Requirements for Vessels Arriving in New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries
Biosecurity and Environment Group
Standards Branch
P O Box 2526
Wellington
New Zealand

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# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISION</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVIEW AND AMENDMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT PERSON</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. SCOPE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. REFERENCES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. ACRONYMS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. TERMS &amp; DEFINITIONS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ARRIVAL OF VESSELS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1. Arrival permitted only at specified ports</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2. Vessel status in New Zealand</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1 COASTWISE VESSELS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2 FULLY CLEARED VESSELS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3. Information Requirements before arrival</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4. Procedure for Vessels arriving in New Zealand</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5. Inspection Dispensation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RISK AREA REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1. Foodstuffs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2. Refuse</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3. Other Waste</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4. Holds and Decks</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5. Dunnage</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6. Ballast Water</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7. Hull Fouling</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8. Animals Kept On board Vessels</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8.1. General</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8.2. Dogs and Cats</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.9. Plants</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.10. Passengers and Crew</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. OTHER MATTERS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1. Inspection At Any Place of Arrival</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2. Procedures and Recording of Information</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3. Cost Recovery</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX 1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Gypsy Moth Risk Vessels</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPROVAL

MAF, in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993, approves this Biosecurity New Zealand Standard – Requirements for Vessels Arriving in New Zealand

Director/Chief Technical Officer
Border Standards
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand

(Note MAF changed to MPI in 2012)

REVISION

Minor revisions December 2010
Rebranding revisions April 2013
REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This MPI Standard is subject to review and amendment at any time to ensure that it continues to meet current needs.

Reviews and amendments, in the form of new versions, will be notified to users of this Standard.

Users are responsible for ensuring that the most recent version of this Standard is used.

This Standard is accessible on:
http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz

CONTACT PERSON

For vessels intending to arrive in New Zealand contact should be made with the MPI biosecurity inspectors at the intended port of arrival, or the central Vessel Risk Assessor.

The contact list of MPI offices is available on:

The VRA can be contacted on
Email: vessels@mpi.govt.nz

The persons responsible for matters relating to the operation of this Standard are the MPI biosecurity inspectors at the intended port of arrival.

The person responsible for all matters relating to the review and amendment of this Standard is a senior adviser within the Border Standards Directorate of MPI. This person can be contacted through the office below:

Biosecurity and Environment Group
Plant, Food and Environment Standards
MPI
PO Box 2526
WELLINGTON

Phone: (04) 894 0100
Fax: (04) 894 0228
Email: standards@mpi.govt.nz
INTRODUCTION

Vessels arriving in New Zealand from origins outside New Zealand territorial waters have the potential to be vectors for exotic pests, disease agents and unwanted organisms. This Standard was developed to meet the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993 in regards to setting minimum biosecurity specifications for vessels arriving in New Zealand.

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, the person in charge of a vessel must give notice of arrival and prevent uncleared goods leaving the vessel without authorisation from an inspector. The Act requires the person in charge to obey every reasonable direction given by an inspector as to movement of the vessel, unloading or discharge of risk goods, disembarking crew or passengers and any necessary measures to retain risk goods on board or prevent them being imported.

The Act requires the person in charge of the vessel to deliver, within required times, a report and declaration, with supporting documents as may be required, and to answer all questions relating to the vessel or its cargo, passengers, stores, or voyage.
1. **SCOPE**

This MPI Standard is intended for masters and owners of vessels, ships agents and inspectors and specifies the minimum biosecurity requirements for vessels arriving in New Zealand, including the:

- information required before arrival
- management of biosecurity risks associated with vessels, including
  - vessel structure
  - water capable of harbouring pests and diseases, including ballast water
  - deck areas and holds
  - dunnage (not landed as part of the cargo)
  - foodstuffs
  - refuse
  - animals or plants on board
- clearance of passengers and crew

The scope of this document does not include the biosecurity requirements for the clearance of imported cargo into New Zealand. These can be found in the relevant import health standards on:

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)

2. **REFERENCES**

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- Biosecurity Act 1993
• Arrangement on Asian Gypsy Moth between MAF and the Russian Federation’s Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (now Russia Centre of Forest Health and All Russia Research Centre of Plant Quarantine)

• International Maritime Organisation – latest guidelines for the control and management of ships’ ballast water to minimize the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens - Resolution A.868(20) to be replaced by guidelines under the Convention for the Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediment.


3. ACRONYMS

IMO  International Maritime Organisation
ISPM  International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
MAF  Previous Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MPI  Ministry for Primary Industries

4. TERMS & DEFINITIONS

arrival
(a) In relation to a vessel, includes the arrival of the vessel, whether lawfully or unlawfully, in New Zealand from a point outside New Zealand whether or not the vessel lands at, hovers above, berths, moors, anchors, or stops at, or otherwise arrives at any place within New Zealand; and
(b) In relation to a person, means the entry of the person by any means, whether lawfully or unlawfully, into New Zealand from a point outside New Zealand; and arriving and arrived have corresponding meanings.

biosecurity
exclusion, eradication, and effective management of risks posed by pests and diseases to the economy, environment and human health.

biosecurity clearance
A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the entry of goods into New Zealand (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

biosecurity direction
Written or oral authority from an inspector, given under Part 3 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, as to movement of vessel, the discharge of risk goods and passengers, securing risk goods on board, treatment of risk goods, movement of uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to exportation of those goods from New Zealand.

contamination
Unwanted presence in a commodity, storage place, or vessel of any material that may pose a biosecurity risk.
import health standard
A document issued under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. (Explanatory Note: an IHS specifies the requirements to be met for the effective management of risks associated with the importation of risk goods before those goods may be imported, moved from a biosecurity control area or a transitional facility, or given a biosecurity clearance).

inspector
Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. (Explanatory Note: An inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act and the new organism provisions of the Hazardous Substances and new Organisms Act 1996).

masters declaration
A report containing particulars, in relation to a vessel, verified by master’s signature and required by all vessels to be delivered, at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

place
Includes any building, conveyance, craft (including vessel), land, or structure, and the bed and waters of the sea and any canal, lake, pond, river, or stream.

plant
Living organisms of the kingdom Plantae including plant parts, seeds and germplasm.

port
Includes an anchorage, harbour, and wharf.

risk goods
Means any organism, organic material, or other thing, or substance, that (by reason of its nature, origin, or other relevant factors) it is reasonable to suspect constitutes, harbours, or contains an organism that may: (a) cause unwanted harm to natural and physical resources or human health in New Zealand; or (b) interfere with the diagnosis, management or treatment, in New Zealand, of pests or unwanted organisms.

treatment
Removal, destruction and/or sterilisation of contaminants within a secure environment and includes fumigation, washing, dipping and dusting.

vessel
(Has the same definition as ship under the Maritime Transport Act 1994)
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.

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

5. ARRIVAL OF VESSELS

5.1. ARRIVAL PERMITTED ONLY AT SPECIFIED PORTS

All vessels arriving in New Zealand from origins outside New Zealand territory can only do so at ports approved\(^1\) as places of first arrival for that class of vessel\(^2\), unless approval has been granted for a non-approved port. Advance notice of arrival specifying the port of arrival should be sent to MPI (see contact

\(^1\) Pursuant to section 37 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
details p.3) at least 48 hours before arrival. Vessels without means to send a written notice such as some yachts should send completed notice before leaving previous country visited. The vessel must proceed directly to the specified New Zealand port.

Approval to arrive at non-approved ports may be granted, on reasonable grounds, through application on the appropriate form, available from MPI (contact details p3). Applications will be processed according to MPI policy and must be submitted for processing at least one month prior to arrival to allow for consultation with other agencies. The cost for inspectors clearing goods, passengers and crew at non-approved ports will be fully cost-recovered.

In emergency situations, or force majeure, a vessel may arrive in any place without need for permission. In these situations, the nearest MPI port office should be contacted.

5.2. VESSEL STATUS IN NEW ZEALAND

After arrival in New Zealand, vessels are classified as either coastwise or cleared:

5.2.1 COASTWISE VESSELS
Vessels, that do not receive biosecurity clearance and remain under biosecurity surveillance while in New Zealand territorial waters, are classified as coastwise vessels for the purposes of this standard.

Coastwise vessels are permitted to visit ports approved as places of first arrival only, subsequent to the port of arrival. An inspector may board the vessel at any port in New Zealand.

For some cruise ships it may be possible to have the vessel cleared of risk goods and have all passengers and crew cleared for entry into New Zealand (see below) so that the vessel can cruise anywhere in New Zealand. However for a cruise ship that cannot be fully cleared, operators wishing their vessels to visit other places than ports designated as places of first arrival must apply for approval to add these places to their itinerary through the process in 5.1. Vessels would then remain within the coastwise category.

5.2.2 FULLY CLEARED VESSELS
Vessels that receive biosecurity clearance, and which are no longer under biosecurity surveillance while in New Zealand territorial waters, are classified as cleared vessels.

The following vessels are required to become fully cleared at the place of first arrival:
Vessels cruising New Zealand waters and visiting places that are not places of first arrival (but see above for alternative for cruise ships wishing to visit other places).
Vessels that will remain in New Zealand for more than one year.

In addition, the vessel master may choose for the vessel to become ‘fully cleared' by meeting the following requirements:

- all stores of food comprising risk goods and plants have received biosecurity clearance or been removed for destruction
- all cargo, whether landed or remaining on board, has received biosecurity clearance
- all animals have been removed to a quarantine facility or reshipped or destroyed or received biosecurity clearance (refer section 6.8). A yacht with a secured animal on board remains under MPI surveillance and is not a cleared vessel

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3 ‘Secured’ includes any measures an inspector elects to use to ensure the animal remains on board the vessel and may include taking a bond.
• all passengers and crew have been processed for entry into New Zealand
• any risk goods (including any potential pests or diseases carried directly on the vessel structure or in retained water on board) have either been removed from the vessel, destroyed, treated, disposed of appropriately or have received biosecurity clearance.

Fully cleared vessels will receive written notification of biosecurity clearance.

5.3. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS BEFORE ARRIVAL

At least 48 hours\(^4\) before arrival at the first port to be visited in New Zealand, the vessel master must provide MPI with the following pre-arrival documentation:
- Advanced Notice of Arrival including crew and passenger lists and voyage memo
- Masters Declaration or Masters Declaration for Yachts
- Ballast Water Declaration (where required by the Import Health Standard for Ships’ Ballast Water)

The current required arrival forms and declarations can be found on the Biosecurity New Zealand website:

Completed documentation can be sent by email or fax to MPI (contacts details p.3).

Note that yachts may send this information from their last port before sailing to New Zealand.

5.4. PROCEDURE FOR VESSELS ARRIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

1. MPI will use the pre-arrival documentation to assess all vessels and will advise masters before arrival, either directly or through the agent, on the biosecurity actions to be employed upon arrival. This may include inspection, audit or inspection dispensation. An inspector may inspect the vessel on arrival for the presence of risk goods and/or verify the information given in the pre-arrival documentation.

2. Specific biosecurity risk area requirements of the vessel are addressed in section 6. If the vessel complies with the requirements of this Standard, written permission will be granted to visit any ports designated as places of first arrival\(^2\).

3. Vessels failing to comply with requirements may be given biosecurity direction in order to achieve compliance. If contamination is found, such as an insect infestation, masters may be given the choice of either treating the contamination or sending specimens for identification. Masters are liable for all costs associated with these choices. In some situations, treatment will be directed immediately.

4. Compliance with the requirements of section 6 will expedite the clearance process. A good compliance history may facilitate the granting of inspection dispensation (section 5.5.).

5. For coastwise vessels, if there are risks remaining after inspection at port of first arrival the vessel may be inspected at subsequent ports.

6. Ballast water discharge permission will usually be given, if appropriate, before arrival. Compliance with ballast water requirements (section 6.6) will be assessed using the ballast water declaration information.

7. Vessels that have visited Russian ports, indicated as high risk for Asian gypsy moth, should have been inspected by the Russian Centre of Plant Quarantine, or the equivalent authority of

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\(^4\) Time may be subject to change by notice in the New Zealand Gazette

Current standard – December 2010
other countries party to arrangements with Russia on Asian Gypsy Moth, and should hold a valid Certificate of Freedom from Asian gypsy moth under the Arrangement on Asian Gypsy Moth between MAF and the Russian Federation’s Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance.  

8. For vessels importing bulk animal feed or grain for human consumption, a hold cleanliness certificate (the Vessel Certificate) is required. The import health standard for the particular commodity (see Importing Grain and Seed for Processing and Consumption - http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/plants) will also provide details of other required certification and the regulatory or accreditation agencies that must provide them. All required certification must be presented to MPI in advance before bulk cargos are permitted to commence discharge. Note: Biosecurity clearance might not be granted until the bulk commodity is located at a transitional facility (as approved by MPI).

5.5. INSPECTION DISPENSATION

Vessels with a clear record of compliance with the requirements of this Standard, over a number of consecutive visits, may be assessed as low risk and will subsequently be eligible for dispensation from inspection under this Standard while in New Zealand territorial waters. The assessment will consider record of compliance with this Standard in relation to the vessel and crew, likely risks associated with the vessel type, type of cargo carried and countries visited.

Eligible vessels may however still be selected for the random audit inspection of 10% of vessels annually or may be subject to inspection if an alert is received.

6. SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RISK AREA REQUIREMENTS

6.1. FOODSTUFFS

No foodstuffs are to be landed from a vessel arriving from overseas unless they:
- are permitted to do so by an inspector, and
- are being transferred to another vessel under the supervision of an inspector, or
- are held ashore in a transitional facility, or
- are removed for disposal as refuse (section 6.2), or
- have received biosecurity clearance.

6.2. REFUSE

Galley and food waste must be contained on the vessel either:
- within a leak-proof compartment (includes the product of any galley grinder), or
- in receptacles that are inaccessible to birds, insects and vermin.

Refuse may only be landed via a MPI-authorised system. Refuse disposal is available at every approved port for vessels. Suitable receptacles may be provided by the port companies or their contractors for refuse that will be landed at the port.

5 MPI will use its discretion in accepting certificates issued by other countries in similar arrangements
6 Number to be decided based on overall findings from vessel inspections over the previous year.
An inspector will direct refuse to be disposed of ashore, at the vessel masters expense, if it is not adequately contained on the vessel.

Refuse or effluent including food waste may not be discharged into the sea while the vessel is in port or within a zone of 3 nautical miles from the nearest land. Coastwise vessels will receive a direction that for all food waste, whether ground down or not, it should not be discharged to the sea within this area.

6.3. OTHER WASTE

Other waste includes non-galley or food wastes, such as sweepings from the hold or engine room (but not including engine room sludge). Permission from BNZ is required before landing other wastes. It must be disposed of by a MPI-authorised method. The waste may be inspected for pests prior to departure from the port area and subject to treatments if any pests are found.

If ballast tanks sediments are to be landed from the vessel they must also be taken, as directed by an inspector, to a landfill area that ensures no material enters any water course or the sea.

For dunnage disposal see 6.5.

6.4. HOLDS AND DECKS

MPI encourages vessel masters to maintain clean and tidy holds and decks to help reduce the presence of contaminants, such as insects, spiders, mosquito larvae and moth egg masses and to dispose of materials that harbour such contaminants. Any contaminant infestations such as ant and bee colonies detected by the crew should be notified to an inspector.

Areas that could retain water and providing a breeding environment for mosquitoes, should be minimised or managed to reduce water retention, e.g. drain holes should be cut in tyre fenders.

Contaminants or contaminated matter from previous cargos, such as grain, livestock (including their excrement, straw and feed), or used machinery (including soil) must be landed through a MPI-authorised system.

Decks and holds subject to offloading in New Zealand may be inspected. Any contamination found will be managed to ensure that it does not come ashore (e.g. treatment or containment of contaminants); or that it comes ashore under contained conditions for treatment or destruction.

Vessel masters may be requested to apply preventative treatments or measures to reduce the risk of transfer of contaminants, such as mosquito or ants ashore.

From time to time, MPI may assess whether yachts present a risk of carrying certain pest species. Yachts assessed as presenting a risk will have appropriate actions taken by inspectors to test and possibly treat for pest species.

6.5. DUNNAGE

MPI permission is required before any dunnage is landed. All dunnage on vessels should meet the requirements of the Import Health Standard - Wood Packaging Material from All Countries (see section 2), including:

- composed of timber that has been treated by an approved treatment
- marked or certified - ISPM 15 certification meets this requirement.
Dunnage may be subject to inspection, either in the holds or storage areas, or as cargo is landed. Dunnage for landing not meeting the above Standard’s requirements and/or found to be contaminated, which cannot be reshipped, will be treated or destroyed, with full costs recovered from the vessel master.

Contaminated dunnage found on board may be directed by an inspector to be treated or secured in the hold or locker for the duration of the vessel’s stay in New Zealand territorial waters. For it to be landed, it must be treated as appropriate for the infestation, in accordance with the above Standard, for which full cost recovery applies.

6.6. BALLAST WATER

Vessels must comply with the Import Health Standard for Ships’ Ballast Water from All Countries (see section 2) with respect to ballast water loaded in the coastal waters of any country other than New Zealand and which they intend to discharge in New Zealand territorial waters. For most vessels needing to discharge ballast in New Zealand, this will involve exchange of ballast water in all tanks intended for discharge. Exchange must be with ocean water at least 200 nautical miles from any coast and in water over 200m deep. The only other alternatives are:

- refrain from discharge in New Zealand, or
- use a MPI-approved treatment, such as chemical, heat or irradiation.

All information relating to the exchange or treatment, prior to arrival in New Zealand, of ballast water intended for discharge must be submitted in the Ballast Water Declaration and included in the pre-arrival documentation (section 5.3).

An inspector will give permission for the discharge of ballast water before arrival if the Ballast Water Declaration shows that the vessel has met the requirements of the above import health standard. If the requirements have not been met, a direction not to discharge ballast water in New Zealand will be given.

A vessel may apply for an exemption from the requirements if there is a threat to the safety of the vessel and people on board or if the vessel design means it is incapable of ballast exchange.

An inspection may be carried out to verify the information given in the Ballast Water Declaration. The vessel’s ballast water management log should be in the IMO format (see 7.2) to facilitate the inspection process. Ballast water samples may be taken during inspection.

Refer to section 6.3 for requirements for the discharge of ballast tank sediment and section 7.2 on vessel procedures and record keeping.

6.7. HULL FOULING

By September 2010 an IHS for vessel biofouling will give the requirements for hull fouling as a risk for transferring marine pest organisms. In addition to any specific requirements, good hull maintenance is encouraged. Vessel hulls, including recesses around rudders and water intake/outlets (sea-chests), should be kept free from excessive growth of seaweed, barnacles, shellfish and other encrusting marine life. Antifouling coatings should be in good condition and renewed before the expiry of the paint manufacturers’ recommended replacement period.

An inspector may direct specific action be taken for a vessel that is considered to pose a severe biosecurity risk due to the marine life carried on its hull.

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7 ‘Coastal waters’ means waters within 200 nautical miles of land
6.8. **ANIMALS KEPT ON BOARD VESSELS**

### 6.8.1. **GENERAL**

In general, no animals, apart from those covered in an import health standard (see the two import health standards for cats and dogs on yachts referenced in section 2) and meeting the requirements therein, can be imported into New Zealand. Dogs and cats that meet the requirements in 6.8.2 and some small mammals (e.g., rabbits or guinea pigs) and aquarium fish, that are adequately secured may remain on board a vessel in New Zealand territorial waters. Being 'adequately secured' may include containment, payment of a bond, surveillance by an inspector (visits will be at the person in charge's expense).

If planning to keep an animal on board it is advisable to communicate with MPI biosecurity inspectors to check that the animal is allowed to be on board in New Zealand and to discuss how the animal will be secured. (See Biosecurity New Zealand website for contact details). An animal may be reshipped or destroyed if it is a species considered by MPI to carry possible diseases that could be carried to New Zealand animals such as by mosquitoes. No birds will be allowed due to such a disease risk. An animal could also be reshipped or destroyed if it is considered that it could possibly escape from the vessel. The person in charge may be required to agree in writing to certain conditions as part of securing an animal on board.

A vessel master is required to declare, in the pre-arrival information to MPI, the presence of an animal that is being deliberately kept on board. Other animals that have accidentally come on board should be reported as contaminants and may be destroyed.

### 6.8.2. **DOGS AND CATS**

Dogs and cats can be imported into New Zealand if all requirements of the appropriate import health standard are met (see section 2 for link to import health standard). Certain health requirements must be met prior to arrival in New Zealand and departure from the country of origin. Points to note:

Following the rabies vaccination, serology testing must be completed at least 6 months, but no more than one year, prior to the importation of an animal. A period in a quarantine facility is required for all dogs and cats except those that meet the requirements in the Import Health Standard for Cats and Dogs. (See section 2).

All dogs and cats must be secured below decks upon arrival.

Dogs or cats may remain on board but must remain secured on board (usually at the port of arrival) while in New Zealand unless cleared for importation or transferred to a quarantine facility. Weekly inspections will be carried out. These are cost recovered by MPI at an hourly rate. A bond of up to a maximum of $NZ10,000 may also be collected.

An inspector may require a vessel with an animal on board to moor offshore and only allow it to berth at a marina once the rabies vaccination has been completed, the animal has passed the serology tests carried out three weeks after vaccination as required in the import health standard, and at least six months has passed since the blood sample was taken for the serology.

### 6.9. **PLANTS**

No plants or parts of plants are permitted to be landed in New Zealand unless as legally imported cargo. Any dead plants and any waste material from plants to be landed must be disposed of through the MPI approved refuse system.
6.10. PASSENGERS AND CREW
All landing passengers and crew must complete the arrival declaration in English, indicating any risk goods they intend to land in New Zealand. Those landing (permanently disembarking a vessel in New Zealand) must present themselves to an inspector prior to or on disembarkation. All, or some of the passenger’s luggage, may be inspected. For any disembarkation in New Zealand inspectors may be present to check that no risk goods are landed without biosecurity clearance.

The master should ensure that crew and passengers are aware that no food stuffs are to be removed from a vessel without permission of an inspector.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1. INSPECTION AT ANY PLACE OF ARRIVAL
An inspector may inspect any coastwise vessels at any port visited in New Zealand.

Any passengers and/or crew wishing to land at other ports will be processed as above in 6.10.

7.2. PROCEDURES AND RECORDING OF INFORMATION
Every vessel should carry and implement a ballast water management plan specific to the vessel and keep ballast management records in the format given in the IMO guidelines (see IMO guidelines in section 2).

7.3. COST RECOVERY
There is no charge for routine clearance of vessels, crews and passengers at places of first arrival². Other inspection activities may be cost recovered pursuant to the Biosecurity Costs Regulations 2006 as may be amended from time to time, or any regulation that replace those regulations.
APPENDIX 1

Asian Gypsy Moth Risk Vessels

Vessels which have been in a Russian Far East port within the last 12 months are required to have a Certificate of Freedom from Asian Gypsy Moth if they have visited any port on the Pacific coast ports of Russia south of 60 degrees latitude and west of 147 degrees longitude (excluding those ports on the Kamchatka Peninsula), during the previous flight season –that is between the dates of 18 July – 16 September. See Table 1 for ports in the above region.

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<th>Table 1. Russian ports - sources of Asian gypsy moth</th>
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Vessels fitting these criteria that do not have a certificate must contact MAFBNZ and arrange for inspection. MAFBNZ will decide the time and place convenient to their inspection team. This may be at the Ports of Auckland, Lyttleton or Marsden Point, at least 8 hours before sunset, or at a time and place convenient to MAFBNZ at least 4 nautical miles offshore. Cargo discharge cannot commence until the inspection is complete. Inspection will be fully cost recovered.

Vessels found to be infested with Asian Gypsy Moth will be subjected to treatment. If it is determined that the treatment would not adequately address the risk, the vessel may be ordered to move outside New Zealand territorial waters.

Vessels from other Asian ports may be considered a risk and inspected for Asian Gypsy Moth. Crew should remain alert for any moth egg masses on the superstructure and remove them as soon as they are found.