



BIOSECURITY

Specification for Aircraft arriving at Ascension Island

Issued under section 24 (1) of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020

Issue date: 02 November 2020

GUIDE FOR USERS

The information contained in this Specification is presented in three parts:

PART A: General Information: contains general information, including the legal basis for the Ascension Island Government Specification for Aircraft arriving on Ascension Island and the general responsibilities of the captain of the aircraft.

PART B: Aircraft Specification: this section is the Specification for Aircraft Arriving on Ascension issued under section 24 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020. It sets out the conditions that an aircraft needs to meet to be granted clearance to land passengers and goods (biosecurity landing clearance).

PART C: Clearance Procedure: describes the process by which an aircraft will be granted biosecurity landing clearance.

Part A: General Information

1. Aircraft specification and captain's responsibility

- 1.1 The Specification for Aircraft Arriving in Ascension ("the Aircraft Specification") forms part of a system of managing the biosecurity risk posed to Ascension by the arrival of aircraft.
- 1.2 The captain of an incoming aircraft who intends to land cargo or baggage, or to permit the disembarkation of passengers or crew members, requires biosecurity landing clearance in order to do so.
- 1.3 Obtaining biosecurity landing clearance is dependent on the biosecurity risk posed by the aircraft on arrival in Ascension. An aircraft that meets the requirements of the Aircraft Specification is likely to pose an acceptable biosecurity risk and therefore to be granted clearance.
- 1.4 It is the captain's responsibility to ensure the aircraft is compliant with the current version of the Specification at the time of the aircraft's arrival on Ascension. The captain must complete and submit a Biosecurity Arrival Declaration not less than 2 hours in advance of the aircraft's arrival. Any aircraft for which a Biosecurity Arrival Declaration is not received will be subject to a mandatory biosecurity arrival inspection before a decision is made about biosecurity landing clearance. All other aircraft are liable to be inspected.
- 1.6. The biosecurity arrival inspection will be informed by the content of the aircraft's Biosecurity Arrival Declaration. Failure without reasonable excuse to cooperate with an arrival inspection will result in refusal of biosecurity landing clearance.
- 1.7 In the event that a biosecurity issue is detected during an arrival inspection, our biosecurity officers will work with the aircraft's crew to eliminate it or reduce it to an acceptable level. Refusal of biosecurity landing clearance is recognised to be a highly disruptive outcome and will be used as a last resort.

2. Review of the Aircraft Specification

The Aircraft Specification may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes to the risk posed to Ascension by incoming aircraft. This may happen without notice, but notice will be given to owners, operators, charterers and captains of affected aircraft where possible.

3. Definition of Terms

3.1 Biosecurity Officer

A Biosecurity Officer appointed under section 3 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020

3.2 Biosecurity landing clearance

Clearance given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020 which, once given, means that the aircraft is permitted to land cargo and baggage and to allow passengers and crew to disembark. Passengers and crew will require separate biosecurity entry clearance, and cargo may be subject to biosecurity import control.

4. Official Point of Contact

The official point of contact for this Specification is:

Biosecurity Officer
Ascension Island Conservation and Fisheries Directorate
Georgetown
Ascension Island
ASCN 1ZZ
Tel/Fax: 00 247 66359
Email: biosecurity@ascension.gov.ac

5. Fees and Costs

All fees and costs involved with an aircraft obtaining biosecurity landing clearance, including complying with the Aircraft Specification, shall be borne by the aircraft's owner, operator, charterer or captain.

Part B: Aircraft Specification

This section is the Aircraft Specification issued under section 24 of the Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020 that an aircraft must meet as a requirement of being granted biosecurity landing clearance.

6. Application

- 6.1 This Specification applies to all aircraft arriving on Ascension Island that intend to land passengers or cargo onto the island.
- 6.2 The specification **does not** apply to any aircraft forced to make an emergency landing on Ascension.

7. Aircraft specification

To obtain biosecurity landing clearance, aircraft must meet the following conditions:

- 8.1 The cabin and hold must be treated with insecticide before arrival in Ascension. This can be either: (a) a residual insecticide sprayed onto the aircraft's interior surfaces prior to departure for Ascension, or (b) an aerosol sprayed during transit after the aircraft doors have closed for departure.
- 8.2 On arrival, the aircraft, including the hold, must be in a clean state with no visible build-up of debris or extraneous material such as soil or leaves that could harbour hitch-hiking organisms.
- 8.3 Domestic pets and any live animals being transported as cargo and not destined for Ascension must remain secured whilst the aircraft is in Ascension unless supervised by a member of the aircraft's crew. Any live animals to be landed on Ascension must have the appropriate licence. The aircraft must be free of any other live animals.

9. Documentation

- 9.1 All required documentation must be in English.
- 9.2 It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this Aircraft Specification is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity landing clearance or clearance being refused.

9.3 A captain must present the following documentation on request in order to obtain biosecurity landing clearance:

9.3.1 A record that an insecticide spray has been carried out on the aircraft according to the requirement in section 8.4.

Part C. Clearance Procedure

10 Biosecurity Arrival Declaration

A Biosecurity Arrival Declaration for Aircraft must be made on the prescribed form available from the Ascension Island Government website and submitted to the official point of contact identified in section 4 at least **2 hours** before arrival on Ascension.

11 Biosecurity Arrival Inspection

11.1 A Biosecurity Officer may direct that an incoming aircraft is subject to a biosecurity arrival inspection to establish whether the aircraft, cargo, crew or passengers are likely to pose a biosecurity risk to Ascension and whether the requirements of this Aircraft Specification has been met.

11.2 The Biosecurity Officer can, during such an inspection apply reasonable biosecurity measure to reduce any biosecurity risk detected to an acceptable level.

11.3 If a captain refuses to cooperate with an inspection without reasonable excuse, then biosecurity landing clearance will not be granted.

11.4 If the aircraft is found to comply with this specification and is considered unlikely to pose an unacceptable biosecurity risk to Ascension, then biosecurity landing clearance will be given.

11.5 If the Aircraft Specification is not met, then biosecurity landing clearance may be refused. If biosecurity landing clearance is refused the aircraft will not be permitted to land cargo or baggage, or to permit passengers and crew members to disembark.

Part D. Amendment Record – Specification for Aircraft Arriving at Ascension Island

Amendments to this Specification will be given a consecutive number and will be dated in the body of the table. Brief details of the amended pages will be included.

No.	Details	Date
1	First version placed on-line	13/10/2020