



Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol New Zealand 2022

STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces the release of its recently updated EHS audit protocol for New Zealand. This audit protocol, which covers relevant national EHS requirements, was previously updated in July 2020. The regulatory date for the current release is June 2022.

new and noteworthy

- **Classification of Hazardous Substances:** New Zealand has implemented a new classification system for hazardous substances based on the seventh revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS 7). The system also adopts classification categories for certain substances that are ecotoxic to the terrestrial environment. This new system is detailed in the *Hazardous Substances Classification Notice 2020*, which replaced the *Hazardous Substances (Classification) Notice 2017* and the *Hazardous Substances (Minimum Degrees of Hazard) Notice 2017*, both of which have been revoked. The *Hazardous Substances Classification Notice 2020* entered into force on April 30, 2021.

This change impacts:

- **Section 4.0 – Solid and Hazardous Waste:** Subsection 1 – Hazardous Substances: Disposal was updated.
 - **Section 6.0 – Above and Below Ground Tank Management:** The introductory notes to the rulebook were updated.
 - **Section 14.0 – Transport of Dangerous Goods:** Subsection 2 – Hazardous Substances Transportation was updated.
 - **Section 15.0 – Industrial Hygiene:** Subsection 7 – Hazardous Substances: Classes 6 and 8 Controls was updated.
 - **Section 16.0 – Chemical Management:** Subsection 3 – Hazardous Substances: General Requirements and Subsection 4 – Hazardous Substances: Classes 1 to 5 Controls were updated.
- **Hazardous Substances Disposal:** The *Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Notice 2017* was revised to incorporate changes resulting from the new classification system for hazardous substances, as detailed in the *Hazardous Substances Classification Notice 2020*. The amendments replace the previous alpha-numeric hazard classifications with GHS 7 classifications and replace the term “packaging” with “container” under the disposal requirements for containers that have been in direct contact with hazardous substances.

This change impacts:

- **Section 4.0 – Solid and Hazardous Waste:** Subsection 1 – Hazardous Substances: Disposal was updated.

release notes

please review

- **Drinking Water:** New Zealand has adopted a new regulatory framework for ensuring that the country's drinking-water is safe. The *Water Services Act 2021* commenced on 15 November 2021, and Part 2A (Drinking Water) of the *Health Act 1956* was repealed from this date. The Act is overseen by Taumata Arowai, the new and independent water services regulator. New drinking water standards for water suppliers have also been developed under the *Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022* and will replace the current *Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (DWSNZ) 2005* (revised 2018) when they go into effect on November 14, 2022. Water suppliers must continue to follow the DWSNZ until the new drinking water standards go into effect.

This change impacts:

- **Section 15.0 – Industrial Hygiene:** Subsection 6 – Water Services Act was entirely revised.
- **Outdoor Storage of Tyres:** In 2021 New Zealand adopted the *Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors) Regulations 2021 (2021/107)*, which set consistent national requirements for the outdoor storage of tyres. The standard applies to tyres that are deposited on a property and remain there for more than 72 hours, are not stored within a fully enclosed structure or buried underground, and that do not qualify for the active use exception. These regulations went into force on August 20, 2021.

This change impacts:

- **Section 4.0 – Solid and Hazardous Waste:** New Subsection 5 – Outdoor Storage of Tyres was added.
- **Hazardous Substances at Work:** The *Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Amendment Regulations 2021* made various changes throughout the *Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017* to address and clarify certain compliance requirements and correct errors.

This change impacts:

- **Section 13.0 – Fire Safety:** Subsection 4 – Fire Extinguishers was updated.
- **Section 14.0 – Transport of Dangerous Goods:** Subsection 3 – Hazardous Substances: Tank Wagons and Transportable Containers was updated.
- **Section 16.0 – Chemical Management:** Subsection 4 – Hazardous Substances: Classes 1 to 5 Controls and Subsection 5 – Hazardous Substances: Classes 6, 8, and 9 Controls were updated.
- **Fire Safety and Evacuation:** The *Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire Safety, Evacuation Procedures, and Evacuation Schemes) Regulations 2018* were previously amended in May 2020 in order to temporarily suspend requirements for owners of buildings to conduct trial evacuations, notify Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and implement evacuation training programs at 6-month intervals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The suspension applied while New Zealand's *Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020* was in force and while physical distancing requirements were in place for the area in which a building is located. Although this notice was renewed on June 16, 2022 (now set to expire September 16, 2022) the country moved into the "orange" setting on April 14, 2022, which removed physical distancing requirements, and businesses are now required to resume compliance with these requirements.

This change impacts:

- **Section 13.0 – Fire Safety:** Subsection 2 – Fire Safety and Evacuation was updated.

highlights of this release

Section 3.0 – Air Emissions

- The guide note to one audit paragraph in Subsection 4 – Climate Change – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme was updated to reflect the addition of an exception to the requirement to submit an annual emission return for certain deforesting activities, and the guide note to another paragraph was updated to describe the meaning of a “New Zealand unit” as it relates to the emissions trading scheme.
- Tables 3-1 and 3-2 were updated to incorporate changes to the lists of activities that are covered by the greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme.

Section 4.0 – Solid and Hazardous Waste

- The introductory notes in Subsection 3 – Waste: Export and Import were expanded and the audit paragraphs were updated to reflect an amendment to the *Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004* that added a prohibition on plastic waste.

Section 5.0 – Water Resources

- Subsection 1 – Water Services Act (previously Subsection 1 – Health Act) was updated to reflect that the requirement prohibiting contamination of drinking water has been moved from the Health Act to the Water Services Act.
- The guide note to one audit paragraph in Subsection 2 – Water Resource Management was modified due to a change in the recordkeeping requirements for water permit holders.

Section 6.0 – Above and Below Ground Tank Management

- One audit paragraph was updated in Subsection 1 – Stationary Container Systems: General Requirements due to a minor regulatory change that clarifies the requirement that specifies the records that must be kept for stationary container systems.
- The guide notes to two audit paragraphs in Subsection 2 – Above Ground Tank Management were modified due to regulatory changes that clarified the applicability of secondary containment requirements for stationary container systems that are used to store liquid or substances that could liquefy in a fire.

Section 15.0 – Industrial Hygiene

- Subsection 5 – Smoke-free Environments and Regulated Products Act (previously Subsection 5 – Smoke-free Environments Act) was updated to reflect that the Smoke-free Environments and Regulated Products Act now applies to vaping as well as smoking.
- Subsection 6 – Water Services Act, was entirely revised to cover the drinking water provisions provided in the new Water Services Act that were removed from the Health Act.
- New Subsection 9 – Health Act: Nuisance was added to cover a requirement on nuisances under the Health Act that was previously covered in Subsection 6 – Water Services Act. The regulatory requirement on nuisances has not changed.

release notes

please review

Section 16.0 – Chemical Management

- Two audit paragraphs were updated in Subsection 1 – Hazardous Substances (Importers and Manufacturers) Notice 2015 to reflect a minor change in the wording for hazard class explosives (class 1).
- One new audit paragraph was added to Subsection 5 – Hazardous Substances: Classes 6, 8, and 9 Controls to cover amendments to the *Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017*, one paragraph was updated to include the definition of “pool substance,” another was revised to reflect the criteria used to describe a “certified handler,” and minor revisions were made to others.
- The audit paragraph was removed from Subsection 7 – Hazardous Substances (Dangerous Goods and Scheduled Toxic Substances) Transfer Notice due the *Hazardous Substances (Dangerous Goods and Scheduled Toxic Substances) Transfer Notice No. 35 2004* being revoked as of August 1, 2022; explanatory notes were also added to the beginning of the subsection.



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