

# Westlaw NZ

## Checking currency of Legislation

No instructions can be fail-safe – there might be occasions where things have been missed, or there is a delay in the information being received by Thomson Reuters, or somebody has been ill or on leave etc. Mistakes do happen and there can never be a cast-iron guarantee as to accuracy.

### Finding Future Legislation

Once an Act has been assented, but the Act isn't yet in force, Westlaw NZ legislation is updated with a "future version" tab so you can see what the legislation will look like when the change comes into effect.

From the left side of the home page, click the Legislation and Commentary search template

- Step 1: Into the Legislation (Title) field, enter the name of the Act or Legislative Instrument
- Step 2: From the foot of the search template, untick Law in Force
- Step 3: Place a tick into Prospective Law
- Step 4: Click Search

The result screen will indicate the upcoming changes. Some of these may be amendments, new sections or definitions, and you will see symbols (status flags) which act as visual prompts for you to recognize the status of the legislation you're looking at. Hover your mouse over these symbols to see what they mean.

The future changes are not always listed in the order one might expect. We are working on this.

### Important Note:

If a future legislative change is scheduled to come into force within 21 days of receipt of the amending authority, a "future version" tab will not appear. In all instances, users should also check the Updater Tab on the title page/front page of the piece of legislation they are looking at, where such changes will be referred to.

### Checking a single piece of legislation

To search for legislative changes that have taken place for a specific piece of legislation for the month of August 2017, from the left side of the home page, click the Legislation and Commentary search template

- Step 1: Into the Legislation (Title) field, enter the name of the Act or Legislative Instrument
- Step 2: Into the Free Text field enter the following search string:  
*"As from" +5 "august 2017" /10 amended or substituted or inserted or replaced or repealed or revoked or deleted or expired*
- Step 3: From the foot of the search template, ensure that Law in Force and Historic Law are both ticked
- Step 4: Click Search

## Checking multiple pieces of legislation

Follow the steps above, entering up to 5 pieces of legislation at the same time (see below). You can choose the first of those titles from the drop-down list, but will have to manually enter the other titles (including speech marks), and using the "or" search operator.

Legislation (Title)	"Accident Compensation Act 2001" or "building act 2004" or "companies act 1993"
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## Westlaw NZ Updater

You can also check the WLNZ Updater for changes. This product is updated daily (it is part of Westlaw NZ's core legislation offering, so if you don't subscribe to Statutes and Regulations you won't see it). It is located under the General Practice title on the WLNZ home page.

Updater will only contain future changes that have not had future versions created, and amendments proposed by Bills. If a future version has been created, the change will no longer be listed in the Updater.

Step 1: Click the + symbol beside General Practice title in the middle pane of WLNZ

Step 2: Click the + symbol beside Updater - a list of options appears

Step 3: Click on the legislation you want eg Amended Statutes

Step 4: Scroll through the list to see what legislation has been amended (you will be able to see which sections have been amended, the name of the amending authority and the date in force)

## Checking Alert 24 Thomson Reuters Product Watch – Legal

To find new amending Acts and Regulations, a good option is to run a free text search across all of the Alert24s you subscribe to, as well as the *Thomson Reuters Product Watch - Legal*.

Step 1: From the News and Current Awareness search title in the left pane, find *Alert 24 Thomson Reuters Product Watch – Legal*, click on this to open the search template

Step 2: Into the Free Text field, enter the names of the Acts or LIs you want to be alerted to

Step 3: Click Search

### Important Note:

There can be a lag of a week or more between when a change is made and when it appears in the *What's New*, so there is a chance that the alert may not trigger until a week or more after the change is made if the only place the change is mentioned is *Product Watch*.

Please note that *Product Watch* is focussed on Practice Areas, so the legislation mentioned in *Product Watch* will only be the legislation that is included in the Practice Areas that you subscribe to.

## Creating Alerts

Remember that you can create an Alert for some of these steps with your OnePass – this will save you having to work through every step each time you want to do a check.

If you are searching on the first day of each month, for example, you could create your Alert so that it is saved, and you won't have to continually recreate it. In the following month, you could retrieve your search from your Alerts and edit it slightly to alter the month that it is searching.

So, to search for changes that took place in July 2017 your search string would be:

"As from" +5 "july 2017" /10 amended or substituted or inserted or replaced or repealed or revoked or deleted or expired

The following month you could retrieve that Alert and change it to:

"As from" +5 "august 2017" /10 amended or substituted or inserted or replaced or repealed or revoked or deleted or expired