HAZS

Hazardous

Substances





Hazardous Substances

Introduction

Hazardous substances include a variety of toxic substances, such as chemicals, medical wastes, petroleum products and gases. Hazardous substances are used throughout the District for many purposes, with their use, storage, and disposal being an integral and essential part of many commercial, industrial, rural and domestic activities. However, if not appropriately managed, their storage and use are potential threats to people and the environment.

While the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) aims to protect the health and safety of people from the adverse effects of hazardous substances, it does not take into account the sensitivity of the environment in which hazardous substances are located, or other relevant resource management issues. The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSW) aims to protect people against harm to their health, safety and welfare caused by risks arising from work. The HSNO Act (and now supplemented by the HSW Act) provides the general framework for controlling hazardous substances during their entire life cycle.

This chapter, acknowledging that HSNO and the HSW Act manage most adverse effects associated with hazardous substances, only seeks to control the potential residual risks of major hazardous facilities. The District Plan is looking at effects of a low probability but a high impact, and relies on the identification of these facilities through the Major Hazard Facility threshold, which is outlined in the Health and Safety at Work (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulations 2016.

Objectives

HAZS-O1 Hazardous facilities

The benefits associated with activities involving the use, storage, disposal, and transportation of hazardous substances are recognised while ensuring that risks to the environment and human health are minimised.

Policies

HAZS-P1 Residual risk of hazardous facilities

Enable activities involving the use, storage, disposal, and transportation of hazardous substances while managing the residual risk to people, property, and the environment to acceptable levels.

HAZS-P2 Quantitative risk assessment for major hazard facilities

Major hazard facilities should demonstrate, through a quantitative risk assessment, the extent of the area which has the potential to cause an unacceptable level of risk.

HAZS-P3 Location of major hazard facilities

Require a new or expanding major hazard facility to be appropriately located so as to:

- 1. mitigate potential cumulative effects of locating within close proximity of another major hazard facility; and
- 2. protect the health and safety of the community by internalising effects through site layout and design.

HAZS-P4 Location of sensitive activities

Manage the location of sensitive activities within an area identified through a quantitative risk assessment of a major hazard facility.

HAZS-P5 Residual risk to sensitive activities and environments

Manage use and development which uses, stores or disposes of hazardous substances, from locating within, or adjoining, the following areas, unless it can be demonstrated that the residual risk to the identified values and qualities of these areas will be avoided, or where avoidance is not practicable, remedied or mitigated:

- 1. defined Heritage Items;
- 2. defined Wāhi Tūpuna sites outside of urban areas;
- 3. defined Significant Natural Areas;

- 4. defined Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes;
- 5. defined Significant Natural Features;
- 6. defined Coastal Environment;
- 7. above 900m in altitude;
- 8. within 250m of a sensitive activity.

Rules

Note: For certain activities, a resource consent may be required by rules in more than one chapter in the District Plan. Unless expressly stated otherwise by a rule, resource consent is required under each of those rules. The steps to determine the status of an activity are set out in the General Approach Chapter.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

HAZS-R1	Use and/or storage of hazardous substances, excluding a major hazard facility	
All zones	Activity status: Permitted Where: PER-1 Use, and/or storage of hazardous substances, excluding a major hazard facility, outside sensitive environments.	Activity status when compliance is not achieved: Discretionary Where: DIS-1 Compliance is not achieved with PER-1

DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

HAZS-R2	Major hazard facility	
All zones	Activity status: Discretionary Where:	Activity status when compliance is not achieved: Non Complying
	DIS-1 The facility is located within the General Industrial Zone.	Where: NC-1 Compliance is not achieved with DIS-1