

What are Spot Fines?

Spot Fines can be issued for minor unlawful misdemeanours by a peace officer (usually a policeman) in cases when the offender admits guilt. By that both state and accused save themselves the time and money for a magistrate issuing a formal verdict – you pay your fine and the case is closed.

What is the maximum amount I may pay at the spot?

As stipulated in the Vehicle Registration and Licensing Act CH 13:14 Section 52, 2b, spot Fines may not be issued for fines higher than Level Three, thus amounting to no more than 20 US\$

What is the procedure if it comes to Spot Fines?

This procedure is laid out in the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act [Chapter 9:07]. When you are alleged to have committed an offence, a notice/ticket is given to you by the respective officer as soon as the offence is observed. The ticket gives the offender two options:

a) Admission of guilt and paying a fine

You need to fill an Admission of Guilt (Form Z69 (j)) and pay the fee on the spot or request using Form 265 which requires you to pay your fine at a Police Station within 7 days.

b) Appearing in court

If you do not want to admit guilt, your cases will be forwarded to the respective magistrate, the time and date of your summons should be stated on the ticket. You can submit your version of the events to the magistrate for consideration.

On your date of your summons the level of your fine or its dismissal will be decided upon by the respective magistrate.

Does the ticket expire?

After having been fined for a defect on your vehicle you have to replace it 'as soon as possible'. If you are to be fined quite soon for the same fault a second time and it was not possible to replace the respective part meanwhile, your option is to take the case to the magistrates court (see option b) above). This will give you the option to state your reasons and may lead to the charges dropped or your fine reduced if the magistrate is convinced.

Can I get my Spot Fine back or lower it?

You can admit your guilt (see above) *and* still ask the magistrate to consider your mitigating circumstances. For that you should pass your version of events to the magistrate in writing copying the authority reporting your offence. The magistrate might drop your charges or lower your fine. In this case you can claim your money back from the respective authority.

What can I do on the spot if I disagree with the accusation or expect corruption?

If charged with an offense and disagreeing with the officer you might:

- Check that the officer has a force number
- Ask for the legal basis of your alleged offense
- Always request a ticket
- Ask to see the superior of the respective officer
- Call the National Complaints Line of the Zimbabwean Republic Police: (04) 703 631
- Not admit guilt and appear at the magistrates court

Keep in mind that even the attempt to bribe is punishable by law with up to twenty years in prison.

Fines for Traffic Offenses

(Common Offences and Regulated Fines part 1 – CO, Vehicle Registration & Licensing Act (CHAP.12:14) – VR)

Abusive behaviour (VR)	\$10	No number plate (VR)	\$10
Axles Overloading 1-50 (VR)	\$10	No rear number plate light (VR)	\$5
51-200 (VR)	\$15	Overtaking over solid white line (VR)	\$20
201-400 (VR)	\$20	Double parking (VR)	\$5
+ 400 (VR)	court	Stop or park within 7.5 mt. of intersection (VR)	\$15
Brakes not working at all/No brakes at all (CO)	\$ 20	Fail to stop at flash lights – Railway crossing (VR)	\$20
Handbrakes not working (CO/VR)	\$15	No red “T” on rear trailer (VR)	\$10
Fail to apply handbrake when parked (CO)	\$5	No white front reflectors (VR)	\$5
Foot brakes not working (VR)	\$20	No red rear reflectors (VR)	\$5
Unable to keep vehicle still when brake applied (VR)	\$15	Motor vehicle + Trailer longer than 8 metres – No amber side reflectors @ 4mt – each (VR)	\$5
Fail to notify change of ownership – 14 days (VR)	\$10	Fail to produce registration book to VID (VR)	\$10
Cut corner when turning right (VR)	\$10	Fail to display registration mark and number OR its illegible (VR)	\$10
No Dip-switch or not working (CO/VR)	\$10	No Reversing Lamp (CO)	\$10
Fail to produce documents within 7 days to Police (VR)	\$5	Proceed against red robot (VR)	\$20
No drivers licence (CO/VR)	\$20	Proceed against amber robot (VR)	\$10
Fail to produce drivers licence (VR)	\$20	Encroach over white line at a robot (VR)	\$10
Fail to produce a driver’s licence for endorsement within 7 days after conviction (Licence must be produced at the time of accepting deposit fine) (CO)	\$20	Discard rubbish from vehicle (VR)	\$5
Provisional driver drives without supervision (CO)	\$20	No safety belt (VR)	\$5
Provisional driver (No L plates) (CO)	\$ 20	Fail to signal – slow down, stop turn left or right (VR)	\$10
No exhaust silencer (VR)	\$10	Causing excessive smoke (VR)	\$10
Inefficient exhaust silencer (VR)	\$5	Speeding: kph over limit 6-15 (VR)	\$5
Insecure fittings (no locknuts) (CO)	\$15	16-25 (VR)	\$10
Fail to give way to right-uncontrolled intersection (VR)	\$15	26-35 (VR)	\$15
Drive motor vehicle glass not made of safety glass (CO)	\$ 10	36-50 (VR)	\$20
Fail to produce insurance (VR)	\$5	50+	court
No insurance (VR)	\$10	Permit any vehicle to Stop or remain in a dangerous Position on any road	\$10
Fail to licence vehicle registered vehicle-all classes (VR)	\$10	Stop or Park any Vehicle except extreme left of the road or in a parking place (CO)	\$10
Fail to switch on lights in lit up area (CO)	\$20	Not adhere to no stopping , no parking, no left or right turn (VR)	\$5
No headlights or sidelights (CO)	\$20	Fail to stop – minor accident (VR)	\$20
No headlights but sidelights working (CO)	\$10	Fail to stop – serious accident (VR)	court
No headlights , one headlight or no side lights (VR)	\$5	No red triangles (VR)	\$15
No headlights or side lights (VR)	\$10	Dangerous tyre – canvas showing – per tyre (VR)	\$5
Headlights causing dazzle (VR)	\$15	Fail to display current vehicle licence (VR)	\$5
No horn or abuse of horn or fail to use horn (VR)	\$10	No windscreen (CO)	\$ 5
Leaks of oil and fuel onto road (VR)	\$5	Drive motor with windscreen not of glass which when damaged will shatter and cause danger if fractured (CO)	\$10
Fail to remove the ‘ L ’ plate (CO)	Caution	No windscreen wiper (VR)	\$5
No rear number plate light (CO)	\$20	Windscreen not providing clear undistorted vision (VR)	\$10

For more information and Legal Advice



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