

Model Flying New Zealand Large Model Certification



MFNZ Large Model Inspection fee

MFNZ Large Model Inspection fee effective from January 1st 2024 are as follows:

- \$95 Cat 1&3 at point of registration **One-Off fee**
- \$150 Cat 2A at point of registration **One-Off fee**
- \$200 Cat 2B at point of registration **One-Off fee**
- \$75 Cat 1&3 every 5 years
- \$75 Cat 2A every 3 years
- \$75 Cat 2B annually

Large Model Registration Fee Explanation

The LMC role has taken on increased importance (and time) as the regulatory framework we work within has grown and indeed continues to grow.

On average the LMC processes 40>50 new registrations a year additionally a large number of older registrations, inspections and flight testing are also carried out.

Couple this with re-inspections for Cat 2a (every 3 years), Cat 2b (every year) and Cat 1&3 (every 5 years) numerous emails and phone calls answering a range of questions plus producing documentation to meet the regulators expectation is very time consuming, on average up to 15 hours/wk.

MFNZ relies on volunteers to operate but feel the time has come to introduce a funding stream "user pays" framework around our LM operation and the people that support it.

When the LM scheme was first introduced some 25 years ago the aircraft were far less costly/complex and the regulations around them even simpler, but times have changed!

We now have Imac style LM aircraft that require many thousands of dollars to complete and jets upwards of \$50k plus all the scale subjects in between bristling with current day power plants and avionics...big \$\$\$\$!

The registration fees are really a pittance of what these aircraft cost and we believe to retain the service provided to LM operators by MFNZ and IAW regulation it is time to introduce a "user pay" cost to assist those who provide you the service.

It must also be remembered whether we like it or not we operate entirely by the grace of CAA Part 101/102. Without the approvals and concessions CAA regulation grant us our LM's would in the stroke of a pen cease to legally fly. This would see an end to all model cops over 15kg and aircraft that have more than 88cc size engines, 142n turbines or 5kW electric motors gone!

It therefore follows that the very people that on behalf of all LM operators ensure these concessions continue to exist are in some way reimbursed for their time and effort.

The registration fee first raised in the November 2022 MFW and reminded as recently as the November 2023 MFW magazine came into effect from January 1st 2024.

The fees set sees the Large Model Controller receiving a modest honorarium and inspectors that complete 3 or more inspections a year receive free MFNZ annual membership.

This move to user pays has not been taken lightly by council, but the unanimous feeling is the partial User Pays model saves the wider membership having to meet the admin costs for LMs and needs to be introduced to help secure the future of Large Model operations.