

TRANSPORT SECTOR - ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Introduction

New Zealand is at COVID-19 alert **Level 4**, which includes severe restrictions on travel.

The primary aim of these restrictions is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in New Zealand by reducing contact between people to the bare minimum and stopping all but essential travel which is described below.

[Start from first principles](#)

[Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)

[Identification for essential workers](#)

[Aviation](#)

[Maritime \(including ferries\)](#)

[Land Transport \(including private vehicles\)](#)

[Maintenance of services – all transport modes](#)

[Maintaining the transport network](#)

[Key transport agency staff](#)

This document provides information about essential transport services during Level 4 of the COVID-19 response.

The efforts of essential workers and services, while the rest of New Zealand stays home, are critical to ensuring our safety and the ultimate success of the fight against COVID-19.

For the purpose of this guidance, essential services in the transport sector cover:

- anything identified in the COVID-19 website
- any transport service involved in the carriage of essential goods or essential workers
- permitted essential private travel; includes access to groceries, health care and facilitating shared custody

The exemption for entities and workers carrying out essential services in the transport sector only applies for the purpose of undertaking essential work. At all other times, i.e. when the workers or the services the entity carries out are not required, then these workers must avoid all-non essential travel and follow the guidance on the Ministry of Health website for alert level 4.

Please note that:

- **This guidance may change as the response to COVID-19 evolves.**
- Public transport used to transport people working in essential services (as defined by Covid-19 advisories) includes domestic aircraft, ferries, buses and trains;

- The entities and workers listed in this guidance must practice physical distancing and good hygiene even when undertaking essential work (see www.covid19.govt.nz). Additional guidance will be prepared for some parts of the sector, such as public transport for both operators and passengers;
- Essential workers may be asked, while travelling, to show who they work for. We encourage essential workers to carry some form of identification to show who they are, who they work for, and their role e.g. a letter from their employer or work ID;
- An entity that is part of the supply chain and listed in this document, is considered an essential service.

Start from first principles

When considering whether or not something is essential, please use good judgement and remember that the aim of the Level 4 alert is to keep people physically at home and separated from other people.

This is the best way to fight COVID-19 and ultimately save lives in New Zealand.

When using this guidance, consider:

- Does my work support the essentials of life such as emergency or medical services?
- Am I supplying or moving food, medicine, fuel or other supplies essential to maintain life?
- Is my work crucial to keeping essential services running? If so, can I perform this work on an on-demand or as-required basis?
- Stretching the definition of “essential for life” undermines the purpose of COVID-19 alert level 4 and puts more lives at risk.
- If you have non-essential goods blocking movement of essential goods, then you should move your non-essential goods to storage elsewhere, but only to get them out of the way of essential goods.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment requirements for essential workers not in the health sector is available at the www.covid19.govt.nz website. covid19.govt.nz/latest-updates/guidance-for-wearing-protective-equipment/

Identification for essential workers

Police are taking every measure to help keep the supply chains flowing as efficiently as possible, whilst still limiting the movement of non-essential people.

Police will take a reasonable approach and endeavour to confirm the role of anyone spoken to, for example by the individual producing to the Police officer a:

- letter of authorisation on company letterhead, or
- company identification card, or
- business card with company logo, or
- copy of an email from a company manager.

If they have doubts about any identification produced, Police officers have been directed to make enquiries by telephone to confirm identification.

There is no official or standard identification card or similar for workers who are required to be out in the community delivering essential services.

Aviation

Personnel who work in air services, airlines and airports, when undertaking an essential service e.g.

- Security, border staff and air traffic control
- Freight and baggage handlers
- Air crew

Any other key personnel needed to keep the airport and airlines, and the movement of people and air freight, operational.

In relation to other services at airports, vending machines, or dairy-like services providing pre-packaged food, sealed drinks (no alcohol) and essential items like medicine are permitted at an airport. No cafés or other retail can open.

Domestic air travel

Domestic air travel is only permitted for essential workers relating to the response function for COVID-19 and emergency and essential services.

Travelling on domestic aircraft to connect to an international flight is not permitted. At this stage, this includes travelling on privately chartered aircraft to connect to an international flight.

Passengers arriving from overseas

- New Zealand's borders were closed to international transit passengers from 0200 hours Thursday 26 March 2020 (NZDT); except for agreed exemptions
- Passengers who arrive on international flights after 0200 hours Thursday 26 March 2020 (NZDT) will not be able to connect to a domestic flight during the first 14 days after arrival

Self-isolation and transport required for all arriving passengers

- For all flights arriving in New Zealand after 0200 hours Thursday 26 March 2020, passengers will be required to have an appropriate self-isolation plan in their city of arrival for the first 14-day period, including transport to their accommodation.
- Appropriate transport is a private car parked at the airport, being picked up by someone else who will live in the same self-isolation location. The self-isolation location must be within 5-hour drive of the airport.
- If passengers do not have appropriate transport to their place of isolation in their arrival port, officials may provide transport if that is possible within the local area. If that transport is not possible, they will be placed in local accommodation which has been approved for isolation for 14 days.
- For those passengers who do not have an appropriate plan for isolation, accommodation and transport to that approved accommodation will be arranged by the Government for the 14-day period.
- After the 14-day isolation period people can move on to their final destination by domestic air travel, public transport, ferries or private vehicle.

Pilot examination and competency

Flight examination and competency assessment only for checking pilots holding commercial and air transport pilot licenses necessary for the provision of essential aviation services.

Recreation flying

Recreational flying is not permitted.

Maritime

All personnel involved in the movement of freight by ship, internationally and domestically, when undertaking an essential service e.g.

- Security, border staff and maritime officers
- Ship pilots
- Maritime staff
- Engineers
- Stevedores
- Ships' agents
- Port agents
- Appropriate port and portside staff (including port logistics).

Any maritime staff performing the operation of ferry services and water taxis, for essential workers, and essential trips for others only e.g. for access to food and healthcare.

This includes the operation of ferries (e.g. the Cook Strait ferries) to move essential freight and essential workers.

Maritime passengers

Ferries (e.g. Cook Strait ferries) can only be used for essential freight and by essential workers for the purpose of essential work or services.

Public transport ferries can be used for essential trips only, e.g. for access to food and healthcare.

Port operations

The use of essential workers to move essential goods and provide essential services is paramount and must be prioritised above all other goods and services at the Port.

Only in the following circumstances can non-essential goods at a port be transported:

1. if essential workers are already located at the port for the purpose of dealing with essential goods; **and**
2. if the movement of non-essential goods at the Port does not impact on:
 - 2.1 the movement of essential goods or
 - 2.2 the delivery of essential services at the Port; **or**

3. if the movement of non-essential goods are required to create space for essential goods and the movement of essential goods within the port and across the supply chain. In this instance, the non-essential goods are classified as essential for the purposes of moving them to an alternative storage facility.

With respect to 3 above:

- additional workers that are required to enter the Port, to assist with the movement of non-essential goods to create space for essential goods, become essential workers for the purpose of moving those goods; and
- those goods should only be moved to a place of storage to get them out of the way of essential goods.

Shore leave for international maritime workers

Shore leave is only permitted where:

- the vessel/crew have been away from their last Port of call for more than 14 days
- there has been no suggestion of COVID-19
- they have a place to go to self-isolate, and
- they will travel direct to that place of self-isolation and comply with the Ministry of Health requirements for alert level 4.

Recreational boating

Recreational boating is not permitted.

Search and Rescue

Any entity which has arrangements with Maritime New Zealand (including RCCNZ) or the New Zealand Police, to support search and rescue activity is an essential service.

This includes (but is not exclusive to): Coastguard, LandSAR, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, Surf Life Saving NZ, Rescue/Emergency helicopters, and Department of Conservation Rescue Teams.

Land Transport

Private travel (personal vehicles)

- People can drive personal vehicles for essential trips only e.g. to access groceries or healthcare.
- Couples with shared custody of children can move between the two homes - if they are in the same community.
- Essential workers can also use their personal vehicle to get to and from their place of work.

Buses and trains

Workers involved in the operation of public transport services – buses and trains e.g.

- Operators
- Drivers
- Enforcement officers

Small passenger services (taxis and ride-share)

Workers involved in the operation of small passenger transport services e.g.

- Small passenger service operator
- Driver
- Total Mobility Scheme providers.

Some restrictions will exist in the use of small passenger services on the Ministry of Transport website soon.

Rental services

Essential workers are permitted to use rental vehicles.

Any rental vehicle service operator that provides rental vehicle services under contract to businesses providing essential services can continue to provide those services.

Recreational rental vehicle hire is not permitted.

The key rental service personnel needed to maintain the leasing, collection, relocation and cleaning of rental vehicles used in essential service provision (e.g. to get to self isolation).

Car-share

Any car share operator that provides car share services under contract to businesses providing essential services – for example District Health Boards or Regional and Local Councils - can continue to provide that car share service. They must provide appropriate cleaning of vehicles.

Where long-term membership exists, customers may continue to utilise the vehicle where they are the only person or people from the same isolation group using that vehicle.

It is not acceptable for car share vehicles to be provided under any other circumstances e.g. on a per hour basis.

Delivery of freight by land

Workers and operators involved in the delivery of essential goods (as defined in essential services list on the COVID-19 website) by road and rail freight e.g.

- Road and Rail Freight Operators and Receivers
- Drivers, including: large trucks and trains, grocery distribution (e.g. supermarkets and My Food Bag)
- Logistics firms and their contractors
- Courier services and postal operators

If there are non-essential goods blocking the movement of essential goods, then the non-essential goods can be moved to storage elsewhere. At this time, the distribution of non-essential goods is not permitted.

Maintenance services – all transport modes

Workers involved in the provision of essential maintenance and safety services where the services are limited to:

- maintaining other essential services and their vehicles (e.g. repairing emergency vehicles, aircraft and ships/boats, and parts replacement for these craft moving essential freight); or
- essential recovery and/or repair of private vehicles, where needed to keep a private vehicle operating for essential purposes e.g. to get groceries and healthcare.

Ideally, these services would be provided on demand. The types of capability deemed essential are:

- Maintenance and engineering staff
- Vehicle recovery and assistance services
- Vehicle repairers, inspectors, certifiers, mechanics and vehicle part providers.

Warrant of Fitness (WoF) and Certification of Fitness (CoF)

The Ministry of Transport and NZ Transport Agency are working to put in place formal regulation relating to WOFs and COFs during the Level 4 Alert Period. In the interim, the following guidance is provided.

Personal and private vehicles: WOF requirements

- Obtaining a new WOF is **not** regarded as an essential trip during Alert Level 4. Members of the public should **not** travel for this purpose, and businesses should **not** provide WOF services to the general public who are not essential workers.
- Due to the inability to obtain a new WOF at this time, for the period of Alert Level 4, all expired WOFs will be deemed current.
- Any person driving a private vehicle during Alert Level 4 (limited to essential purposes), with a current or expired WOF, has a responsibility to ensure the vehicle is safe to operate.
- Essential maintenance and repairs can be provided in order to ensure that a private vehicle remains safe and operational when used for essential purposes.
- Police are focussed on road safety. As such, vehicles with serious safety issues identified (i.e. those that threaten a vehicle's safe operation) may be ordered off the road by Police until essential safety repairs have been completed. However, Police will **not** issue infringement notices for an expired WOF during Alert Level 4.

Essential services: WOF/COF requirements

- Obtaining a WOF/COF is regarded as an essential trip for vehicles involved in essential services, and their supply chains, during Alert Level 4.
- Essential services can request and be provided with COF services, including any maintenance or repairs required.
- During the period of Alert Level 4, an expired WOF/COF on a vehicle used for essential services will be deemed current, if it is impractical for it to be renewed.
- If driving an essential service vehicle without a current WOF/COF, operators and drivers continue to have responsibilities to ensure the vehicle is safe for operating.

- Repairs needed to make a vehicle safe to carry out an essential service, are themselves an essential service and can be commissioned and carried out.
- Police are focussed on road safety. As such, drivers of vehicles used for essential services where serious safety issues are identified (i.e. those that threaten the vehicles safe operation) may have that vehicle ordered off the road by Police, until essential safety repairs have been completed. However, Police will **not** issue infringements for an expired WOF/COF to essential service vehicle drivers during the Alert Level 4 period.

Maintaining the transport network

Contractors and subcontractors related to the agencies identified below, that are necessary to address immediate and short-term risks to safety on the transport network e.g.

- Traffic controllers
- Emergency works staff
- Cleaning staff critical for safe operations

Any works, including capital works that are not required for the safe and efficient operation of the transport network must be stood down until the end of the Level 4 Alert period.

Key transport agency staff

Essential transport staff from the following agencies:

- Ministry of Transport
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Civil Aviation Authority (including Aviation Security Service)
- Maritime New Zealand (including the Rescue Coordination Centre and Maritime Radio)
- Airways NZ
- MetService
- KiwiRail, including Interislander
- Local and regional authorities

This only applies for staff members of these agencies, which need to be exempt from Alert Level 4 movement controls, in order to: support the response to COVID-19, support the response to any other emergency, perform national security functions, perform a required statutory or regulatory function, or perform any other critical function (identified by their Chief Executive).