



Full public notice of amended RMA national direction instruments

Under sections 44 and 2AB of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform acting for the Minister for the Environment¹ gives notice of the following amended national direction instruments:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Activities) Regulations 2009, which will be renamed to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities) Regulations 2009
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016.

and notice of minor amendments to the following national direction instruments:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture) Regulations 2020.

These National Environmental Standards were notified in the New Zealand Gazette on 10 September 2026. The minor amendment to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025 comes into force on 11 September 2026, and the remaining instruments come into force on 8 October 2026.

You can read about these National Environmental Standards and find supporting documents on the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport website at <https://environment.govt.nz/news/rma-national-direction-updated/>.

The table below lists the key changes to the national direction instruments.

Amended instruments and key changes:		
Instrument	Key changes	Instrument link
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities) Amendment Regulations 2026	◦ Allowing for some routine maintenance and upgrade work to be undertaken without needing resource consent.	https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/nas-electricity-activities

¹ instead of the Minister for the Environment (in accordance with section 7 of the Constitution Act 1986)



	◦ Use of controlled activities in some circumstances when permitted activity standards are not met, giving greater certainty that routine work can proceed if conditions are met. ◦ Protection of the National Grid by setting clear rules for development and subdivision near transmission lines. This provides greater certainty and helps ensure consistent protection nationwide. ◦ Introduction of national rules for electricity distribution networks to reduce delays and make network upgrades and expansion easier. The rules will allow many routine upgrades to existing lines and provide a clearer pathway for building new electricity distribution lines. ◦ Four new documents incorporated by reference: ▪ New Zealand Standard 2772.1:1999 (Radiofrequency fields – Maximum exposure levels – 3 kHz to 300 GHz) ▪ Australia/New Zealand Standard 2772.2:2016 (Radiofrequency fields – Principles and Methods of measurement and computation—3 kHz to 300 GHz) ▪ New Zealand Standard 6801: 2008 Measurement of Environmental Sound, and ▪ New Zealand Standard 6802: 2008 Acoustics – Environmental Noise.	
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Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities) Amendment Regulations 2026	◦ Modernising and expanding permitted activity standards for telecommunications infrastructure, including updates to standards for poles, headframes, cabinets, and antennas. ◦ Introducing new permitted activity standards within existing telecommunications rules to improve regulatory efficiency and provide greater certainty. ◦ Enabling renewable electricity generation, temporary telecommunications facilities, and customer connection lines to heritage buildings as permitted activities in specified circumstances. ◦ One new document incorporated by reference: ▪ New Zealand Standard 6808:2010 Acoustics – Wind farm noise.	https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/national-environmental-standards-for-telecommunication-facilities/
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Amendment Regulations 2026	◦ Amend regulation 6 to clarify the original policy intent that minimum setback requirements under the NES-DMRU and the corresponding building consent exemption under the Building Act 2004 are measured consistently. ◦ In regulation 6, insert as subclause (2): <i>(2) To avoid doubt,— (a) a setback referred to in subclause (1)(c) is measured from the exterior face of the external wall of the principal residential unit to the exterior face of the external wall of the DMRU:</i>	https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/legislation/nes-dmru/



	<i>(b) a setback referred to in subclause (1)(d)(i) or (ii) is measured from the relevant boundary to the exterior face of the external wall of the DMRU.</i>	
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026	◦ Revoke regulation 62(2)(f)(vi) to correct a minor error.	https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/national-environmental-standard-for-marine-aquaculture/