

# Fire and Emergency Levy Calculations for Marine policies

(with effect from July 2026)

Levy calculations can be tricky at times and a little confusing as to when they should be applied. We have therefore put together a calculation guide below for you to keep as a handy reference tool.

The table below relates to the **increased Fire and Emergency Levy rates** for new risks and renewals from 1 July 2026. See [Fees and Government Levies | Vero](#) for more information.

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY LEVIES (WEF 1 JULY 2026)

TYPE	WHEN APPLICABLE	CALCULATION
<b>Boats and other watercraft</b>		
<b>Moored, Trailered Boats</b>	Exempt if within definition of 'ship' s2 Maritime Transport Act 1994	Exempt, even when being transported on land as cargo
<b>Amphibious boats e.g. Sealegs</b> [s2 Maritime Transport Act 1994 definition of ship includes a hovercraft, which also operates on land and water]	Exempt. By analogy within definition of 'ship' s2 Maritime Transport Act 1994	Exempt, even when being transported on land as cargo
<b>Property insured on boat / hull policies</b> That is separately identified / specified on the policy's schedule Fishing or Diving Equipment- separate Sum Insured on Pleasurecraft policy schedule	(Potentially subject to FEL as non-residential / commercial property)  If a separate Sum Insured, Fishing or Diving Equipment attracts FEL	<b>Fishing or Diving Equipment:</b> non-residential property rate of 0.0776% on Diving and Fishing Gear Sum Insured if a separate Sum Insured as shown on a Pleasurecraft policy schedule.  Fishing gear on commercial fishing vessels: if a separate Sum Insured on the Policy Schedule, exempt as part of ship / ship's gear
Boat Personal Effects – as defined in Vero wording	Exempt, as part of ship's equipment	
Boat's Gear – as defined in Vero wording	Exempt, as part of ship's equipment	
<b>Trailers for use on public roads</b>	Flat FEL amount, as per Private Motor Vehicle FEL	NZD 25 per trailer
<b>Hand-pushed dinghy trolleys</b> (e.g. from boatshed to/from water)  Specified Sum insured – i.e. where separately identified / specified on the policy's Schedule	Subject to FEL as non-residential / commercial property	0.0776% on Sum Insured
Where the insurer does not know the Sum Insured, but has a total Sum Insured for a number of boats and their trolleys	Insurers will continue the practice of taking 10% of the Sum Insured as the value of the trolleys (90% = boats) and then apply the non-residential / commercial property FEL rate on the 10%.	0.0776% on 10% of the Sum Insured
<b>Floating berths</b>	If usually afloat and single maritime use for ship: Exempt from FEL as ship's equipment	Exempt

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Cargo in transit		
<b>Boats as cargo</b>	Exempt if within the definition of 'ship' s2 Maritime Transport Act 1994	Exempt
<b>House contents, when moving house within NZ</b>	From one location in NZ to another e.g. Auckland to Hamilton.	0.1074% on Sum Insured, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52). Maximum FEL is NZD 21.48 For FEL purposes, a transit is calculated as a week, even if the actual transit time is known. If there is a separate period of storage, see Cargo in Storage below.
<b>Buildings and part buildings in transit</b>	(Usually) wooden buildings being moved as cargo. Buildings in transit are not deemed as dwellings, and are thus rated as non-residential/commercial property	0.0776% on Sum Insured, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52).
<b>Livestock in local NZ transit</b>	(Usually) from one location in NZ to another, on a livestock transporter	0.0194% on Sum Insured, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52). No FEL cap applies Example: a truckload of livestock valued at NZD 250,000 transported between two NZ locations: $(\text{NZD } 250,000 \times 0.0194\%) \div 52$ = Levy payable NZD 0.93
<b>Aircraft insured as cargo</b>		0.0776% on Sum Insured, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52) Maximum FEL per aircraft NZD 77.60
<b>Motor Vehicles</b> (cars, caravans, road trailers, motorbikes, etc)  In local transit within NZ	Usually on a flatbed or vehicle transporter. It doesn't matter if the vehicle is registered or not, as being registered is not necessary to be within the definition of 'motor vehicle' in section 2(1) of the Land Transport Act 1998. Subject to the flat Motor FEL of NZD 25 as cargo	NZD 25 flat FEL per vehicle, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52) Underwriters will need to know the number of vehicles for this FEL calculation.
Imported into NZ, e.g. Imported CIF Hamilton through the Port of Auckland	Exempt as part of international transit.	Remains an (exempt) import up until delivery (in Hamilton)
<b>Cash / Money</b> insured as cargo	Usually in specialised secure 'armoured' transport	Exempt. 'Money' is FEL-exempt
<b>All other commercial cargo in local transit in NZ</b>	Includes mining equipment, vehicles and aircraft when carried as cargo. (Boats are exempt when carried as cargo).  Where a minimum & deposit premium is paid, based on a declared estimated sendings figure, a provisional FEL calc is charged, and is then adjusted at the end of the policy period.	0.0776% on Sum Insured, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52).
<b>International, including FAS, FOB, CFR (NZ port)</b>	Where a contract of fire insurance covers goods while being imported to or exported from New Zealand	International goods are exempt from FEL whilst in international transit.

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Cargo in storage		
House contents, when moving house within NZ, that includes a period of storage	From one location in NZ to another e.g. Auckland to Christchurch, which includes (a) period(s) of storage	0.1074% on Sum Insured, pro-rated to one week (calculated as 1/52), then x number of weeks.  Time in storage is rounded up to include part-weeks e.g. 7 weeks 1 day & 3 hours in store is 8 weeks  Maximum FEL is NZD 21.48 across both transit and storage.
All other cargo, stored in NZ outside of 'the ordinary course of transit'	For annual storage cover, or a defined Sum Insured for (a) store(s), FEL is calculated in the same way levy is applied to contracts of fire insurance covering non-residential/commercial property.	0.0776% on Sum Insured  For example, Store A has a maximum Limit of NZD 2,000,000  Calculation: FEL payable on storage limit NZD 2m @ 0.0776%
Storage of cargo overseas	Exempt as not within NZ	Exempt
Builders Risk		
Single project Boat Building	Insured as per single project Contracts Works insurance. FEL is calc from inception to the earlier of launching or contract termination.  If a boat being built includes a trailer being built as a separate identifiable item, FEL is charged on that trailer from the time the boat is launched.	0.0388% on Sum Insured pro-rated based on the number of days of the build.  Calculation example: 2.5 year build (= 913 days) NZD2,000,000 @ 0.0388% = \$776 ÷ 365 = \$2.126 x 913 days = \$1,941.06 Plus trailer at NZD 25  Total FEL = NZD 1,966.06  If there is a later change to the Sum Insured or build period, both premium and FEL are re-calculated going back to policy inception.  When the boat is launched, it becomes 'a ship' so the latter part of the build with in-water fit-out and sea trials are exempt.  Note: it will be a simpler calculation if we as insurers know the at-launch Sum Insured so the FEL can be estimated at the outset.
Annual Boat Building risks		0.0388% on estimated annual values built, adjusted at the end of the annual period.  Plus NZD 25 per trailer

(Calculation table effective as at July 2026)



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