tauranga
- Port of Marlborough, Picton
- Lyttelton Port of Christchurch, Lyttelton.

Documentation required at first place of arrival

Border Passenger Arrival Card

Every person entering New Zealand must complete a personal declaration. Any quarantine risk item must be declared.

Master's Declaration

The vessel Master must complete a declaration of all risk items aboard that are either restricted or prohibited.

If you surrender all prohibited goods (or have them treated if an option) you will receive a full biosecurity clearance to cruise New Zealand waters.

If this option is not taken, the vessel will remain at the designated berth under biosecurity control.

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, smuggling attracts heavy penalties.

Biosecurity NZ officers can now issue infringement notices to commercial and recreational vessel operators that don't meet their biosecurity obligations.

- The infringement notices cover lower-level offences that would have required prosecution to enforce in the past:
- Failure by an operator to provide notice of a vessel's arrival in New Zealand.
- Failure by an operator to respond to an official request to declare what has been done to comply with risk management requirements (eg. biofouling rules).

The penalties are \$400 for an individual and \$800 for a corporation.

Biosecurity NZ still has the option to prosecute if necessary.

The new fines emphasise the importance of keeping unwanted pests and diseases out of New Zealand.

Risk items that are either restricted or prohibited entry may include:

- » **FOODSTUFFS** including meat, fruit, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, honey and stored products. Note: It is very important that any uneaten fruit is sealed in closed containers or plastic bags ready for disposal on arrival. New Zealand has had four incursions of the Queensland fruit fly in the past three years and fruit is the main means of entry for this significant horticultural pest.
- » **RUBBISH** – particularly food waste.
- » **PLANTS** – no plants or parts of plants may be landed in New Zealand.
- » **CITES** (endangered species items), e.g. clam and conch shells, coral, turtle shells and ivory.
- » **LIVE ANIMALS** – in general no animals will be permitted to come ashore in New Zealand or to remain aboard a vessel in New Zealand territorial waters. Some exemptions may be granted for keeping an animal on board where prior application has been made to MPI and the person in charge has agreed to comply with conditions

set. There are specific import conditions for dogs and cats. These include measures to be taken against rabies between 7 and 12 months prior to arrival. Non-compliant dogs and cats will have to be secured at anchor. Application to bring in animals should be made to MPI well in advance. Full information on risk and prohibited goods and travelling with animals is on the biosecurity website.

- » **HITCHIKERS** – Any known contamination with hitchiker organisms (termites, ants, moth egg masses, spiders, mosquito larvae, hull biofouling).

For more information on entry requirements visit:

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/yachts-and-other-recreational-vessels

