



# Excise duty

## who can get refunds and how

Excise duty is a form of government tax on alcohol, fuel and tobacco products.

In some cases, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency can give refunds of excise duty on fuel.

### Who can get a refund?

You can get a refund of the excise duty and the goods and services tax (GST) on fuel used:

- in an exempt vehicle
- in a road user charges-licensed vehicle
- in a commercial vessel
- for search and rescue purposes in a dedicated rescue vessel
- for commercial purposes other than as fuel in any motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft.

#### Legislation

The legislation for fuel excise duty refunds is:

- the Land Transport Management Act 2003
- the Land Transport Management (Apportionment and Refund of Excise Duty and Excise-Equivalent Duty) Regulations 2004.

### What's an exempt vehicle?

An exempt vehicle is a motor vehicle that is:

- exempt from registration under part 17 of the Land Transport Act 1998 and used for commercial purposes, or
- a vehicle listed in the schedule to the regulations.

Generally, agricultural vehicles, some mobile machinery and commercial vehicles that don't travel on the road are exempt vehicles.

### Vessels

- a Coastguard vessel
- a commercial vessel. This could include a charter boat or fishing vessel.

All commercial vessels must be certified and used for commercial purposes.

Go to [www.maritimenz.govt.nz/commercial](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/commercial) for more.

### Fuel types eligible for a refund

- Petrol
- CNG
- LPG.

### Fuel types not eligible for a refund

- Any fuel used for a motor vehicle used mainly in vehicle races, trials, or other sporting events.
- Fuel used in recreational boats and pleasure craft.
- Fuel that has already had excise duty refunded.
- Diesel.

### ACC levy

Every time you licence your vehicle you pay an ACC levy, which goes into the ACC Motor Vehicle Account. The ACC Motor Vehicle Account covers the cost of accidents and rehabilitation for people injured in accidents.

The levy can be refunded on exempt vehicles and fuel used for commercial purposes. These refunds are automatically added onto the fuel excise duty refund.

However, owners of vehicles that are over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass and petrol powered must pay the Motor Vehicle Account levy, so it can't be added to the refund.

### How to claim a refund

You'll need to register to start claiming excise duty refunds. Complete the customer registration form and the MR70 claim form and send them to us at [fed@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:fed@nzta.govt.nz)

You can find the forms at [www.nzta.govt.nz/fed-refunds](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/fed-refunds)

When you register, you'll be allocated a customer number to use for all future claims.

You can claim for a period of two years. Applications must be completed quarterly, and you're allowed three months following the close of the quarter to submit your application. Quarters close 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December.

There is a 10% late penalty for applications.

Any claim made later than two years from the close of any quarter won't be accepted unless we are satisfied there are special circumstances.

You'll need to:

- correctly summarise all purchases and fuel used
- list all the vehicles that use the fuel you're claiming for
- give details of fuel used for commercial purposes.

Fuel must be used for commercial purposes to be eligible for a refund, so anything that is used for domestic, personal, or household use is not eligible. Any fuel used from your commercial supply for this purpose must be entered as ineligible use on the MR70 applications.

Claims are paid by direct credit to a nominated bank account and a summary payment advice is sent by email.

### Are claims subject to audit?

Yes. Waka Kotahi does audits on claims and may complete on-site inspections.

You're required to hold complete records, including copies of your applications and supporting documents, for at least seven years. You must be able to show those records if you're selected for an audit.

Under section 43 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, Waka Kotahi can prosecute anyone submitting incorrect or fraudulent claims. A fine of up to \$2000 can be imposed on summary conviction.

Serious cases may result in fraud charges being laid under the Crimes Act 1961.

Any claims that are incorrect or missing supporting information will not be accepted.

### More information

For more information about your eligibility and refunds:

- go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/fed-refunds](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/fed-refunds)
- email us at [fed@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:fed@nzta.govt.nz)
- write to us at  
Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency  
Private Bag 11777  
Palmerston North 4442

For more information on road user charges:

- go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/ruc)



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking [www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)



[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)



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