

## HOW DO I REQUEST A HEARING IN COURT?

If you believe there is enough doubt an offence has been committed you can request a defended hearing. You will need to appear in court to put forward your case. You can be represented by a lawyer.

Or if you admit liability and want the court to consider whether you should pay the full amount of the infringement fee (e.g. you may be facing financial hardship) you can request a non-defended hearing

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

- email [fines@mpi.govt.nz](mailto: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 gets filed in Court.

If you do not dispute the infringement notice within 14 days, you will not automatically be entitled to a hearing.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Go to [www.mpi.govt.nz/payingfines](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/payingfines) for detailed information about your border infringement.

## CONTACT US

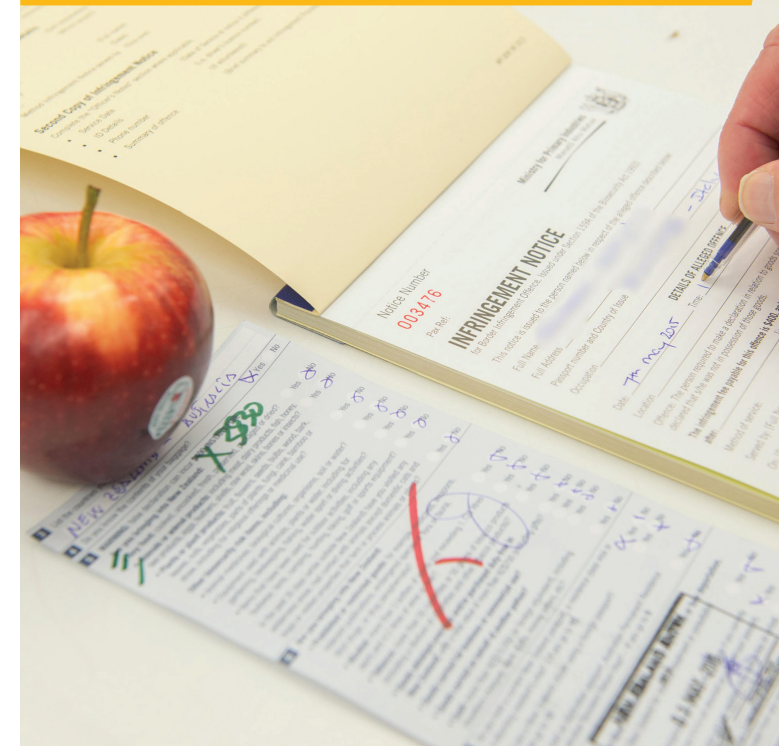
- Email [fines@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:fines@mpi.govt.nz)

### OR

- Phone +64 9 9098517 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday

To learn about biosecurity and declaring risk items, visit

[www.mpi.govt.nz/declare](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/declare)



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR BORDER BIOSECURITY INFRINGEMENT/FINE

## WHY HAVE I RECEIVED AN INFRINGEMENT NOTICE?

When you arrive in New Zealand you have to declare all food, animal products, plants and other items on your Passenger Arrival Card and to a Quarantine Officer so they can assess the biosecurity risk of those items.

Failing to do this unintentionally, accidentally, by forgetting, or simply not knowing the rules is an erroneous declaration, which is an offence under section 154N(21) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

This results in a **\$400 NZD** infringement fee (instant fine). It doesn't generate a criminal conviction.

This is a strict liability offence, which means you may have committed an offence even though you had no intention of doing so.

Deliberate smuggling of risk goods into New Zealand can result in a maximum fine of up to \$100,000 NZD and/or 5 years imprisonment.

## WHAT DO I DO NOW?

- Pay it.
- Request the notice be waived.
- Request a defended or non-defended hearing in court.

## HOW DO I PAY MY INFRINGEMENT?

### Pay immediately at the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) infringement desk:

- by NZD cash;
- major credit card;
- NZ EFT-POS;
- NZD cheque.

**OR**

### Pay within 14 days of the date of the notice:

- **Via the MPI website** using Visa or MasterCard. Go to [www.mpi.govt.nz/payingfines](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/payingfines) (Note: bank fees may apply).
- **By internet banking** to 03-0049-0001709-22. Use the infringement notice number in the reference field and your name (as per the notice) in the particulars field.
- **By cheque** for \$400 NZD made out to: Ministry for Primary Industries, and mailed to: Infringement Processing Centre, PO Box 53137, Auckland 2150. Detach and include the remittance advice at the bottom of the infringement notice.
- **At the MPI office** at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Queenstown, or Dunedin international airports.
- **By phone** on +64-9-909 8517 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday for payment by Visa or MasterCard.
- **At any Westpac branch** using the remittance advice at the bottom of the infringement notice.

## HOW DO I REQUEST THE NOTICE BE WAIVED?

Generally your notice will not be waived for simply forgetting to declare items, being tired from travelling, or not knowing the rules.

You may wish to raise a matter about the circumstances of the offence for consideration by the MPI adjudicator. Include any supporting evidence in your submission (e.g. evidence of illness or medications).

### Make your submission within 14 days of the date on the notice by:

- email [fines@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:fines@mpi.govt.nz)

**OR**

- writing to:  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Infringement Processing Centre  
PO Box 53137  
Auckland 2150  
New Zealand

Include your name as shown on the notice, infringement notice number and passport number.

We will inform you of the outcome of your submission.

If your infringement has not been waived, you have 14 days to either pay or request a defended or non-defended hearing.