

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE



Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act

We've got our Act together
...have you?

Introduction

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 affects just about everybody one way or another. Whether you need to know how the Act works, what hazardous substances or new organisms already exist in New Zealand, or how to prepare an application for approval, there are many places to go for information.

The main sources are:

- ERMA New Zealand;
- The Ministry for the Environment; and
- Government bookshops.

Other Government agencies, including those with enforcement responsibilities under the Act, are also useful points of contact (see the end of this publication for more information).

Getting hold of the legislation

The HSNO legislation consists of:

- The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 and amendments;
- The Methodology Order in Council; and
- The Regulations under the Act. These cover aspects of both new organisms and hazardous substances.

You can buy a copy of the Act, Methodology and Regulations from any government books stockist, or download the Methodology and Regulations from ERMA New Zealand's website at: www.ermanz.govt.nz

ERMA New Zealand: Learning how the Act works

ERMA New Zealand can help you to understand how they implement the Act. They provide advice for applicants and users of hazardous substances, and keep the general public up to date.

You might like to start with some of the following 'user-friendly' sources:

- The website (www.ermanz.govt.nz) - The website allows you to see the public register, check the status of current applications, obtain application forms or media releases, and much more.
- Quick guides - a series of free, easy to read leaflets on topics like making applications or submissions, fees and charges, reassessments and risk assessments.
- Newsletters - two free newsletters available to keep interested people up to date:
 - *Perspective*, a quarterly newsletter that gives updates on HSNO news and people.

- *The Bulletin*, a gazette issued ten times a year that summarises all applications received, decisions made and gives schedules for hearings.

- Information sheets - A free series that backgrounds current issues or proposals before the Authority.

More formal documents are also available:

- The Annotated Methodology – sets out with explanatory notes, the way in which the Authority must assess applications and make decisions under the Act.
- Protocols - outline key concepts that help the Authority make consistent, informed decisions. The protocols cover such things as international obligations, how the Authority deals with other statutory agencies, and how it arrives at decisions.
- Policies - outline the Authority's policies on things like public consultation and fees and charges.
- Codes of practice - give practical details on how to comply with conditions of approval and other procedures under the HSNO Act.
- User guides - accompany the hazardous substance regulations, providing information on how to use the threshold, classification and control framework.

There is a dedicated HSNO website at www.hsno.govt.nz

- Application forms and Submission forms – on which all applications and submissions must be made.
- The public register – records information about applications and decisions. It is important to look at the register if you need to know whether a particular organism or substance has been approved, and if so, how it must be managed.

You can contact ERMA New Zealand at:

BP House, 20 Customhouse Quay
 PO Box 131, Wellington, New Zealand
 Tel +64 4 473 8426; Fax +64 4 473 8433

Ministry for the Environment: the Policy behind the Act

The Ministry for the Environment administers the HSNO Act. The Ministry should be your primary contact for information about the legislation itself, including details of the Act (and amendments), regulations and general policy direction.

The Ministry keeps information about the HSNO Act on its own website, including a series of information sheets at www.mfe.govt.nz

You can contact the Ministry at:

Grand Annexe, 84 Boulcott Street
 PO Box 10-362, Wellington, New Zealand
 Tel +64 4 917 7400; Fax +64 4 917 7523

Other Agencies

The HSNO Act interfaces with many other Acts, administered in a variety of Government agencies. These agencies will be able to tell you about their responsibilities and the part they play in the HSNO system. They are listed in the blue Government Listings section of the telephone book.

The main agencies and their Acts are:

AGENCY	INTERFACE WITH HSNO ACT	ENFORCEMENT DUTIES?
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 Biosecurity Act 1993	✓
Regional Councils	Resource Management Act 1991	
City and district councils	Resource Management Act 1991 Building Act 1991	✓
Ministry of Consumer Affairs	Gas Act 1992	✓
Ministry of Health	Health Act 1956 Food Act 1981 Medicines Act 1981	✓
Department of Labour (Occupational Health and Safety section)	Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992	✓
Police and Land Transport Safety Authority	Land Transport Act 1998	✓
Maritime Safety Authority	Maritime Transport Act 1994	✓
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Act 1990	✓
New Zealand Customs Service	Customs Act 1996	✓

ERMA
New Zealand



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

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