

Secondary Legislation Confirmation Bill (No 4)

Government Bill

As reported from the Regulations Review Committee

Commentary

Recommendation

The Regulations Review Committee has examined the Secondary Legislation Confirmation Bill (No 4) and recommends that it be passed. We recommend all amendments unanimously.

Introduction

The purpose of this bill is to confirm certain secondary legislation that would be revoked if not confirmed by an Act of Parliament by a specified date. The bill relates to secondary legislation made between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

In passing this bill, the House would confirm the instruments set out in the bill, allowing them to continue in force.

Legislative scrutiny

As part of our consideration of the bill, we have examined its consistency with principles of legislative quality. We have no issues regarding the legislation's design to bring to the attention of the House.

Confirmation is warranted

As introduced, the bill includes 15 instruments for confirmation. We propose adding two further instruments, which we discuss below.

Matters covered in the instruments are:

- imposing biosecurity levies on postal articles and other goods being imported into New Zealand and commercial craft arriving by sea

- imposing levies for agricultural commodities, including blackcurrants, citrus fruit, harvested wood from plantation forests, non-proprietary herbage seeds, strawberry plants, and wheat grain
- prohibiting the importation of nitrous oxide without a permit from the Director-General of Health
- adjusting the excise and excise-equivalent duties on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products
- amending the Road User Charges (Rates) Regulations 2015 so that operators of 50 MAX vehicles (a type of high-productivity motor vehicle) continue to pay the same RUC rates following regulatory changes providing fuel crisis relief for the heavy vehicle industry
- increasing various social security benefits and allowances, asset limits, and superannuation entitlements to reflect mandatory adjustments and discretionary increases
- amending the Working Tariff Document to create a new concession allowing duty-free entry of certain inherited goods, and to implement the phased reduction of preferential tariff rates for goods from countries that have ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- amending the Wine Regulations 2021 to provide for cost recovery, through fees, for trade certification services in the wine sector.

We had already scrutinised nine of these instruments as part of our normal consideration of secondary legislation, and received satisfactory information from administering agencies as to why they should be confirmed.

We asked the government departments responsible for administering the other six instruments to explain why each should be confirmed. We wrote to chief executives of the following departments:

- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport
- New Zealand Customs Service.

After considering their responses, we found no reason why any of the orders and regulations should not be confirmed. We thank the departments for their responses and their cooperation with our processes for the bill.

We recommend confirming two additional instruments

We recommended amending clause 8 of the bill to insert the following confirmable secondary legislation:

- Commodity Levies (Passionfruit) Order 2026
- Commodity Levies (Summerfruit) Order 2026

These orders were both made on 29 June 2026. This was too late for them to be included in the bill when it was finalised for introduction, but they are confirmable secondary legislation made before the close of 30 June 2026.

We received information from the Ministry for Primary Industries explaining why these orders should be confirmed in the bill, which we were satisfied with.

Appendix

Committee process

The Secondary Legislation Confirmation Bill (No 4) was referred to this committee on 23 July 2026.

We invited written submissions from the chief executives of three departments responsible for administering the regulations confirmed by the bill. We received and considered their submissions.

Advice on the bill was provided by the Parliamentary Counsel Office. The Office of the Clerk provided advice on the bill's legislative quality. The Parliamentary Counsel Office assisted with legal drafting.

Committee membership

Arena Williams (Chairperson)

Miles Anderson

Nancy Lu

Joseph Mooney

Hon Jenny Salesa

Dr Lawrence Xu-Nan also participated in our consideration of the bill.

Related resources

The documents we received as advice and evidence are available on the Parliament website.

Key to symbols used in reprinted bill

As reported from a select committee

text inserted unanimously

Hon Louise Upston

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

This Act is the Secondary Legislation Confirmation Act **(No 4) 2026**.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the day after Royal assent.

Part 1

Preliminary provisions

3 Purpose

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The purpose of this Act is to confirm secondary legislation that, unless earlier confirmed by an Act of Parliament, will be—

- (a) revoked on the applicable deadline under section 123 of the Legislation Act 2019:
- (b) taken on and from the applicable deadline to have been invalid for its past operation (because it has been revoked with effect before or on the deadline) under section 126 of the Legislation Act 2019. 10

4 Interpretation

In this Act, **deadline** has the meaning given in section 121 of the Legislation Act 2019.

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5 Act binds the Crown

This Act binds the Crown.

6 Repeal

The Secondary Legislation Confirmation Act 2025 (2025 No 84) is repealed.

Part 2

Confirmations

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7 Biosecurity Act 1993

The Biosecurity (Import Levies and Commercial Vessel Levy) Order 2026 (SL 2026/32) is confirmed.

8 Commodity Levies Act 1990

25

The following orders are confirmed:

- (a) Commodity Levies (Blackcurrants) Order 2025 (SL 2025/173):
- (b) Commodity Levies (Citrus Fruit) Order 2025 (SL 2025/254):
- (c) Commodity Levies (Harvested Wood Material) Order 2025 (SL 2025/198): 30
- (d) Commodity Levies (Non-proprietary Herbage Seeds) Order 2026 (SL 2026/194):
- (da) Commodity Levies (Passionfruit) Order 2026 (SL 2026/203):

- (e) Commodity Levies (Strawberries) Order 2026 (SL 2026/28):
- (ea) Commodity Levies (Summerfruit) Order 2026 (SL 2026/202):
- (f) Commodity Levies (Wheat Grain) Order 2026 (SL 2026/193).
- 9 Customs and Excise Act 2018**
- The following orders are confirmed: 5
- (a) Customs Import Prohibition (Nitrous Oxide) Order 2026 (SL 2026/170):
- (b) Excise and Excise-equivalent Duties Table (Alcoholic Beverages Indexation) Amendment Order 2026:
- (c) Excise and Excise-equivalent Duties Table (Tobacco Products Indexation) Amendment Order 2025. 10
- 10 Road User Charges Act 2012**
- The Road User Charges (Rates) (Fuel Response) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SL 2026/185) are confirmed.
- 11 New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001 and Social Security Act 2018** 15
- The Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) Order 2026 (SL 2026/36) is confirmed.
- 12 Tariff Act 1988**
- The following orders are confirmed:
- (a) Tariff (Inherited Goods and Gift Concessions) Amendment Order 2025: 20
- (b) Tariff (RCEP) Amendment Order 2025.
- 13 Wine Act 2003**
- The Wine Amendment Regulations 2026 (SL 2026/156) are confirmed.

Legislative history

20 July 2026
23 July 2026

Introduction (Bill 333–1)
First reading and referral to Regulations Review Committee