



December 2017

2018 APC renewal

Your APC needs to be renewed by 31 March 2018. Here's what you need to know.

- As previously advised, you must renew online. We're not offering a paper application form this year. If you have concerns about this, [contact us](#) now.
- You can pay by direct credit or credit card.
- We'll contact you in early February with details on how to renew. Make sure your email address is up to date, especially if you were with Vodafone. [Contact us](#) if you need to update.
- The fee remains unchanged from last year and is **\$559**. If you apply **before the close of business on 28 February 2018**, you pay a discounted fee of **\$533**.
- You need to apply before 31 March 2018. It's illegal to practise without an APC.

Minimum practising standards

If you're in clinical practice, you'll need to review and complete two checklists, which check whether you're meeting the Council's minimum practising standards. In 2018, you'll be asked to review animal welfare and veterinary medicines. The checklists will be available in the new year.

CPD

- All vets need to comply with our [CPD requirements](#).
- You need at least **60 CPD points over a 3 year period**, with at least 15 points each in collegial activity and continuing education.
- Each year when you renew your APC, we ask you to declare your CPD for the previous year.

- If you haven't met the requirements **over the last 3 years**, your APC won't automatically be issued. We'll contact you if there appears to be an issue with your CPD.
- Serious cases of non-compliance with CPD requirements may be referred to the Council.
- If you haven't been working at all times over the last 3 years, the requirements may be prorated. This will be addressed during the application process.

CPD compliance monitoring

Each year we audit the CPD of around 10% of veterinarians. In 2018, **CPD audits will be in July**. If you're selected for a CPD audit, we'll be in touch with you in 2018 in **April/May**.

Information for employers who pay APC fees in bulk

We've already contacted employers who've paid their staff's APC fees in bulk in the past. If you've done this previously, you can only continue to do so if you're paying for **25 or more** veterinarians.

The deadline for bulk payments is **30 January**. This deadline will be strictly enforced.

Ministry of Health consultation

The code of practice for non-medical uses of radiation sources has just been released for public [consultation](#).

This is a higher level document that sets the requirements for all uses of radiation sources that don't involve medical exposure to human patients. This includes the veterinary use of x-ray equipment and radioactive material. These more general requirements will be explained more specifically for veterinarians in a veterinary compliance guide to be issued in mid-2018. The compliance guide will effectively take the requirements in the code that is now released for public consultation and explain how they should be interpreted for veterinary uses.

Submissions close 5pm, Monday 29 January. Details on how to submit are on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

From everyone at VCNZ, we wish you happy holidays
and a peaceful start to 2018.

The VCNZ office will be closed from
Friday 22 December until Wednesday 3 January.