

What's changing and why

Overseas investment will support New Zealand's economic recovery post COVID-19, so businesses can continue to grow and evolve, and keep more New Zealanders in jobs. Like all countries, New Zealand relies on overseas investment as a vital contributor to economic growth. But we need to make sure overseas investment is responsible and benefits New Zealand. The Overseas Investment (Urgent Measures) Amendment Act 2020 supports the Government's business response package while ensuring the right checks and balances are in place to protect those businesses important to our national security, economy, and communities.

Role of the Overseas Investment Office

The Overseas Investment Office, part of Land Information New Zealand, regulates overseas investment in New Zealand's sensitive land, significant business assets and fishing quota. It is responsible for applying the Overseas Investment Act and will be operating the changes proposed in the Overseas Investment (Urgent Measures) Amendment Act 2020. The Overseas Investment Office informs investors and advisors, assesses applications, recommends and makes decisions, and monitors and enforces consents.



Overseas investment – what's changing

	What's changing	Who's involved	What action to take
 <p>Temporary emergency notification required</p>	<p>Overseas investors will need to notify the Overseas Investment Office of all overseas investments resulting in more than 25% overseas ownership of a New Zealand business or its assets, or an increase to an existing holding beyond 50, 75 or 100% being acquired. These transactions will be assessed to ensure they are in line with New Zealand's national interests.</p>	<p>Overseas investors that meet requirements and New Zealand businesses seeking overseas investment</p>	<p>Overseas investors and businesses seeking investment should get advice from their advisors, for example a lawyer or accountant. Notifications will commence from 16 June via www.linz.govt.nz/OIONewrules. If you are unsure whether you need to notify, or if you have any questions, please email the Overseas Investment Office.</p>
 <p>New national interest assessment</p>	<p>A new national interest assessment will also be applied to transactions that already need consent. Whether it applies depends on whether it is a strategically important asset, a non-New Zealand government investor, or an area of specific national interest. This will ensure that overseas investments in sensitive and high-risk assets are not contrary to New Zealand's national interests.</p>	<p>Overseas investors currently screened</p>	<p>Overseas investors should seek advice from a legal advisor about what this change may mean for an application – the assessment will only be applied in limited situations as it is intended to be used rarely.</p>
 <p>Simplified screening regime</p>	<p>The existing rules have been simplified so that some low risk transactions no longer need consent. These changes will help listed companies and investments that adjoin sensitive land. Examples involve excluding some low risk transactions such as certain types of lending from screening, and reducing the amount of information that investors need to provide in their applications, amongst other things.</p>	<p>Overseas investors</p>	<p>Overseas investors should seek advice from a legal advisor. If you have an application already with the Overseas Investment Office, your assessor will contact you over the coming weeks if these law changes may affect your application.</p>



Stronger enforcement powers

The Overseas Investment Office also gets stronger enforcement powers which supports the Office to act against overseas investors who don't comply.

For more information, go to www.linz.govt.nz/OIONewrules, email oio@linz.govt.nz or call 0800 665 463 (New Zealand only) or +64 4 460 0110 (international callers)