

Summary the IHR 2005 ship sanitation provisions

The IHR's key provisions relating to the ship sanitation certification system are summarised below. Note: the full text provides the complete details and is available on the World Health Organization's website: www.who.int/ihr/en/

Further details about New Zealand's commitment under the International Health Regulations is also available at the border health section of the Ministry of Health's web page: <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/border-health>

IHR provision	Summary of requirements relevant to Public Health Units
Article 39 (Ship Sanitation Certificates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ship sanitation (exemption or control) certificates are valid for a maximum of 6 months. They can be extended by one month if the inspection or control measures cannot be accomplished at the port in question. • Certificates have to be in the format set out on Annex 3 of the IHR. (Public health units can obtain copies from the Ministry of Health.) • If a valid certificate is not produced or if the health protection officer finds evidence of a public health risk on the vessel, then the health protection officer need to follow the process set out in Article 27.1 of the IHR – see the description below. • Where possible, control measures should be carried out when the ship and its hold are empty. Control measures for ships in ballast should be carried out before loading. • Once control measures have been properly completed, the health protection officer needs to issue a Ship Sanitation Control Certificate. This should record the evidence found and controls applied. • Health protection officers can issue a Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate if they are satisfied the ship is free of infection or contamination (including vectors and reservoirs). • If the conditions under which control measures are carried out mean that the health protection officer does not consider that a satisfactory result can be obtained, then this should be recorded on the Ship Sanitation Control Certificate.
Article 20 (Airports and Ports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ship sanitation certificates have to be issued in accordance with Article 39 of the IHR and the model form of the certificates provided in Annex 3. • The Ministry of Health provides the World Health Organization with a list of New Zealand ports authorised to issue the certificates and provide the services required in Annexes 1 and 3 of the IHR. Any updates or changes will be notified by the Ministry to the World Health Organization. • The World Health Organization is required to publish a list of those ports in each country than can issue ship sanitation certificates. This is available at: www.who.int/ihr/ports_airports/portslanding/en/index.html • The Ministry can ask the World Health Organization to investigate and certify if any NZ port meets the requirements of Article 20. The World Health Organization also is required to develop certification guidelines for such a process. These are available at: www.who.int/ihr/ports_airports/ssc/en/index.html
Article 27 (Affected Conveyances)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a health protection officer considers a vessel 'affected' it can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disinfect, decontaminate, disinfect or derat the conveyance, as appropriate, or cause these measures to be carried out under its supervision; and - decide in each case the technique to be employed to secure an adequate level of control of the public health risk, as provided in the IHR. Where there are methods or materials advised by the World Health Organization for these procedures, these should be employed, unless the competent authority determines that other methods are as safe and reliable.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a health protection officer is unable to carry out the control measure, the vessel can be allowed to depart if the health protection officer notifies the next known point of entry's competent authority of the evidence found and the control measures needed. This needs to be noted on the Ship Sanitation Control Certificate. • Once control measures have been carried out and there are no conditions on board that constitute a public health risk the vessel shall cease to be regarded as 'affected'.
Article 41 (Charges vessels, etc).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health units may charge for applying health measures to vessels under the IHR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only one tariff for such charges can apply in NZ; - charges must conform to this tariff; - charges cannot exceed the actual cost of the service rendered; and - different charges cannot be applied based upon the nationality, flag, registry or ownership of the vessel concerned; - the tariff, and any amendment to it, shall be published at least 10 days in advance of any levy.
Annex 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the core capacities that countries need to have in place (or develop) under the IHR. They cover capacities around the <i>surveillance</i> and <i>response</i> of public health risks, along with a set of core capacities to be in places at international points of entry (i.e., international ports, airports, and any land border crossings). • Some of the capacities relating to the ship sanitation system include having the capacity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide trained personnel to inspect vessels; - provide a programme and trained personnel for the control of vectors and reservoirs in and near points of entry; and - apply measures to disinsect, derat, disinfect, decontaminate or otherwise treat for vessels, baggage, cargo, containers, etc.
Annex 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the form that needs to be used for ship sanitation control certificates and ship sanitation control <u>exemption</u> certificates. The Ministry of Health produces standardised forms for all health protection officers to use, with the Ministry logo on them.
Annex 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out some general technical requirements that apply to vessels and vessel operators that are relevant to the ship sanitation certification system. In summary these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vessel operators having to facilitate inspections, medical examinations of persons on board, application of health measure allowed under the IHR, and the provision of public health information; - vessel operators having to provide the required documentation to competent authorities (e.g., ship sanitation certificates, maritime declarations of health etc); - control measures having to be applied (as far as possible) to avoid injury or discomfort or damage to the vessel and goods, etc; and - countries ensuring that they document the control measures they apply, the parts of the vessel treated, the methods employed, and the reasons for their application on the ship sanitation control certificates they issue.
Annex 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out some specific measures for vector-borne diseases that are relevant to the ship sanitation certification system. In summary, these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the World Health Organization being responsible for publishing a list of areas where disinsection or other vector control measures are recommended for ships arriving from certain areas. Ships leaving points of entry in such areas, should be disinsected and kept free of vectors. If the World Health Organization recommends certain methods and materials be used then these should be followed; - the presence of any vectors and the control measures used to eradicate them must be noted on the ship sanitation control certificate; - countries should accept disinsecting, deratting and other control measures for

	<p>conveyances applied by other countries, if the methods and materials advised by the World Health Organization have been applied;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- countries need to establish vector control programmes as required by the IHR;- if a follow-up inspection is required to check the success of any vector control measures applied, the competent authorities for the next known port of call with a capacity to make such an inspection shall be informed of this requirement in advance by the competent authority advising such follow-up. This shall be noted on the Ship Sanitation Certificate;- a ship should be inspected for vectors and reservoirs if it has a possible case of vector-borne disease on board, or a possible case of vector-borne disease has occurred on board during an international voyage, or the ship has left an affected area within a period of time where on-board vectors could still carry disease;- countries cannot prohibit the berthing of a ship if the control measures provided for under the IHR have been applied. However, ships coming from an affected area may be required to divert to another port specified by the country; and- countries can apply vector control measures to ships arriving from an area affected by a vector-borne disease if the vectors are present in the country.
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