

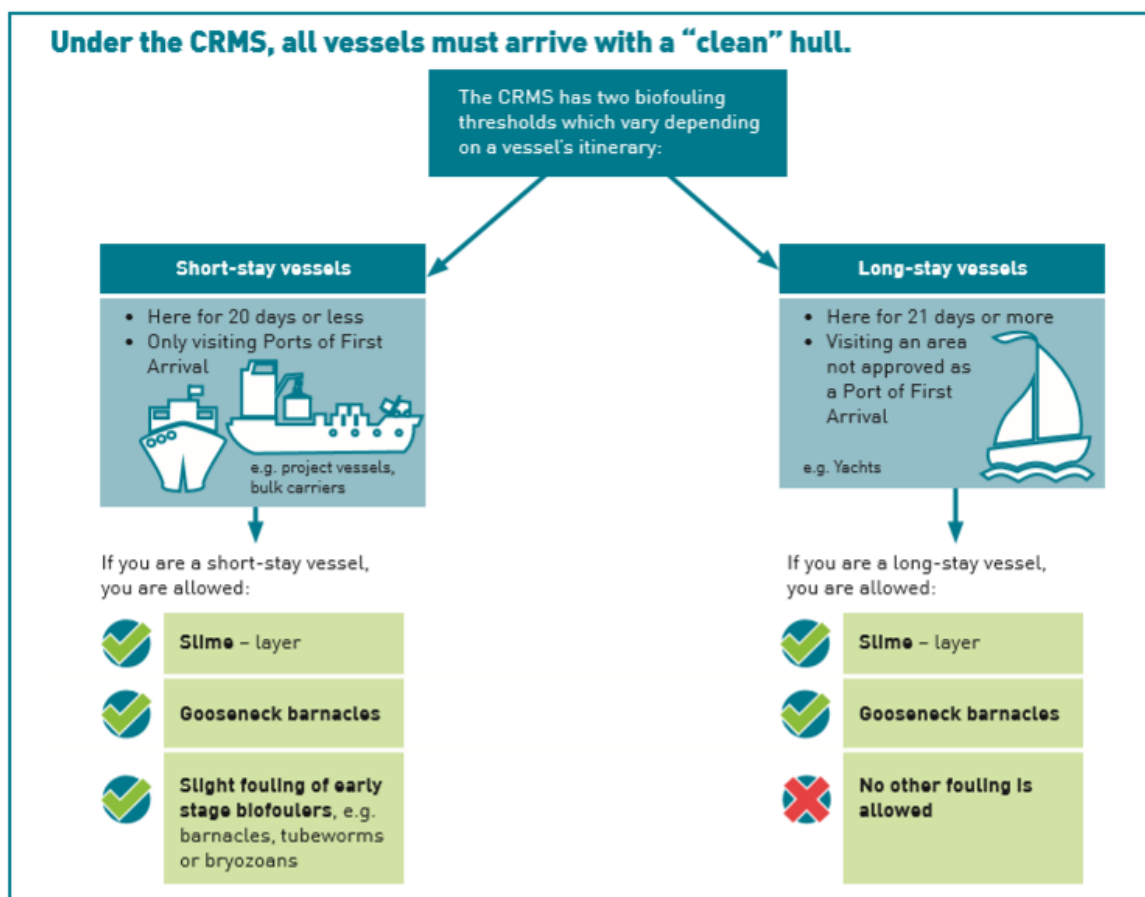


Information for Owners and Operators of Cruise Vessels: The Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS) for Biofouling on International Vessels

Mandatory beginning May 2018

The “Clean Hull” Requirements

After May 2018, all vessels must arrive into New Zealand with a “clean hull”. The definition of a clean hull varies according to a vessel’s itinerary, and applies to all hull and niche areas of a vessel. Most cruise vessels will fall into the long-stay category, which are those staying for 21 days or longer, or wanting to visit areas not approved as Places of First Arrival (places that aren’t approved ports, such as Milford Sound). The requirements are stricter for long-stay vessels, and the only biofouling these vessels may have on their hull and niche areas is a slime layer and gooseneck barnacles.



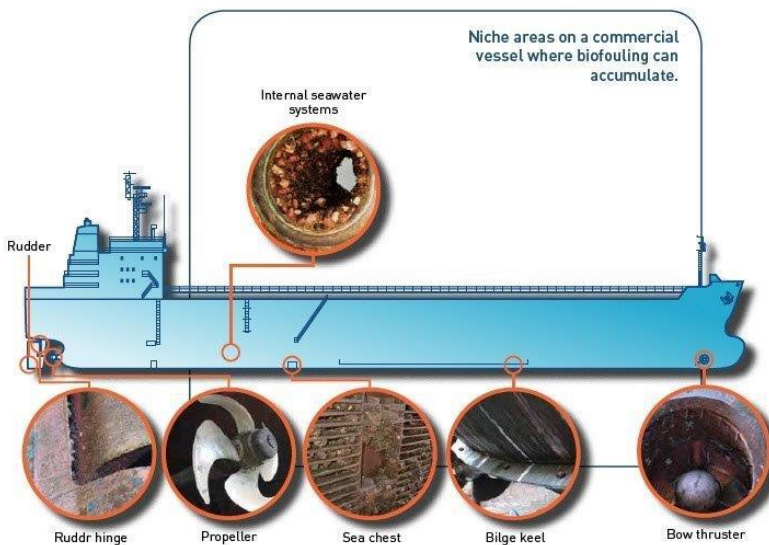
There are several ways a vessel can meet the requirements:

- Clean/treat the hull less than 30 days prior to arrival to New Zealand Territory
- Clean/treat the hull within 24 hours of arrival to New Zealand Territory. Proof of booking must be provided to MPI prior to, or on arrival.
- Maintain a clean hull through best practice maintenance. The International Maritime Organisation website for guidelines on best practice maintenance can be found here:
<http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Biofouling/Documents/RESOLUTION%20MEPC.207%5b62%5d.pdf>
- Through the development of a Craft Risk Management Plan – **Recommended for cruise vessels.**

Considerations for Cruise Vessels

MPI generally encourages vessels to meet the long-stay threshold by cleaning all hull and niche areas less than 30 days prior to arrival. Niche areas can include, but are not limited to, those identified in the below diagram. However, due to the schedules of many cruise vessels, this may not be an option prior to every entry into New Zealand. In order for cruise vessels to meet the long-stay threshold of the CRMS, MPI suggests cruise vessels comply by creating a **Craft Risk Management Plan (CRMP)**.

A CRMP is a proposal by a vessel or fleet of vessels to meet the clean hull threshold through methods that are equivalent to, but different than, those outlined in the CRMS. For example, for cruise vessels, a CRMP could include biofouling maintenance through best practices, along with additional inspection and/or grooming of all hull and niche areas before departing for New Zealand. CRMPs must be approved by MPI prior to arrival of a vessel, and can apply either to a single vessel, or to multiple vessels in a fleet. MPI would like to work with the cruise industry to discuss the development of CRMPs. If you are interested in applying, please send an email to standards@mpi.govt.nz.



Vessel diagram provided by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Evidence Requirements

Evidence must be made available to MPI providing proof that all hull and niche areas are clean. This may include anti-fouling documentation, date-stamped photographs from a recent haul out or in-water clean, and receipts or records from any hull maintenance work. Visit the [MPI website](#) for more information on how best to comply and evidence requirements.

What will happen if a vessel is non-compliant?

After May 2018, a vessel which does not meet the "clean hull" threshold for its length of stay and itinerary will face action to manage the associated biosecurity risk. This may include directions to haul out and clean the vessel, or, if cleaning is not possible, directions to leave New Zealand. **Any expenses associated with**

compulsory cleaning or disruptions to a vessel's schedule must be met by the vessel owner or operator.

Why we are taking action

Aquatic organisms are able to spread outside their natural ranges through transfer as vessel biofouling (the accumulation of the growth of organisms on the wetted surfaces of a vessel). Harmful marine organisms most commonly arrive in New Zealand through this pathway. Once here, some species can pose a significant risk to our marine environment.

The Craft Risk Management Standard for Biofouling manages this risk, and sets out MPI's minimum requirements so that persons in charge of vessels can prevent the introduction of harmful organisms through vessel biofouling. Complying with the standard will also minimise entry and arrival delays and costs for the vessel.

Here to help

Compliance is encouraged as early as possible. MPI staff are available throughout the lead-in period to discuss compliance for your vessels and to answer questions about the requirements. For initial contact send an email through to standards@mpi.govt.nz and we will be able to assist you with your query. Visit the MPI website for more information on the biofouling requirements and how best to comply: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/biofouling/biofouling-management/>