

LORD HOWE ISLAND BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS VISITING VESSELS



INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity is critically important to World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island (LHI) with unique endemic biodiversity. The following guidelines are to be followed by vessels intending to visit Lord Howe Island.

The following guidelines are provided to assist you in preparing and meeting the biosecurity requirements and refer to both private and commercial vessels.

- Private vessels refer to items 1-16
- Commercial vessels refer to items 1-20

Checklists containing a summary of actions can be found on page 6 (commercial) and page 7 (private).

Please provide all relevant information and a copy of your biosecurity report and declaration 5 days prior to departure.

GUIDELINES

1. Visiting vessels must be free of all biosecurity matter.
If you are planning on sailing with live plants, mulch, soil or live animals on board your vessel you will need prior written approval from the Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB)(sprouts for human consumption are permitted without approval). Please email biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au if you are proposing to bring these items on board your vessel to be moored at Lord Howe Island (include whether you intend to bring these items onto LHI).
2. Visiting vessels are to be baited for rodents a minimum of 5 nights prior to departure to Lord Howe Island using bait with an approved active ingredient.
 - a. Approved active ingredients are **Brodifacoum** or **Difenacoum ONLY**.
 - b. Baits must be within any use-by dates for the duration of their deployment.
 - c. Wax-block type baits are to be used.
 - i. Examples of baits include (but are not limited to):
 - Ratsak[®] fast action wax blocks;
 - The Big Cheese[®] all-weather block bait; or,
 - Roban[®] rodenticide block bait.
 - ii. Labels may require baits to be contained within a bait station.
Examples of bait stations may include (but are not limited to):
 - Ratsak[®] professional rodent bait station;
 - Ratsak[®] fast action reusable rodent bait station;
 - The Big Cheese[®] rodent bait station; or,
 - The Big Cheese[®] 100g ultra power rat kill bait station.
 - d. Baits or a baited bait station(s) must be placed on each internal deck.
 - e. All vessels with a registered length equal to or greater than 10m must have a minimum of two baits/baited bait stations placed on each internal deck.
 - i. The spacing of any two baits or baited bait stations on any internal deck must not exceed 10m.

- f. The bait or baited bait station(s) are to be in place for 5 nights before the vessel leaves its final port of departure.
 - g. The bait or baited bait station(s) are to remain in place for the duration of the vessel's voyage and stay in LHI waters.
 - i. Bait or baited bait station(s) may be removed once the vessel has departed LHI and is 1nm or more offshore. Note: Bait is not to be disposed of into the sea.
 - h. Any baits placed must be 'fresh' – I.E. fresh/new bait is to be placed 5 days prior to departure and checked daily. Degraded, missing and/or damaged baits are to be replaced as required.
3. In addition to bait, visiting vessels are to also set lethal traps for rats a minimum of 5 nights prior to departure to Lord Howe Island using an approved style of trap.
 - a. Vessels are to place baited snap trap(s) or other approved kill trap(s) in a suitable area(s) of the vessel.
 - b. Traditional wooden snap traps, plastic snap traps, and electronic lethal traps are accepted.
 - i. An example of each type of trap is:
 - Victor[®] professional rat trap;
 - The Big Cheese[®] ultra power rat trap; and,
 - Ratsak[®] electronic rat trap.
 - c. Trap(s) must be placed on each internal deck.
 - d. All vessels with a registered length equal to or greater than 10m must have a minimum of two traps placed on each internal deck.
 - i. The spacing of any two traps on any internal deck must not exceed 10m.
 - e. The trap(s) must be in place and set/active for 5 nights before the vessel leaves its port of departure.
 - f. The trap(s) must remain in place and active for the duration of the vessel's voyage and stay in LHI waters
 - i. Trap(s) may be removed once the vessel has departed LHI and is 1nm or more offshore.
 - g. Any trap lures must be 'fresh' – i.e. fresh/new lure is to be placed 5 days prior to departure and checked regularly – degraded, missing and/or damaged lures are to be replaced as required.
 4. In the 7 days prior to departure, vessels are to be cleaned to an extent that would remove any old/residual pest sign such as (but not limited to): dead invertebrates, and old rodent faeces.
 5. Vessels are to fit rat guards to any mooring lines, power cables, utility lines, and/or any other lines which connect the vessel to the wharf for at least 5 nights prior to the vessel's departure.
 6. Any gangways or other pedestrian/cargo platforms which are used to access the vessel from the wharf are to be raised during hours of darkness and/or have suitable traps installed either on the platform itself or immediately adjacent to it on the vessel for at least for 5 nights prior to the vessel's departure.
 7. The LHIB may request evidence of compliance in relation to any of the above Clauses prior to granting a mooring approval and/or on the vessels arrival to LHI.
 - a. Photographic evidence of station, trap, and line guard installation(s) is to be made available to LHIB biosecurity staff and/or Biosecurity Officers upon request.

8. A professional pest controller may undertake any actions as prescribed in clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and/or 6.
 - a. Service delivery and installations must meet the aforementioned requirements.
 - b. A certificate of completion and supporting photographic evidence of station, trap, and line guard installation(s) are to be made available to LHIB biosecurity staff and/or Biosecurity Officers upon request.
9. Cargo and provisions are to be loaded promptly upon their delivery at the vessel/wharf. No cargo or provisions are to remain on the wharf overnight prior to loading.
10. The Master of the vessel is to inform Lord Howe Island Board biosecurity staff of any suspected or actual rodent activity aboard the vessel that occurred or is suspected of having occurred during the 30 days prior to arrival at Lord Howe Island.
11. The Master of the vessel is to inform Lord Howe Island Board biosecurity staff of any suspected or actual rodent activity aboard the vessel immediately if any activity is suspected or detected whilst the vessel is visiting Lord Howe Island.
12. Visiting vessels are to have an insect knock-down spray aboard and inform the biosecurity officer of any suspected or actual invertebrate activity aboard the vessel that occurred or is suspected of having occurred during the 30 days prior to arrival at Lord Howe Island. Vessel operators are to spray and treat any invertebrates found aboard at any time.
13. The Master of the vessel is to inform Lord Howe Island Board biosecurity staff of any suspected or actual invertebrate/insect activity aboard the vessel immediately if any activity is suspected or detected whilst the vessel is visiting Lord Howe Island. Should any individual ants of species of concern be found to be aboard, the Lord Howe Island Board will provide an approved ant baiting product and bait station to the vessel for the duration of the stay.
14. The Master of the vessel is to inform Lord Howe Island Board biosecurity staff of any suspected or actual reptile activity aboard the vessel that occurred or is suspected of having occurred during the 30 days prior to arrival at Lord Howe Island.
15. The Master of the vessel is to inform Lord Howe Island Board biosecurity staff of any suspected of actual reptile activity aboard the vessel immediately if any activity is suspected or detected whilst the vessel is visiting Lord Howe Island.
16. The Master of the vessel is to allow biosecurity staff access to all areas of the vessel to conduct inspections as required.
 - a. Any areas which are deemed unsafe by the Master to access (e.g. confined spaces) will be exempt from clause 15 unless suitable qualifications or proof of safe work training is provided to the Master.

Clauses 17, 18, 19, and 20 apply to vessels which are engaged in a commercial operation and/or any vessels intending to land stores, goods, cargo, or luggage that totals over 2 cubic meters by external volume measurements ashore on Lord Howe Island. Examples of such operations may include, but are not limited to: commercial charter vessels/voyages, chartered freight operations, and/or private vessels transporting bulk goods to Lord Howe Island.

17. A suitably trained detection dog is to inspect the vessel and all cargo at least twice.
 - i. Additional inspections are encouraged.
18. An inspection must occur between 3-7 days prior to the intended date of departure for Lord Howe Island.
19. The final inspection must occur on the day of departure for Lord Howe Island.
 - ii. It is not permissible for the final inspection to be conducted the day before departure (i.e. a period of night time darkness cannot pass between the final inspection and the vessel's departure).
20. Exemptions to clause 17 may be granted in exceptional circumstances. The vessel operator may apply for an exemption by e-mailing the LHI Biosecurity Team Leader.
18. Any detection dog and handler used must be a professional operator who operates conservation and/or detection dogs as a professional entity.
 - a. Any detection dog used must be trained in scent detection for *at least* invasive rodents (rats and mice).
 - i. Dogs also trained in reptile and amphibian scent are preferred.
19. Should the detection dog handler determine a pest species to be on board, the vessel is not to depart until absence and/or removal of the pest has been confirmed.
 - i. Departure before this time may lead to refusal to enter the Lord Howe Island lagoon.
 - ii. Methods for determining rodent or pest absence/removal after a positive detection will be determined by the Lord Howe Island Biosecurity Team Leader.
20. A professional pest controller is to fog/spray the vessel for invertebrates.
 - a. Invertebrate treatment must occur within the 7 days prior to the vessel leaving the port of departure.
 - b. Cargo can be fogged/sprayed either when loaded or when alongside the vessel immediately prior to loading.

Exemptions to the above clauses may be granted in exceptional circumstances. All applications for exemption must be made in writing and submitted to the Biosecurity Team Leader at least 60 days before the intended date of the vessel's departure for Lord Howe Island. Applications must detail how the Master intends to mitigate the risk of pest presence aboard and the introduction of pest species to Lord Howe Island. No exemptions are approved unless stated explicitly so via official reply from the Lord Howe Island Board.

Guidance for vessel operators

- Ensuring all food items and food scraps are in sealed containers will maximise the attractiveness of any baits or trap lures.
- Proven rodent snap trap lures include (but are not limited to): Peanut butter, hazelnut spread, and chocolate.
- Bait stations and snap traps can be double sided taped/attached via Velcro to the floor or otherwise secured to prevent their movement whilst at sea.
- Suitable locations for bait stations and traps may include anywhere in the saloon or galley area, dry areas that are not frequented by crew, ropes lockers, and any lockers with sufficient space that are accessible to rodents (i.e. not sealed). Warm and dry areas are likely to be most appealing.
- It is likely that snap traps (especially traditional wooden snap traps) will be triggered by the motion of the vessel in a seaway. Traps should be re-set whenever possible, especially prior to hours of darkness.
- A biosecurity officer will inspect any bait stations and traps for rodent sign. Please keep any bait station keys accessible.

Aquatic biosecurity

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park contains globally unique species and ecosystems and helps enhance critical social and economic values entrenched in the Lord Howe Island community. The introduction of marine pests via visiting vessels poses a significant threat to these values. In order to keep the marine park pest-free, visiting vessels should undertake the following steps.

- Inspect and clean the vessel hull to remove biofouling to ensure no transfer of marine organisms or marine pests
- Inspect and clean any 'niche' areas to remove biofouling, including the propeller and shaft, inlets and gratings, anodes or other fittings, the anchor well, and any stowed ropes or fishing equipment
- Clean or treat any seawater systems or spaces such as pipework or sea chests to remove biofouling, and record this in the vessels log
- National biofouling guidelines can be found at: <https://www.marinepests.gov.au/commercial/vessels#manage-biofouling>
- Adhere to requirements regarding the discharge of ballast and other substances as provided in 'Information for Yachts and Small Craft Visiting Lord Howe Island World Heritage Area and Lord Howe Island Marine Park'

An exclusion zone has been created at Middleton Reef following a report of a possible submerged unexploded ordnance, further information can be found on the Park Australia website - <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/news/temporary-closure-of-middleton-reef/>

Do not discard oyster, mussel, clam, scallop, other shellfish or any part of prawn, crab, other crustacean sold for human consumption in the LHI Marine Park. Only use bait.

Vessels that are heavily fouled and deemed to pose a significant risk of the introduction of marine pests may be directed out of the LHIMP

For more information or any questions please

Contact: LHIB Biosecurity Team
02 6563 2066
biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au

PRIVATE VESSEL PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Any application for exemption from Biosecurity requirements set out in guidelines for Visiting Vessels to be made 60 days before intended departure for Lord Howe Island

Mooring application submitted and approved by the LHIB subject to biosecurity conditions being met.

Vessel has obtained approval from the LHIB for any live plants, mulch, soil or live animals on board.

Email biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au if you are proposing to bring these items on board your vessel to be moored at Lord Howe Island (please include: whether or not you intend to bring these items onto Lord Howe Island).

5 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Vessel has been baited for rodents 5 days prior to departure to Lord Howe Island.

Vessel has been cleaned to an extent that would remove any old/residual pest sign such as (but not limited to): dead invertebrates, and old rodent faeces.

Vessel hull niche areas and internal seawater systems have been inspected and cleaned to ensure no biofouling and potential transfer of marine organisms or marine pests.

Rat guards are fitted to any mooring lines, power cables, utility lines, and/or any other lines which connect the vessel to the wharf for at least for 5 nights prior to the vessels departure.

Gangways or other pedestrian/cargo platforms which are used to access the vessel from the wharf have suitable traps installed either on the platform itself or immediately adjacent to it on the vessel and/or are raised during hours of darkness.

Any suspected invertebrate activity has been self-treated using a commercially available knock-down spray, or by a professional pest controller.

A report outlining the following information has been emailed to the LHIB biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au prior to the departure date indicated on your application.

- Any suspected or actual rodent, reptile, invertebrate/insect activity aboard the vessel that occurred or was suspected of having occurred during the 30 days prior to the departure of your vessel from its final port.
- Images of rodent bait stations in place (including on any gangways)
- Images of rat guards in place on all lines which connect the vessel to the wharf pre-departure
- Image of the vessel hull to ensure it is clean with no biofouling
- Certificate of completion – invertebrate fogging/spraying of vessel
- Copy of Manifest (including specific details on items that will be transported ashore)
- Copy of any approvals obtained for live plants, mulch, soil or live animals on board.

A signed copy of your Biosecurity Declaration has been returned to biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au

IN TRANSIT

Lethal traps for rodents have been set 5 days prior to departure to Lord Howe Island using an approved style of trap (as per vessel biosecurity requirement guidelines).

COMMERCIAL VESSEL PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Any application for exemption from Biosecurity requirements set out in guidelines for Visiting Vessels to be made 60 days before intended departure for Lord Howe Island.

Mooring application submitted and approved by the LHIB subject to biosecurity conditions being met.

Vessel has obtained approval from the LHIB for any live plants, mulch, soil or live animals on board.

Email biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au if you are proposing to bring these items on board your vessel to be moored at Lord Howe Island (please include: whether or not you intend to bring these items onto Lord Howe Island).

5 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Vessel has been baited for rodents 5 days prior to departure to Lord Howe Island.

Vessel has been cleaned to an extent that would remove any old/residual pest sign such as (but not limited to): dead invertebrates, and old rodent faeces.

Vessel hull niche areas and internal seawater systems have been inspected and cleaned to ensure no biofouling and potential transfer of marine organisms or marine pests.

A certificate of completion has been obtained stating that a suitably trained detection dog has inspected the vessel and all cargo immediately prior to loading between 3-7 days before departure.

Rat guards are fitted to any mooring lines, power cables, utility lines, and/or any other lines which connect the vessel to the wharf for at least for 5 nights prior to the vessel's departure.

Gangways or other pedestrian/cargo platforms which are used to access the vessel from the wharf have suitable traps installed either on the platform itself or immediately adjacent to it on the vessel and/or are raised during hours of darkness.

A professional pest controller has fogged/sprayed the vessel for invertebrates.

A report outlining the following information has been emailed to the LHIB biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au

- Any suspected or actual rodent, reptile, invertebrate/insect activity aboard the vessel that occurred or was suspected of having occurred during the 30 days prior to the departure of your vessel from its final port
- Images of rodent bait stations in place (including on any gangways)
- Images of rat guards in place on all lines which connect the vessel to the wharf pre-departure
- Image of the vessel hull to ensure it is clean with no biofouling
- Certificate of completion – invertebrate fogging/spraying of vessel
- Copy of Manifest (including specific details on items that will be transported ashore)
- Copy of any approvals obtained for live plants, mulch, soil or live animals on board.

A signed copy of your Biosecurity Declaration has been returned to biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au

DAY OF DEPARTURE

A certificate of completion stating that a suitably trained detection dog has inspected the vessel and all cargo at least once on the day of departure or an appropriate exemption has been approved to be emailed to biosecurity@lhib.nsw.gov.au

IN TRANSIT

Lethal traps for rodents have been set 5 days prior to departure to Lord Howe Island using an approved style of trap (as per vessel biosecurity requirement guidelines).