

Import Health Standard for Vessel Biofouling

Short Name: BNZ-STD-BIOFOUL

Issuing Authority

This Standard is issued in accordance with section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).

Dated at Wellington this day of 2010

Tim Knox

Date:

Director, Border Standards
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
(Issued under delegated authority)

For all matters relating to the interpretation, review and amendment of this Standard, please contact:

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For all matters relating to the operation of this Standard, including inspections, audits and treatments, please contact your local MAFBNZ office at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/org/structure/clearance>

This Standard is accessible on: (hyperlink to be inserted)

THE STANDARD

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this Import Health Standard specifies the requirements to be met for the effective management of risks associated with biofouling on the submerged parts of vessels arriving in New Zealand from international waters.
- 1.2 Vessels that do not comply with the requirements of this Standard may, under sections 32, 33 or 122 of the Act, be directed by an inspector to undertake mitigation measures.
- 1.3 Pursuant to section 26 of the Act, a biosecurity clearance will be issued, with regard to hull cleanliness, when a vessel meets the requirements of this Standard.

2. Biosecurity Requirements

The hull of any vessel arriving into New Zealand is clean¹.

3. Information

- 3.1 All vessel owner/operators must provide MAF with a Biofouling Declaration. This declaration includes information on voyage history/activity and vessel maintenance, marine growth prevention systems that may be operating in niche areas, details of the last hull cleaning, and details of the latest antifouling system application. This must be sent at least 48 hours before arrival in New Zealand waters along with the other pre-arrival information such as the Advance Notice of Arrival.
- 3.2 Vessels must carry evidence on board for the purpose of verifying the Biofouling Declaration, including documents such as, for a commercial vessel, the IMO Declaration of Antifouling System required under the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, other flag or classification society certificates, or hull inspection reports.

Note that recreational vessels may send the Declaration from their last port before sailing to New Zealand. Alternatively providing it at the POFA² would be accepted.

The current Biofouling Declaration form can be found at (see attached draft Declaration).

4. Specific Requirements

- 4.1 There are no specific requirements at this time.

5. Compliance

- 5.1 All vessels may be subject to inspection at the border. A vessel found not to comply with the Standard will be directed to take specified action to mitigate risks associated with biofouling.

¹ See definitions for 'clean', 'hull' and 'vessel' under section 6 Terms and Definitions

² Place of First Arrival designated for vessels to first port in New Zealand under s.37 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

NOTE: The accompanying Guidance Document³ provides explanatory information to assist vessel operators and owners in meeting the requirements of this Import Health Standard. Changes will be notified to subscribers of the appropriate email distribution list (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/lists/>).

6. Terms & Definitions

The following terms and definitions apply to this Standard. Other terms used are as per the Biosecurity Act 1993.

antifouling system

A coating, paint, surface treatment, surface or device that is used on a vessel to control or prevent attachment of unwanted organisms.

biofouling

The undesirable accumulation of aquatic organisms including micro-organisms, plants and animals on surfaces and structures immersed in or exposed to the aquatic environment.

clean

A vessel on which there are no visible aquatic organisms on the hull, including niche areas, except as a slime layer.

hull

The immersed surfaces of a vessel including appendages, pontoons, internal sea-water systems, niche areas; except ballast tanks.

IMO

International Maritime Organization

niche area

Areas on a vessel hull that are more susceptible to biofouling due to different hydrodynamic forces, susceptibility to coating system wear or damage, or being inadequately, or not, painted, e.g., sea chests, bow thrusters, propeller shafts, inlet gratings, dry-dock support strips, etc.

recreational vessel

A vessel that has the primary role of recreation (i.e. not intended for commercial use or hire, regardless of length or tonnage).

slime layer

A layer of microscopic organisms, such as bacteria and diatoms, and the slimy substances that they produce.

vessel

Means every description of boat or other craft used in water navigation, whether or not it has any means of propulsion; also includes: a barge, lighter, hovercraft or floating drilling rig.

³ Hyperlink to Guidance Document to be added