



What you need to know about your craft biosecurity infringement/fine

Why have I received an infringement notice?

Biosecurity New Zealand has categorised two offences relating to craft under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as strict liability infringement offences. A strict liability offence means you may have committed an offence even though you had no intention of doing so. It doesn't generate a criminal conviction.

The 2 offences are:

- Failing to provide notice of a craft's intended arrival in New Zealand as per section 17 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
- Failing to make a declaration setting out the steps taken to comply with an applicable craft risk management standard or craft risk management plan when required as per section 24J(b) or 24K(8) (b) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The penalty for both offences is an infringement fee of:

- **\$400** for an individual (usually the person in charge of the vessel).
- **\$800** in any other case (for example, a company).

What do I do now?

- Pay your fine.
- Request the infringement notice be withdrawn or waived.
- Request a hearing in court.

How do I pay my infringement?

Pay your fine in full within 28 days of receiving a reminder notice using one of these methods:

- Visa or MasterCard credit card payment via the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/payingfines. Bank fees may apply. You can only do this for \$400 fines.
- Visa or MasterCard credit card payment by phone. Call (+64) 9 909 8517 between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. You can only do this for \$400 fines.
- By internet banking to 03-0049-0001709-22. Use the "Notice Number" and "Name" details on your infringement notice as a reference. You can only use this option from a New Zealand bank account.
- Pay in person at any Westpac branch, using the deposit slip at the bottom of the infringement notice.

Note: Please refer to the back of your infringement notice for your legal rights.

How do I request a notice be withdrawn or waived?

You may wish to raise a matter about the circumstances of the offence for consideration by the MPI adjudicator. You should include any supporting evidence in your submission. It must be in English. You need to submit it within 28 days of receiving a reminder notice. You can either:

- email it to fines@mpi.govt.nz or
- post to Ministry for Primary Industries Infringement Processing Centre, PO Box 53137, Auckland 2150, New Zealand.

How do I request a hearing in court?

If you don't agree with an infringement that has been issued you can request a defended hearing in court. You will need to appear in court to put forward your case. A lawyer can represent you.

If you admit liability and want the court to consider whether you should pay the full amount of the infringement fee, you can request a non-defended hearing. An example might be that you are facing financial hardship.

For either a defended or non-defended hearing, provide your submission by either:

- emailing to fines@mpi.govt.nz; or
- writing to Ministry for Primary Industries Infringement Processing Centre, PO Box 53137, Auckland 2150 New Zealand.

What happens if I do nothing?

Your infringement notice will be transferred to the fines collection unit of the ministry of Justice. They will send you a Notice of Fine and you must contact, or pay the fine to, the Ministry of Justice. A court cost will be added to the fine when it is filed in court.

If you do not dispute the infringement notice within 28 days of receiving a reminder from MPI, you will not automatically be entitled to request a waiver or a hearing in court.

Further information

Go to www.mpi.govt.nz/payingfines for detailed information about your infringement.

Contact us

- Email fines@mpi.govt.nz; or
- Phone (+64) 9 909 8517 between 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday