



The Food Business Levy

February 2025

Background

Through the careful and hard work of food producers over many years, New Zealand has a strong reputation for safe and suitable food. This strong reputation is underlined by a robust regulatory system, which is based on international best-practice and scientific evidence.

No matter how big or small the business, customers rightly expect that the food sold to them is safe and suitable. Our food safety system is critical to ensuring food businesses can deliver to those expectations everyday.

Food safety and suitability challenges have always existed, and the New Zealand food safety system adapts and assists businesses in managing these. Food businesses are also working in more innovative ways, trying new business models and production methods, and consumer preferences are diversifying. This has created new risks that need to be identified and managed by New Zealand's food safety system.



About the Food Business Levy

In 2024, the Government agreed to enhance core food safety services under the Food Act 2014 through the Food Business Levy.

Collectively, these food safety services will help food businesses and Local Councils improve the provision of safe food to New Zealanders. The levy will ensure regulatory support for innovation while strengthening the food safety system.



What will businesses get from the Food Business Levy?

- Better education and support to meet food safety and suitability requirements.
- Increased monitoring and taking prompt intervention to ensure the food safety system is working well.
- More support for providing a fair, consistent, and risk-appropriate level of verification, registry, and enforcement services to food businesses that do not follow the rules.
- Regular national campaigns to tackle systemic food safety or suitability issues.
- More effective, efficient, and up-to-date rules and standards with input from businesses.



Details about levy collection

The full Food Business Levy will be phased in over three years:

From 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	\$57.50 (plus GST)
From 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027	\$86.25 (plus GST)
From 1 July 2027	\$115.00 (plus GST) per year

The Food Business Levy is an annual charge for registered food businesses operating under a food control plan or national programme, which will be billed by their relevant registration authority (your Local Council or the Ministry for Primary Industries). If you are a new business, the levy will be billed at registration. Otherwise, businesses will be charged annually.



In addition, Councils can recover administration costs of \$11 (plus GST) per invoice raised or at time of renewal/registration.

Role between Local Council and the Ministry for Primary Industries

MPI and all local councils are registration authorities under the Food Act 2024, and register food businesses operating under risk-based measures, these being:

- 1 National programmes
- 2 Food control plans (FCPs) – custom or template



For information about who does what between local councils and MPI, check the [Information for authorities that register food businesses](#) webpage on MPI's website.

NZFSS&E_90PC 02/25



**For more
information**

Find out more online
[Food Act 2014 fees, charges,
and levies](#)

or email
foodactlevies@mpi.govt.nz