



Notice to Industry

04/2013

18 January 2012

Increased Value of Penalty Units for Commonwealth Offences

Who does this notice affect?

The change affects passengers and air-crew travelling to Australia, senders and receivers of international mail and other people or companies who fail to comply with their obligations and commit offences under the *Quarantine Act 1908*.

The change will be reflected in infringement notices issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and court-imposed fines.

Summary

Amendments to the *Criminal Code Act 1995* have given effect to an increase in Commonwealth penalty unit value from \$110 to \$170 for offences under most Commonwealth laws.

The new penalty unit value took effect on **28 December 2012**, resulting in passenger and crew infringement notices increasing from a maximum of \$220 to \$340 for infringement notice offences. This will also affect court imposed fines.

This change was necessary to ensure that financial penalties remain effective punishments (and deterrents) for the commission of Commonwealth offences.

Background

Amendments to the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, under the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious Drugs, Identity Crime and Other Measures) Bill, received Royal Assent on 28 November 2012 and commenced on 28 December 2012.

Most Commonwealth laws have the financial penalties expressed as 'penalty units' rather than a dollar amount, with the value of the penalty unit defined in the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious Drugs, Identity Crime and Other Measures) Bill and all supplementary material are available from the Parliament House web-site: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=r4907

Further Information

For further information please contact [Airports Inbox](mailto:airports@daff.gov.au) (airports@daff.gov.au).