



Cook Islands Diplomatic Blanket Clearance Procedures

In limited circumstances, the Government of the Cook Islands may grant a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance (DBC) to a partner government. A Diplomatic Blanket Clearance is a standing, time-bound authorisation that facilitates repeated official aircraft and/or vessel movements within Cook Islands territory for routine and pre-approved operations, without the need to submit a full diplomatic clearance request for each individual movement.

Diplomatic Blanket Clearance is an exceptional facilitation mechanism and does not replace standard diplomatic clearance requirements for official visits or special missions.

What a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance Covers

Where approved, a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance may cover:

- Military or government aircraft overflight and, where explicitly specified, landing
- Maritime patrol or defence vessels operating in Cook Islands waters
- Logistics, training, or surveillance operations
- Routine and recurring activities defined in advance and approved as part of the clearance

Coverage is strictly limited to the scope and activities specified in the approved Diplomatic Blanket Clearance.

What a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance Does Not Cover

- VIP, official delegation, or representative visits
- Ministerial or State visits
- Flights carrying official passengers or non-crew personnel
- Port visits or anchoring not expressly approved
- Special missions or activities outside the agreed scope
- Armed security teams accompanying delegations

Where any of the above apply, a case-by-case Diplomatic Clearance Request is mandatory, regardless of whether a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance is in place.

Movement Notification Requirements

Partners holding a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance are still required to provide advance movement notification through formal diplomatic channels.

Unless otherwise specified in the clearance:

- Notifications should be provided at least ten (10) business days in advance
- Notifications are circulated by MFAI to relevant Cook Islands border agencies for awareness and coordination

When a Diplomatic Clearance Request Is Still Required

- No Diplomatic Blanket Clearance exists, or
- The proposed activity falls outside the approved scope of the Blanket Clearance, or
- The movement involves people travelling for a defined purpose (e.g. meetings, visits, engagements)

Requesting a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance

Requests for Diplomatic Blanket Clearance must be submitted by **Note Verbale** through formal diplomatic channels and should include:

- The purpose and operational context for the request
- The types of aircraft and/or vessels to be covered
- The nature of activities to be conducted
- The proposed duration of the clearance

Diplomatic Blanket Clearances are subject to **internal coordination and approval**, and may require **Cabinet consideration**.

Validity and Review

Diplomatic Blanket Clearances are granted for a specific period and are subject to:

- Periodic review
- Amendment or withdrawal
- Compliance with Cook Islands laws and procedures

The Government of the Cook Islands reserves the right to suspend or revoke a Diplomatic Blanket Clearance at any time.

Contact Points

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration**
Attention: Office of the Secretary
Phone: (+682) 29 347
Email: secfai@mfai.gov.ck
- **Cook Islands High Commission in New Zealand**
Attention: Corporate Services Officer
Phone: (+64) 4 472 5126
Email: admin@mfai.gov.ck and wellingtonstaff@mfai.gov.ck

Disclaimer

This document is a guide only. It should not be used as a substitute for legislation or legal advice. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration is not responsible for the results of any actions taken on the basis of information in this document, or for any errors or omissions.