

Reprint  
as at 1 October 2018



## Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014

Public Act    2014 No 3  
Date of assent    14 February 2014  
Commencement    see section 2

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#### Note

Changes authorised by subpart 2 of Part 2 of the Legislation Act 2012 have been made in this official reprint.  
Note 4 at the end of this reprint provides a list of the amendments incorporated.

**This Act is administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries.**

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**The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:**

**1 Title**

This Act is the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014.

**2 Commencement**

This Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

**Part 1**  
**Preliminary provisions**

**3 Purpose**

The purpose of this Act is to enable the Crown to recover some of its costs incurred in—

- (a) establishing or re-establishing at an airport the capacity to process travellers arriving in, or departing from, New Zealand on an international flight; and
- (b) processing international travellers at new and re-established international airports; and

- (c) processing international travellers at an international airport in other than a routine manner.

#### **4 Interpretation**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

**agency** means, in relation to the processing of travellers under—

- (a) the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Ministry for Primary Industries:
- (b) the Customs and Excise Act 2018, Customs:
- (c) the Civil Aviation Act 1990, the Aviation Security Service

**Aviation Security Service** means the Aviation Security Service established and continued by the Civil Aviation Authority under section 72B(2)(ca) of the Civil Aviation Act 1990

**chief executive** means one of the following:

- (a) in relation to the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Director-General:
- (b) in relation to Customs, the Comptroller of Customs:
- (c) in relation to the Aviation Security Service, the General Manager of the Aviation Security Service

**cost recovery period** means—

- (a) a period prescribed as the cost recovery period under section 11 that begins as stated in section 6(2); or
- (b) if no period is prescribed, 3 years beginning as stated in section 6(2)

**Customs** has the meaning given to it in section 5(1) of the Customs and Excise Act 2018

**Director-General** means the chief executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries

**due date** means the date that is 20 working days after the date on which the invoice requiring the payment of a prescribed charge would have been delivered in the ordinary course of the post or the date on which the invoice is actually received, whichever is later

**grace period** means—

- (a) a period prescribed as the grace period under section 11 that begins as stated in section 6(3); or
- (b) if no period is prescribed, 6 months beginning as stated in section 6(3)

**international airport** means an airport at which scheduled international flights arrive or depart

**Minister** means the Minister for Primary Industries

**operator**, in relation to an international airport, means the holder of an aerodrome operating certificate issued in relation to the international airport in

accordance with a rule made under section 30 or 34A of the Civil Aviation Act 1990

**prescribed charge** means a charge prescribed or provided for by regulations made under section 11

**processing**, in relation to a traveller, means—

- (a) the activities carried out at international airports by the Ministry for Primary Industries under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to—
  - (i) determine what goods are in the possession or control of the traveller; and
  - (ii) ascertain whether any or all of the goods may be cleared for entry into New Zealand under section 26 of that Act; or
- (b) the activities carried out at international airports by the Aviation Security Service under the Civil Aviation Act 1990 to—
  - (i) screen the traveller and the traveller's baggage; and
  - (ii) ensure the safety and security of the civil aviation system; or
- (c) the activities carried out at international airports by Customs under the Customs and Excise Act 2018 to—
  - (i) determine the traveller's eligibility to enter or leave New Zealand; and
  - (ii) establish whether goods in the traveller's possession are dutiable, prohibited imports or exports, or otherwise subject to the control of Customs

**scheduled international flight** means a flight that is—

- (a) performed by an aircraft for the transportation of people between New Zealand and 1 or more points in a country or territory other than New Zealand; and
- (b) one of a regular or frequent series of flights, whether or not in accordance with a published timetable; and
- (c) open to use by members of the public

**traveller** means a passenger or another person who arrives in, or departs from, New Zealand on an international flight.

Section 4 **agency** paragraph (b): amended, on 1 October 2018, by section 443(3) of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (2018 No 4).

Section 4 **Customs**: amended, on 1 October 2018, by section 443(3) of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (2018 No 4).

Section 4 **processing** paragraph (c): amended, on 1 October 2018, by section 443(3) of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (2018 No 4).

## 5 Act binds the Crown

This Act binds the Crown.

## **Part 2**

### **Cost recovery**

#### *Liability for charges*

#### **6 Application of sections 7 and 8**

- (1) Sections 7 and 8 apply to an airport—
  - (a) that begins operating as an international airport; or
  - (b) that ceases operating as an international airport during a cost recovery period that applies to the airport but later resumes operating as an international airport; or
  - (c) other than an airport described in paragraph (b), that ceases operating as an international airport but later resumes operating as an international airport, if it resumes operating as an international airport after the expiry of the grace period.
- (2) The cost recovery period in relation to an airport described in subsection (1)—
  - (a) begins on the day that the airport begins operating as an international airport; and
  - (b) begins again on the day that the airport resumes operating as an international airport (if applicable).
- (3) The grace period in relation to an airport described in subsection (1)(c) begins on the day following the day on which the international airport ceases operating as an international airport.

#### **7 Liability to pay for establishment of traveller processing capacity**

- (1) The operator of an international airport to which this section applies must pay any prescribed charge relating to the costs incurred by an agency in establishing or re-establishing the capacity to process travellers at the airport, whether the costs are incurred before or after the airport begins or resumes operating as an international airport.
- (2) Examples of the costs referred to in subsection (1) are the costs that the agency incurs in doing all or any of the following:
  - (a) recruiting and training staff:
  - (b) purchasing, leasing, and installing equipment:
  - (c) leasing any part of the airport and making physical alterations to that part.

## **8 Liability to pay for traveller processing at new and re-established international airports**

- (1) The operator of an international airport to which this section applies must pay any prescribed charge for the processing of travellers carried out at the international airport during a cost recovery period that applies to the airport.
- (2) This section does not apply to processing to which section 9 applies.

## **9 Payment for non-routine processing**

- (1) This section applies to the processing of travellers at an international airport at the request of a person, if the processing requested imposes additional costs on the agency that undertakes the processing.
- (2) The processing of travellers is not processing to which this section applies solely because the travellers—
  - (a) arrive or depart on an international flight that is not a scheduled international flight; or
  - (b) arrive or depart at an international airport outside the working hours of the agency concerned.
- (3) The chief executive of the agency may recover from the person who made the request the actual and reasonable costs incurred by the agency in processing the travellers as requested.
- (4) In this section, **working hours of the agency concerned** means,—
  - (a) in relation to Customs, the working hours prescribed by, or determined under, regulation 3 of the Customs and Excise Regulations 1996;
  - (b) in relation to the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Aviation Security Service, the hours during which traveller processing is usually undertaken by the agency at an international airport.

## **10 Exemption from prescribed charges for aviation security processing**

Despite sections 8 and 9, a prescribed charge for the processing of travellers by the Aviation Security Service is not payable in relation to—

- (a) a member of the crew of any aircraft:
- (b) a member of the crew of any aircraft who is being carried on an aircraft solely for the purposes of positioning the crew to carry out their duties as employees of an airline:
- (c) a child under the age of 2 years:
- (d) a person travelling on an aircraft that is being used for the purposes of the New Zealand Defence Force:
- (e) a person travelling on an aircraft that is being used specifically for the military, diplomatic, or ceremonial purposes of a government:
- (f) a person in transit through New Zealand who—

- (i) does not leave the transit, arrival, or departure area of the airport;  
or
  - (ii) leaves the transit, arrival, or departure area of the airport only because of an interruption to a flight caused by unserviceability of an aircraft or other essential facility or caused by any other delay beyond the control of the person or the airline concerned:
- (g) any other person or class of persons that the Minister responsible for the administration of the Civil Aviation Act 1990 specifies by notice in the *Gazette* under regulation 20(2)(g) of the Civil Aviation Charges Regulations (No 2) 1991.

*Cost recovery*

**11 Regulations**

- (1) The Governor-General may, by Order in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:
- (a) prescribing a grace period shorter than 6 months:
  - (b) prescribing a cost recovery period shorter than 3 years:
  - (c) prescribing charges or a means by which the charges may be calculated or ascertained to recover the direct and indirect costs incurred by an agency in—
    - (i) carrying out the activities involved in processing travellers at an international airport:
    - (ii) establishing or re-establishing the capacity to process travellers at an international airport:
  - (d) prescribing any returns, and the conditions relating to the returns, to be made by persons who must pay prescribed charges:
  - (e) providing for any other matters contemplated by this Act, necessary for its administration, or necessary for giving it full effect.
- (2) The regulations may prescribe charges using all or any of the methods specified in section 15.
- (3) Different charges, or different rates or types of charges, may be prescribed—
- (a) in relation to different airports or different classes or descriptions of persons, airports, businesses, or operations; or
  - (b) on the basis of different times of use; or
  - (c) on any other differential basis.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), the charges prescribed may—
- (a) differ depending on whether a special or an urgent service is provided:
  - (b) include more than 1 level of charge for the same service provided in different ways:

- (c) differ for otherwise similar services provided at different airports:
  - (d) differ for otherwise similar services provided in different ways:
  - (e) differ for otherwise similar services provided to different categories of persons:
  - (f) differ depending on the amount of service required or the components of the service required for the particular person or class of persons.
- (5) Despite subsections (3) and (4), the charges prescribed may be set at a level or in a way that is determined by calculations that involve an averaging of costs or potential costs.

## **12 Requirements for regulations**

- (1) The Minister may make a recommendation for the purposes of section 11 in relation to the processing of travellers by Customs only if the Minister responsible for Customs agrees to the proposed regulations concerned.
- (2) The Minister may make a recommendation for the purposes of section 11 in relation to the processing of travellers by the Aviation Security Service only if the Minister responsible for the Aviation Security Service agrees to the proposed regulations concerned.

## **13 Consultation requirements for making regulations**

- (1) Before making a recommendation for the making of regulations, the Minister—
- (a) must be satisfied that consultation has been carried out in accordance with subsection (2); and
  - (b) must receive and take into account the results of the consultation.
- (2) The Director-General must—
- (a) ensure that all reasonably practicable steps are taken to consult the persons or industry organisations that appear to the Director-General to be representative of the interests of persons likely to be directly affected by the making of regulations under section 11; and
  - (b) advise the Minister of the results of the consultation.
- (3) The Director-General must carry out the consultation required by subsection (2) in conjunction with—
- (a) the Comptroller of Customs, if the regulations relate to the processing of travellers by Customs;
  - (b) the General Manager of the Aviation Security Service if the regulations relate to the processing of travellers by the Aviation Security Service.
- (4) The process for consultation must, to the extent practicable in the circumstances, include—



- (a) giving adequate and appropriate notice of the intention to make the regulations; and
  - (b) providing a reasonable opportunity for interested persons to make submissions.
- (5) A failure to comply with this section does not affect the validity of any regulations.

#### **14 Consultation before Act in force**

The Director-General is not required to comply with section 13(2) to the extent that any matter provided for in the regulations has been the subject of consultation with the same person, group of persons, or their representative or agent before this Act comes into force so long as that person, group, or representative or agent was advised that the information obtained from that consultation was also to apply in relation to matters under this Act.

#### **15 Methods of cost recovery**

The methods, referred to in section 11(2), by which costs may be recovered under this Act are as follows:

- (a) fixed charges:
- (b) charges based on a scale or formula or at a rate determined on an hourly or per traveller or other unit basis:
- (c) the recovery of the actual and reasonable costs spent in or associated with the processing of travellers:
- (d) estimated charges, or charges based on estimated costs, paid before the processing of travellers, followed by reconciliation and an appropriate further payment or refund after provision of the service.

#### **16 Exemptions, waivers, and refunds**

- (1) A chief executive may, if satisfied that either of the circumstances in subsection (2) exists, exempt, waive, or refund, in whole or in part, any prescribed charge that relates to the processing of travellers by the chief executive's agency.
- (2) The circumstances are—
  - (a) the work actually done does not justify the payment (or full payment) of the prescribed charge concerned; or
  - (b) special circumstances apply to the particular case.
- (3) The chief executive's decision under subsection (1) must be in writing, and must specify the reason for the exemption, waiver, or refund.

#### **17 Prescribed charges to constitute debt due to the Crown**

- (1) A prescribed charge or part of a charge that is not paid by the due date is a debt due to the Crown.

- (2) The chief executive of the agency that provided the services to which the charge relates may recover the debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.

### **18 Penalties for failure to pay prescribed charge**

- (1) If a person fails to pay a prescribed charge or part of a charge by the due date, the debt is increased by adding a penalty.
- (2) The penalty is the sum of—
- (a) 10% of the debt; and
  - (b) for every complete period of 6 months after the due date during which the debt or any part of it (including any penalty) has remained unpaid, 10% of the debt or that part.
- (3) When a chief executive notifies a person of a prescribed charge, the chief executive must also tell that person of the consequences of non-payment under this section.

### **19 Waiver of penalty**

- (1) The chief executive may waive payment of all or any part of a penalty added to a debt owed by a person, if the chief executive is satisfied that the failure or refusal of the person to pay all or any part of the debt was a result of a genuine dispute between the person and the agency as to either or both of the following:
- (a) the person's liability to pay the debt;
  - (b) the amount of the debt.
- (2) In an action for the recovery of a debt, a court may waive payment of all or any part of a penalty added to the debt, if the court is satisfied that the failure or refusal of a person to pay all or any part of the debt was a result of a genuine dispute between the person and an agency as to either or both of the following:
- (a) the person's liability to pay the debt;
  - (b) the amount of the debt.

### **20 Obligation to pay prescribed charge not suspended by dispute**

The obligation of a person to pay any prescribed charge under this Act (including any penalty), and the right of a chief executive to receive and recover the charge or penalty, are not suspended by any dispute between the person and the chief executive regarding the person's liability to pay the charge, or the amount of the charge.

### *Consequential amendments*

### **21 Consequential amendments to other enactments**

- (1) The Acts listed in Part 1 of the Schedule are amended in the manner set out in that Part.

- (2) The regulations listed in Part 2 of the Schedule are amended in the manner set out in that Part.

## Schedule

### Consequential amendments to other enactments

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#### Part 1

##### Acts amended

##### **Biosecurity Act 1993 (1993 No 95)**

Section 135: add:

- (4) This section does not apply to costs incurred by a recovering authority in processing travellers to which the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 applies.

Section 165: insert after subsection (12):

- (12A) This section does not authorise the making of regulations prescribing fees and charges to recover the costs of processing travellers to which the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 applies.

##### **Civil Aviation Act 1990 (1990 No 98)**

Section 38: insert after subsection (4A):

- (4B) Nothing in this section or in section 100 authorises the making of regulations prescribing charges in relation to traveller processing to which the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 applies.

##### **Customs and Excise Act 1996 (1996 No 27)**

Section 287: add:

- (5) This section does not authorise the making of regulations prescribing fees and charges to recover the costs of processing travellers to which the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 applies.

#### Part 2

##### Regulations amended

##### **Biosecurity (Costs) Regulations 2010 (SR 2010/135)**

New regulation 3A: insert before regulation 4:

##### **3A Restriction on application of regulations**

These regulations do not apply to an activity that is or is part of processing travellers to which the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 applies.

**Civil Aviation Charges Regulations (No 2) 1991 (SR 1991/143)**

Regulation 20(2): insert after paragraph (f):

- (fa) any passenger on an aircraft departing from an international airport to which section 7 of the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 applies:

## Reprints notes

### **1** *General*

This is a reprint of the Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 that incorporates all the amendments to that Act as at the date of the last amendment to it.

### **2** *Legal status*

Reprints are presumed to correctly state, as at the date of the reprint, the law enacted by the principal enactment and by any amendments to that enactment. Section 18 of the Legislation Act 2012 provides that this reprint, published in electronic form, has the status of an official version under section 17 of that Act. A printed version of the reprint produced directly from this official electronic version also has official status.

### **3** *Editorial and format changes*

Editorial and format changes to reprints are made using the powers under sections 24 to 26 of the Legislation Act 2012. See also <http://www.pco.parliament.govt.nz/editorial-conventions/>.

### **4** *Amendments incorporated in this reprint*

Customs and Excise Act 2018 (2018 No 4): section 443(3)