

# Owning an Aircraft on 1 July

The Annual Registration Fee and Participation Levy are invoiced on 1 July to the registered aircraft owner on that day. However, there can be some confusion about who must pay these, especially if the aircraft is sold around this time.

**T**he fee and levy are charged under the *Civil Aviation (Safety) Levies Amendment Order 2012* and are invoiced to the registered owner of an aircraft. They are calculated based on the maximum certified takeoff weight of the aircraft.

The registered owner of the aircraft as at 1 July 2015 must pay the fee and levy regardless of the state of airworthiness, or a pending sale of the aircraft.

The Civil Aviation Act 1990 defines the "owner" of an aircraft to be the person lawfully entitled to possession of the aircraft for 28 days or longer. That means if you lease the aircraft for 28 days or longer, you are deemed to be the owner.

The invoice is due on 20 July 2015 and once issued cannot be transferred to anyone else. If this invoice is not paid, the aircraft may be deregistered, but the fee and levy are still collectable. If the aircraft is deregistered the Airworthiness Certificate, or Flight Permit, is revoked and the aircraft cannot be legally flown.

## Change of Ownership

Buyers and sellers can come to an arrangement themselves about who pays the fee and levy. Both the buyer and seller complete the change of possession form – there is guidance about this on the CAA web site, [www.caa.govt.nz](http://www.caa.govt.nz), "Aircraft – Change of Possession".

## Buying or Leasing

If you plan on buying or leasing an aircraft after 1 July, you should make sure that the fee and levy have been paid by the previous owner. Otherwise, the aircraft could be deregistered, or you may find that you will end up paying for the outstanding invoice.

## Selling

If you are selling before 1 July, and want the new owner to be liable for the fee and levy, a change of possession application using form 24047/03 and the application fee, must be received and actioned by the CAA before 1 July 2015. If the aircraft is still in your name on 1 July, you are liable for the invoice, even though you may have sold the aircraft. If you sell your aircraft on 2 July you are still liable for the invoice and will need to negotiate with the new owner if you want them to pay the levy and fee.

## Deregistering the Aircraft

If the aircraft is not likely to fly in the near future, or is not airworthy, you can deregister it so you won't have to pay the fee and levy. Before deregistering, however, you should consider the costs to re-register the aircraft in the future.

A deregistration request must be received and actioned by the CAA before 1 July, using form 24047/05, otherwise the fee and levy must still be paid.

The fee and levy contribute towards the maintenance of the Aircraft Register and safety services provided by the CAA. That includes: safety investigation and analysis, review and publishing of airworthiness directives, safety promotion such as *Vector* magazine, safety seminars, the CAA web site, and other safety activities.

It is also your responsibility to promptly notify the CAA of any address or contact detail changes. If you have any queries about the fee and levy, email: [Aircraft.Registrar@caa.govt.nz](mailto:Aircraft.Registrar@caa.govt.nz). ■

