

Chartering your superyacht in New Zealand waters – what you need to know

If your superyacht is being used in New Zealand waters for charter services, it may need exemptions from Maritime Rules Part 19 and Marine Protection Rules Part 190. Here's a guide to what you need to know and how to apply.

New Zealand's regulations

The maritime and marine protection rules are statutory instruments made by the Minister of Transport under the Maritime Transport Act 1994. They contain detailed technical standards and procedures and form part of New Zealand's maritime law.

Maritime New Zealand (Maritime NZ) is the regulatory authority for the Minister of Transport.

Maritime rules relate to the safety of ships and people.

Maritime Rules Part 19 sets out responsibilities for maritime transport operators under the maritime operator safety system (MOSS). This rule is designed to cover most commercial operators in New Zealand waters.

Under MOSS, operators are required to develop a safety system that is tailored to their vessels and operation. Their entire operation, including survey requirements, is examined by Maritime NZ to ensure that any safety risks are identified and managed.

Marine protection rules aim to prevent the disposal of waste and marine pollution from ships.

Marine Protection Rules Part 190 sets out mandatory ships routing that applies to the owner, charterer and master of a ship in the Poor Knights and Three Kings areas.

Further information is available at www.maritimenz.govt.nz/rules

Exemptions from maritime and marine protection rules

If you are operating commercially in New Zealand, you will need to abide by the maritime and marine protection rules. You can apply for exemptions from specific requirements of the rules.

Further information is available at www.maritimenz.govt.nz/exemptions

Maritime Rules Part 19

You will need to apply to be exempted from the requirement of this rule to have an operator plan.

When applying, you need to provide the following documents:

- completed application form
- copies of the vessel's certificates for verification
- certificate from Class Society that states that a safety management system is in operation (if applicable)
- survey report and check sheets showing equivalent standards of Maritime Rules Part 44

Use the **Exemption request form – maritime rules (MSF143)** for this application.

All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Some areas in NZ waters have restrictions in place to protect the marine environment.

Further information is available at www.maritimenz.govt.nz/environmental

Marine Protection Rules Part 190

If you are planning on entering the Poor Knights Islands area, you will need to apply for an exemption from Marine Protection Rules Part 190.3.

When applying, you need to provide the following documents:

- A detailed itinerary and passage plan (overlaid on a chart), including anchorages if applicable
- Details about how the vessel will maintain zero discharge while inside the marine reserve
- Fuel type and capacity
- Sign-off from the Department of Conservation (DOC) – see below
- Evidence that a guide who is experienced with safe navigation in the restricted area will be on board while inside the marine reserve

Use the **Exemption request form – marine protection rules (MSF144)** for this application.

DOC sign-off means that your vessel does not pose a risk to the marine environment – in particular, that the hull is clean. Maritime NZ will guide you through this on application.

Application forms and cost

Application forms are available at www.maritimenz.govt.nz/exemptions

Costs for the exemptions are available at www.maritimenz.govt.nz/fees

For information on immigration, customs, biosecurity and other government regulations, refer to the New Zealand Destination e-book available from New Zealand Marine – www.nzmarine.com/destination-nz