

Frequently asked questions about MAF Infringement Notice (Instant Fine)

▪ How do I pay an infringement fee?

Approved credit card: Pay an infringement fee online www.paymentsonline.co.nz/Government/MAF via WESTPAC's online payment system.

Internet Banking: For New Zealand account holders using the bank account number specified on the Infringement Notice; and the **pax ref.** number and/or **notice number** as the reference.

Cheque or money order: Send (with the remittance slip included) to: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 53137, Manukau 2150, New Zealand.

Cash, cheque, approved credit card in person: At the MAF Infringement desk at any International Airport during operational hours.

By phone: on (0064) 9 9098517 between 8.30am and 4.30 pm Monday – Friday.

▪ What is the infringement for?

Under section 154(s) Biosecurity Act 1993 an infringement notice can be issued to any person who erroneously (unintentional, accidental, by mistake, without knowledge, careless or forgetfulness) declares that he or she is not in possession of any good specified on the declaration card.

▪ Does MAF accept part payments on Infringement Notices?

No. An infringement fee must be paid in a single full payment by the final due date. If the infringement fee remains unpaid by the final due date it is referred to New Zealand Courts and becomes a Fine. Courts *may* allow [other payment options](#) (by application only) if they determine you are unable to pay the Fine on time. Additional charges will apply.

▪ How do I pay an infringement fee from overseas?

Use the WESTPAC Bank [secure online payment system](#).

Or forward your payment as follows:

Bank Cheque

- Contact any bank to arrange a bank cheque. Make the bank cheque payable in \$NZ for the amount of the infringement fee

The remittance advice must be sent with all payments to Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 53137, Manukau 2150, New Zealand.

If the fee is not paid by the due date, the infringement will be referred to New Zealand Courts for fines enforcement. Arrangements may be made with New Zealand Courts for subsequent payment, which may include on-line payments using credit card details. Additional fees will be imposed by New Zealand Courts.

Can I pay an infringement fee by direct credit rather than credit card?

Yes. You can pay an infringement fee by:

- Approved Credit Card online: [Pay online](#). Applicable bank fees apply.
- Internet Banking (NZ bank account holders only). To the bank account number specified on the Infringement Notice and the **pax ref.** and/or **notice number** as the reference.
- New Zealand cheque or money order: Send to the address specified on the Infringement Notice. Include the remittance advice, **notice number** and **pax ref.**
- Cash, New Zealand cheque or an approved credit card, in person at the MAF Infringement Desk at any International Airport during operational hours.

If the infringement fee is not paid in full by the due date it is referred to the New Zealand Courts for enforcement of a 'fine'.

▪ What is the contact number for NZ Courts?

0800 609 669

▪ Is there GST on fines?

No.

Goods and services tax (GST) is a tax on most goods and services in New Zealand, most imported goods, and certain imported services. GST is added to the price of taxable goods and services at a rate of 15%.

▪ Can I make an explanation over the phone?

No. All correspondence must be made in writing (in English) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 53137, Manukau 2150, New Zealand.

▪ Where does the money from infringements/fines go?

The money goes into the Government's Consolidated Fund. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry do not retain money from fines/infringements.