

Legislative Statement: Customs and Excise (Arrival Information) Amendment Bill – First reading

Introduction

1. The Bill amends the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (the Act) to:
 - provide for clearer arrival information obligations
 - improve the enforcement and functionality of the system
 - improve border management and passenger experience, by supporting a safer and smarter border
 - support modernising our border by making improvements to support the implementation of a digital arrival card.

Provisions of the Customs and Excise (Arrival Information) Amendment Bill

2. The Bill provides an explicit obligation on arriving passengers to provide prescribed arrival information.
3. The Bill creates two new offences, for failing to provide prescribed arrival information and for providing arrival information that is erroneous in a material particular. It will be a defence to these offences for a person to show that they took all reasonable steps to ensure the offence wasn't committed.
4. The Bill enables the making of regulations to set the time by which arrival information must be provided to the New Zealand Customs Service, and to exempt persons from the requirement to complete arrival information.
5. Finally, the Bill establishes a power for Customs to collect certain information about persons arriving in New Zealand to verify compliance with traveller requirements set out in legislation administered by other agencies. In the future, the Act will be amended to list relevant provisions in other legislation that prescribe these traveller requirements.
6. The commencement clause states that the Amendment Act will come into force on 21 June 2023.