

Version
as at 20 December 2025



Commodity Levies (Fresh Vegetables) Order 2024 (SL 2024/257)

Cindy Kiro, Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this 9th day of December 2024

Present:

Her Excellency the Governor-General in Council

This order is made under section 4 of the Commodity Levies Act 1990—

- (a) on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council; and
- (b) on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture given in accordance with sections 5 and 6 of that Act.

Contents

	Page
1 Title	2
2 Commencement	3
3 Interpretation	3
<i>Levy imposed</i>	
4 Levy on fresh vegetables	4

Note

The Parliamentary Counsel Office has made editorial and format changes to this version using the powers under subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019.

Note 4 at the end of this version provides a list of the amendments included in it.

This order is administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

	<i>Paying levy</i>	
5	Growers primarily responsible for paying levy	4
6	Collection agent must pay levy and may recover it from growers	4
7	Conscientious objectors	5
8	When levy payable by growers	5
9	When levy payable by collection agents	5
10	Additional levy if levy not paid in time	5
	<i>Setting levy rate</i>	
11	Basis for calculating levy	5
12	Levy must be paid at single rate	6
13	Maximum levy rate	6
14	Fixing levy rate	6
15	Notifying levy rate	6
	<i>Spending levy money</i>	
16	Vegetables NZ must spend levy money	6
17	Purposes for which levy money may be spent	7
18	Consulting on spending levy money	7
	<i>Returns, records, and confidentiality</i>	
19	Returns	7
20	Growers must keep records	8
21	Collection agents must keep records	8
22	Vegetables NZ must keep records	8
23	Records must be kept for 2 years	8
24	Confidentiality of information	8
	<i>Compliance audits</i>	
25	Remunerating auditors	9
	<i>Dispute resolution</i>	
26	Appointment of mediators	9
	<i>Revocation</i>	
27	Order revoked	9
	Schedule	10
	Mediation of disputes	

Order

1 Title

This order is the Commodity Levies (Fresh Vegetables) Order 2024.

2 Commencement

This order comes into force on 1 April 2025.

Order: confirmed, on 20 December 2025, by section 10(e) of the Secondary Legislation Confirmation Act 2025 (2025 No 84).

3 Interpretation

In this order, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the Commodity Levies Act 1990

collection agent means a person whose business is or includes—

- (a) buying fresh vegetables from a grower for resale in New Zealand or for export:
- (b) exporting or selling of fresh vegetables on behalf of a grower

commercial processing means artificial drying, bottling, canning, evaporating, freezing, juicing, or preserving for commercial purposes

fresh vegetables—

- (a) means the following vegetables grown in New Zealand for commercial purposes:
 - (i) artichokes (globe and Jerusalem), Asian vegetables, asparagus, beans (excluding field-dried beans), beetroot, box thorn, broccoflower, broccoli, broccolini, Brussels sprouts, burdock, cabbage, capsicums, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, chilli peppers, chokos, courgettes, cucumbers, eggplant (also known as aubergine), Florence fennel, garland chrysanthemum, garlic, gherkins, herbs (including basil, bay, borage, caraway, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, horseradish, lemon balm, marigold, marjoram, mint, nasturtium, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, savory, sorrel, tarragon, and thyme), Indian vegetables, kohlrabi, kumara, leeks, lettuces, marrows, melons (including bitter, green netted, honey dew, prince, rock, water, and white musk), okra, parsnips, peas (excluding field-dried peas), puha, pumpkin, purslane, radishes (including Chinese radish and daikon), rakkyo, rhubarb, salad leaves, salsify, scallopini, scorzonera, shallots, silverbeet, spinach (including water spinach), spring onions, sprouted beans and seeds, squash (excluding buttercup squash exported from New Zealand), swedes, sweetcorn (including baby corn), taro, turnips, ulluco, watercress, witloof (also known as chicory or endive), yakon, yams, and zucchinis; and
 - (ii) the hybrids of the vegetables listed in subparagraph (i); but
- (b) excludes any vegetables listed in paragraph (a) that are grown for commercial processing or that are imported

grower means a person whose business is or includes the commercial production of fresh vegetables

GST means goods and services tax

levy means a levy imposed by clause 4

levy money means money paid or payable under this order as a levy

levy rate means the rate fixed under clause 14

levy year means,—

- (a) for the first year, the period starting on the commencement of this order and ending on 31 March 2026; and
- (b) for each later year (other than the last year), the 12-month period starting on 1 April and ending on 31 March of the following year; and
- (c) for the last year, the period starting on 1 April 2030 and ending on the day on which this order is revoked

mediator means—

- (a) a person appointed under clause 26; and
- (b) for a particular dispute, the mediator appointed to resolve the dispute

Vegetables NZ means Vegetables New Zealand Incorporated.

Levy imposed

4 Levy on fresh vegetables

- (1) This order imposes a levy on fresh vegetables.
- (2) The levy must be paid to Vegetables NZ.

Paying levy

5 Growers primarily responsible for paying levy

- (1) Growers of fresh vegetables are primarily responsible for paying the levy.
- (2) No grower is exempt from paying the levy.

6 Collection agent must pay levy and may recover it from growers

- (1) A collection agent must, at the first point of sale, pay the levy and any GST payable on it if the collection agent—
 - (a) buys fresh vegetables from a grower; or
 - (b) sells or exports fresh vegetables on behalf of a grower.
- (2) A collection agent may recover a levy (and any GST paid in respect of it) from a grower—
 - (a) by deducting the amount of the levy (and any GST payable on it) from the payment made to the grower; or

- (b) by recovering the amount of the levy (and any GST paid in respect of it) as a debt due from the grower.
- (3) A collection agent must disclose to a grower the amount of levy money deducted under this order.
- (4) A collection agent who pays the levy to Vegetables NZ may deduct from the levy a collection fee of not more than 4% of the amount of levy collected (exclusive of GST) plus the GST payable on the fee.

7 Conscientious objectors

- (1) A grower or collection agent who objects on conscientious or religious grounds to the manner of recovery of levy money by Vegetables NZ may pay the amount concerned to the Director-General of the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- (2) The Director-General must pay the amount to Vegetables NZ.

8 When levy payable by growers

- (1) If fresh vegetables are sold directly to the public by growers or exported by growers, the due date for payment of the levy by growers is 31 March.
- (2) The levy payable by growers must be paid annually for the preceding 12 months.
- (3) The last date for payment of the levy by growers is 30 June in the same calendar year.

9 When levy payable by collection agents

- (1) The due date for payment of the levy by a collection agent is the date on which the collection agent recovers the levy from the grower.
- (2) The last date for payment of the levy by the collection agent is the 20th day of the month after the month in which the levy is recovered from the grower.

10 Additional levy if levy not paid in time

- (1) If any amount of the levy (or GST payable on that amount) has not been paid by the close of the last day for payment, 5% of the amount of the levy not paid at the end of the first month must be paid to Vegetables NZ, in addition to the amount otherwise payable.
- (2) A further 2% of the amount owing (including any previous penalties) is payable at the end of each additional month in which the amount remains unpaid.

Setting levy rate

11 Basis for calculating levy

- (1) The levy payable in a levy year must be calculated on the basis of the price received at the first point of sale, except where the commodity is exported, in

which case the levy will be calculated on the price received after the deduction of all offshore costs (including international freight).

- (2) A price referred to in subclause (1) is exclusive of GST.

12 Levy must be paid at single rate

The levy must be paid at a single rate.

13 Maximum levy rate

- (1) The maximum rate of the levy is—
- (a) 0.30% of the price received at the first point of sale, for fresh vegetables sold domestically;
 - (b) 0.20% of the price received by the grower after deduction of all offshore costs (including international freight), for fresh vegetables exported.
- (2) The maximum rate of levy is exclusive of GST.

14 Fixing levy rate

- (1) The levy rate for the first levy year is—
- (a) 0.30%, for fresh vegetables sold domestically;
 - (b) 0.20%, for fresh vegetables exported.
- (2) For each subsequent year, Vegetables NZ must fix the levy rate before the start of the levy year by a vote at the annual general meeting of Vegetables NZ.
- (3) If Vegetables NZ does not fix the levy rate before the start of a levy year, the levy for that year is the rate most recently fixed under this clause.

15 Notifying levy rate

- (1) If any new levy rate set under clause 14 differs from the levy rate applying in the previous year, Vegetables NZ must notify the new levy rate, as soon as practicable after setting the rate,—
- (a) in *NZGrower* or any publication that replaces *NZGrower*; and
 - (b) in the HortNZ and Vegetables NZ email newsletters; and
 - (c) by direct mail to all vegetable growers and relevant collection agents known to HortNZ; and
 - (d) on its internet site.
- (2) If *NZGrower* ceases to be published and is not replaced by another publication, the Minister of Agriculture may, by notice in the *Gazette*, specify another publication for the purposes of this order.

Spending levy money

16 Vegetables NZ must spend levy money

Vegetables NZ must—

- (a) spend all levy money paid to it; and
- (b) invest the money until it is spent.

17 Purposes for which levy money may be spent

- (1) Vegetables NZ may spend levy money for any or all of the following purposes relating to fresh vegetables or growers:
 - (a) research and development:
 - (b) export and domestic market development:
 - (c) fresh vegetable promotional activity:
 - (d) development of quality assurance:
 - (e) education, training, and extension services (such as the transfer of technical information for the benefit of the industry):
 - (f) grower information, communication, and support:
 - (g) biosecurity activities:
 - (h) day-to-day administration of Vegetables NZ:
 - (i) grower representation.
- (2) Vegetables NZ must not spend levy money on commercial or trading activities.

18 Consulting on spending levy money

Each levy year, Vegetables NZ must consult growers directly on how it proposes to spend levy money and, where appropriate, consult—

- (a) grower meetings; and
- (b) relevant industry forums; and
- (c) growers at the annual general meeting of Vegetables NZ.

Returns, records, and confidentiality

19 Returns

- (1) A payment of levy money to Vegetables NZ by a grower or collection agent must state—
 - (a) the value of, and the kinds of, fresh vegetables to which the payment relates; and
 - (b) in the case of a return by a collection agent, the name and contact details of the grower.
- (2) Vegetables NZ may, in writing, request from a grower or collection agent any information that Vegetables NZ reasonably requires for the purpose of determining the amount of levy payable by the grower.

- (3) Each grower or collection agent must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving a request from Vegetables NZ, supply Vegetables NZ with a written return of the information requested.

20 Growers must keep records

- (1) A grower who pays a levy directly to Vegetables NZ must, for each levy year and for each kind of vegetable, keep records of—
- (a) the amount of the levy paid; and
 - (b) the sales that the levy money was deducted from.
- (2) A grower whose levies are paid by collection agents must, for each levy year and for each kind of vegetable, keep records of—
- (a) the amount of the levy paid; and
 - (b) the sales that the levy money was deducted from; and
 - (c) the name and address of the collection agent.

21 Collection agents must keep records

A collection agent must, for each levy year and for each kind of vegetable, keep records of—

- (a) the amount of the levy paid; and
- (b) the sales that the levy money was deducted from; and
- (c) the details of each grower from whom the agent has collected levies (including the grower's name, trading name, and postal address).

22 Vegetables NZ must keep records

Vegetables NZ must, for each levy year, keep records of the following:

- (a) the amount of every levy paid to it for each kind of vegetable:
- (b) for each levy payment made to it,—
 - (i) the amount of the payment:
 - (ii) the date of the payment:
 - (iii) the person who paid the levy:
- (c) how (if at all) levy money was invested:
- (d) how and when levy money was spent.

23 Records must be kept for 2 years

The records made under clauses 20 to 22 must be kept for at least 2 years after the date on which the levy to which they relate is paid.

24 Confidentiality of information

- (1) This clause applies to information obtained—

- (a) under or because of this order; or
 - (b) under the Act in relation to this order.
- (2) A person must not disclose information to anyone other than an officer or employee of Vegetables NZ unless the disclosure is—
- (a) the giving of evidence in any legal proceedings taken in relation to this order; or
 - (b) required by law; or
 - (c) the production of records or accounts under section 17(1) of the Act; or
 - (d) the production of any statement under section 25 of the Act.
- (3) Vegetables NZ may disclose information—
- (a) for statistical or research purposes that do not require the disclosure of personal information; or
 - (b) for the purpose of invoicing or collecting the levy; or
 - (c) for the purpose of communicating with and supporting a levy-paying grower, provided the information relates only to that grower; or
 - (d) if every identifiable person to whom the information relates consents; or
 - (e) as required by law.

Compliance audits

25 Remunerating auditors

Vegetables NZ must remunerate a person appointed as an auditor under section 15 of the Act at a rate determined by the Minister of Agriculture after consultation with Vegetables NZ.

Dispute resolution

26 Appointment of mediators

- (1) This clause applies to a dispute about—
- (a) whether any person is required to pay the levy; or
 - (b) the amount of the levy payable.
- (2) A party to the dispute may ask the President of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand Incorporated to appoint a person to resolve the dispute by mediation, in which case the provisions in the Schedule apply.

Revocation

27 Order revoked

The Commodity Levies (Fresh Vegetables) Order 2019 (LI 2019/41) is revoked.

Schedule

Mediation of disputes

cl 26

1 Appointment of mediators

- (1) If asked by a party to a dispute under clause 26(2) of this order, the President of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand Incorporated (or a person authorised by the President) may appoint a person to resolve the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator's appointment ends if—
 - (a) the parties to the dispute resolve it by agreement; or
 - (b) the mediator resolves the dispute under clause 8 of this schedule.

2 Remunerating mediators

- (1) A mediator must be paid remuneration (by way of fees and allowances) as agreed by the parties to the dispute.
- (2) If the parties to a dispute cannot agree on a mediator's remuneration, the President of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand Incorporated, or a person authorised by the President, must—
 - (a) fix an amount or several amounts to be paid to the mediator as remuneration; and
 - (b) specify the amount (if any) that each party must pay.
- (3) Each party must pay to the mediator the amount or amounts fixed and specified under subclause (2).

3 Conference to resolve dispute

- (1) A mediator may organise and preside at 1 or more conferences between the parties to a dispute to resolve the dispute.
- (2) Every conference is to be held on a day, and at a time and place, fixed by the mediator and notified in writing to the parties.

4 Conference must be held in private

Unless clause 5 applies, only the parties to a dispute and the mediator may attend a conference organised by the mediator.

5 Representatives

A mediator may allow a representative of a party to a dispute to attend a conference with the mediator if the mediator is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so in all the circumstances.

6 Right to be heard

Each person who attends a conference may be heard at the conference.

7 Evidence

- (1) A mediator may hear and take into account any relevant evidence or information, whether or not it would normally be admissible in a court of law.
- (2) A mediator may, on the mediator's own initiative,—
 - (a) seek and receive any evidence that the mediator thinks desirable to resolve the dispute; and
 - (b) make any investigations and inquiries that the mediator thinks desirable to resolve the dispute.
- (3) A mediator may require any person giving evidence at a conference of the parties to a dispute to verify the evidence by statutory declaration.

8 Mediator may resolve dispute in certain cases

- (1) A mediator may resolve a dispute for the parties if—
 - (a) the mediator has organised and presided at a conference of the parties, but the dispute has not been resolved; or
 - (b) the mediator believes that the parties are unlikely to resolve the dispute, whether or not they confer directly.
- (2) A mediator who resolves a dispute under subclause (1) must give each of the parties written notice of the mediator's decision and the reasons for that decision.
- (3) The parties must comply with the mediator's decision.

9 Mediation costs

Each party must pay its own costs in relation to the mediation.

10 Appeal to District Court

- (1) A party to a dispute who is dissatisfied with the mediator's decision may appeal to the District Court against the decision.
- (2) The appeal must be brought by filing a notice of appeal—
 - (a) within 28 days after the making of the decision concerned; or
 - (b) within any longer time a District Court Judge allows.
- (3) The Registrar of the court must—
 - (a) fix the time and place for the hearing of the appeal; and
 - (b) notify the appellant and the other parties to the dispute; and
 - (c) serve a copy of the notice of appeal on every other party to the dispute.
- (4) Each party to the dispute may appear and be heard at the hearing of the appeal.

- (5) The District Court may confirm, vary, or reverse the mediator's decision.
- (6) The filing of a notice of appeal does not operate as a stay of any process for the enforcement of the mediator's decision.

Rachel Hayward,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the order but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This order, which comes into force on 1 April 2025, imposes a levy on fresh vegetables grown in New Zealand for commercial purposes. Growers are primarily responsible for the payment of the levy. The levy is payable to Vegetables New Zealand Incorporated.

This order replaces, in part, the Commodity Levies (Vegetables and Fruit) Order 2019, which is automatically revoked on the close of 31 March 2025 (*see* section 13 of the Commodity Levies Act 1990). The revocation does not affect amounts of levy money that became payable under that order before it was revoked.

This order must be confirmed by an Act on or before the close of 31 December 2025. If it is not confirmed, it will be revoked on the close of that date (*see* subpart 3 of Part 5 of the Legislation Act 2019). If the order is confirmed, it will be revoked on the close of 31 March 2031, unless it is earlier revoked or it is extended under section 13(2) of the Commodity Levies Act 1990.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 12 December 2024.

Notes

1 *General*

This is a consolidation of the Commodity Levies (Fresh Vegetables) Order 2024 that incorporates the amendments made to the legislation so that it shows the law as at its stated date.

2 *Legal status*

A consolidation is taken to correctly state, as at its stated date, the law enacted or made by the legislation consolidated and by the amendments. This presumption applies unless the contrary is shown.

Section 78 of the Legislation Act 2019 provides that this consolidation, published as an electronic version, is an official version. A printed version of legislation that is produced directly from this official electronic version is also an official version.

3 *Editorial and format changes*

The Parliamentary Counsel Office makes editorial and format changes to consolidations using the powers under subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019. See also PCO editorial conventions for consolidations.

4 *Amendments incorporated in this consolidation*

Secondary Legislation Confirmation Act 2025 (2025 No 84): section 10(e)