

July 07

FLASHPOINT



NZ INSTITUTE OF
HAZARDOUS
SUBSTANCES
MANAGEMENT

USEFUL WEBSITES

NZ Institute of Hazardous Substances

www.hazsafe.org.nz

The official website of the Institute.
Includes a member's only section.

ERMANZ

www.ermanz.govt.nz/

Extensive information on working with hazardous substances.

Ministry for the Environment

www.mfe.govt.nz

The Ministry administer the HSNO Act.
Strategies.
Publications.
Best practice guides.
Technical reports.
Consultation documents.

Ministry of Health

<http://www.moh.govt.nz>

The Ministry deals with licensing for the sale/hawking, preparing, packing and labelling of certain substances.

Department of Building and Housing

www.dbh.govt.nz

The Government agency that looks after building issues. The Building Act and the Building Code.

Local Government NZ

<http://www.lgnz.co.nz/lg-sector/maps/>

Find a Regional or Local Council.

Local Authorities have responsibility for building controls and for the hands - on enforcement roles in the field of hazardous substances.

NZ Chemical Industry Council

<http://www.nzcic.org.nz/>

The New Zealand Chemical Industry Council (NZCIC) is a 'not for profit' industry association responsible for implementing and promoting Responsible Care™, the international safety, health and environmental (SH&E) protection initiative practised by the chemical industry in more than 45 countries worldwide.

This section will be a regular feature in Flashpoint. If you know of other websites which could be useful or an important resource for members, please let us know: office@hazsafe.org.nz

Consistent rules ?

Now settled into a new city and new employer, I can see New Zealand is regionally inconsistent in its management and enforcement of HSNO rules.

It is noticeable that the professionals and compliance people working in this industry have different interpretations and application of the law. This must be very confusing for people trying to do the right thing. There are different interpretations depending on your perspective – be it a test certifier, an approved handler, an enforcement person or an industry rep.

While we may have different opinions on an issue, it is important for the nation to have well understood and applied rules so everyone knows the playing field. Our approach to managing, storing, using and remediating hazardous substances and dangerous goods needs to be consistent.

There should not be one rule for one island and a different one in the other! Institute members have access to an online chat group. It has been interesting to observe the issues being ‘chatted’ about, and the differing opinions. The first step to more consistency is exposure of our opinions and our ability to challenge and assist each other in a professional manner.

Institute update

The Institute has gone through a year of rising from the ashes and we are entering a new phase of growth and consolidation. It is heartening to see the continued support from members who have been the backbone of the organisation.

We also welcome new members with new perspectives to share. The executive team met in April where we reviewed our achievements against the strategic and business plans. We have achieved our goals for the 06/07 year and have set course for new adventures in 07/08. We welcome your contribution to the strategic direction of the Institute.

If you like what we’ve done, or you have an improvement to make. Let’s hear it!!

We are planning another training event in conjunction with the AGM to be held in Wellington on November 20. I look forward to a great turn out!

Institute president
Jack Travis



Cover photo: Kotuku Media
Toni Greer suited up for a day’s spraying.



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Flashpoint

Flashpoint is the official journal of the NZ Institute of Hazardous Substances Management.

Editorial material does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Institute.

Managing editor: Anthony Lealand anthony@firework.co.nz

Editorial managers: Ross and Sue Miller
kotuku.media@xtra.co.nz Phone: 04 233 1842

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Institute national administration:

Rosemary Hazlewood
office@hazsafe.org.nz www.bnets.co.nz
Phone/Fax: 04 233 9588
Box 57-031 Mana, Porirua 5247



Farmers slow to conform

The agricultural sector appears to be relatively unconcerned over legislation requiring them to be approved handlers, or have approved handlers on their property with only 56% of farmers fully or partly trained to handle, store, dispose and emergency manage hazardous substances.

A recent survey reveals that, of those not trained, 16% plan to get restricted chemicals via contractors and one in three via other staff/family members.

As of Jan 1, 2007, all people wishing to purchase and use agrichemicals must have an Approved Handlers Certificate. This potentially could have a wide impact on farming as almost half (49%) of farmers have used toxic substances in the last year.

Most farmers knew what the standard covered (95%) but almost one in five (17%) did not know that the standard was administered by ERMA under the HSNO Act.

A large proportion of the farmers who have been trained are South Island cropping farmers. Of cropping farmers, 90% had undertaken training, a much higher proportion than sheep (62%), dairy (50%) and beef (46%) farmers.

A positive from the research is that 60% of farmers who undertook training reported to have learnt something at the training that has significantly changed the manner in which they handle, store and use agricultural chemicals.

Just over a quarter (27%) of trained

farmers have changed the way they store chemicals, and 16% have changed the way they use and apply chemicals. One in five (20%) found nothing new in the training.

Almost two in five (38%) non-trained farmers indicated that they

have no intention of ever training, their main reasons being that someone else (either staff or family) were trained (15%), or it was an unnecessary law/don't think I need training/don't believe law will be enforced (8%).

Agchem container recycling underway

The thousands of ubiquitous 20 litre agrichemical plastic containers used every year by growers, foresters and farmers now have a home to go to, apart from the dump or a farmer's shed.

Agrecovery, a voluntary stewardship programme, was launched recently by Environment Minister David Benson-Pope, and will be used for the sustainable recovery of triple-rinsed containers.

Somewhere between 5 and 10 million containers of varying sizes are used for a variety of products from weed killers to animal health products. If the product is from a programme-supporting manufacturer, there are currently 22 collection points around the country where farmers can recycle.

On-site staff will inspect and receive clean agricultural containers from 1 to 60 litres – the recovered plastic is then shredded and baled before being sent to commercial recyclers for reprocessing.

A further 30 sites will be progressively opened with the eventual target of having a collection site within 50km of any major agricultural area.

The programme is funded through a cent per litre levy collected by all participating manufacturers on their eligible products. Nufarm's Patrick Clement said that from an end-user's perspective, the programme relieved them of the need for costly or banned disposal methods, while helping them achieve high sustainability standards.

"As the industry-wide levy is charged on a volume and weight basis, users can save by buying more concentrated product in larger, refillable containers which do not attract the levy."

Currently there are collection stations at Helensville, Warkworth, Rotorua, Matamata, Morrinsville, Waitara, Hastings, Clive, Waipukurau, Dannevirke, Marton, Taihape, Taumarunui, Blenheim, Richmond, Hokitika, Amberley, Ashburton, Culverden, Kaikoura, Dunedin and Gore.

Big clean-up job after rural tyre fire

Landowners in a small rural Hawke's Bay area face a major clean-up after a huge pile of tyres caught fire on their property recently.

What could have been a major pollution problem was avoided due to topography – despite the amount of water and foam poured on the blaze, there was no run-off to streams. There is, naturally, local soil pollution which the landowners will have to deal with if it is to be used for agriculture.

The removal of the congealed mass of burned and melted tyres is the major problem. Officials say the fire has been a wake-up and rural sector officials will have to give some serious thought about what to do with other potential problem

tyre piles, which are more prevalent than a lot of people realise.

It is now the landowners' responsibility to remove the melted pile. Quite apart from cleaning up the mess, the soil may have to be remediated as it borders a maize field.

The tyre blaze was the result of a powder trail of other materials. Hastings District Council deputy rural fire officer Paul Hawke said a small fire (like a bbq) some distance away got out of control and set fire to dry grass.

This took off and set fire to crop stubble. The fire flashed over that and into a toi toi hedge. That set the tyres alight.

So the firefighters had an

L-shaped fire to contend with – the intense tyre blaze being the main problem.

The tyre wall was being used as a fire break at one end of a long property – fortunately away from the residences, caravans and other buildings. Mr Hawke said the pyramid-shaped wall was about 2.5 metres high and about 20 metres wide at its base. "More tyres had been thrown on as the top fell over and it had spread."

It was fortunate the maize next to the wall had been harvested a few days previously and harvesters working on the rest were able to create to something of a firebreak, "otherwise we would have been chasing the fire for miles".

The fire cloud, towering high into the sky attracted enough people to cause traffic jams - courtesy of Hawke's Bay Today

rural



The remains of the fire - Hawke's Bay Regional Council

"The tyre pile was like a hay barn fire – we had to get into the middle to take the sting out of it," said Mr Hawke. Pulling apart the stack, firefighters encountered the continual hazard of very hot wire reinforcing strands released as the rubber melted.

Rural fire has an obligation to recover costs. Mr Hawke said it would be a 'fair-sized' bill but, as it was a whanau property with 180 listed owners, it might take some time. Five appliances, three tankers and two command vehicles attended the fire.

**www.
hazsafe
.org.nz**

4 July 2007

ERMA web update

Recent additions to the ERMA website are:

Criteria for an Application to Approve a Secondary Containment System Compliance Plan - Secondary Containment Systems of Existing Stationary Tanks Greater than 250,000 litres
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/compliance/scscscp.html>

Consultation on further amendments to the Denatured Ethanol Group Standard 2006
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/etohamend.html>

Updated Gas Cylinder Register and Special Gas Cylinder Register
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/index.html#other>

Code of Practice: Retail Fireworks: Design, Performance, Testing, Storage, Transport, Sale and Use
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/COP18-1.pdf>

Compliance Guide: Spirits and Fortified Wines
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-CG-21-1.pdf>

Notification to the Authority - New Zealand Inventory of Chemicals
<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/compliance/notifyioc.html>

Aerial inspection a great compliance tool

Aerial surveillance is the latest tool being used by Environment Waikato and Environment Southland in enforcing compliance on dairy effluent.

But such surveillance could easily be used for all manner of hazno applications, says Environment Southland compliance manager, Mark Hunter. After a few hours in a noisy vibrating helicopter, the 'glamour' side of buzzing around the countryside on a nice sunny day has worn off. But they will continue to do it as it beats ground inspections hands down.

Environment Southland got the idea after feedback from the Waikato.

They can't fly below 500ft out of consideration for the animals, but Mark was surprised at the detail. "It was as good if not better than a ground inspection.

"And you get the big picture as well – the lay of the land where historic spill or leakages could have run to."

The aerial inspections easily spot things such as:

- burn trails or pools where effluent irrigators have been leaking or stalled in one spot;
- little patches of overly vigorous growth denoting spills; stains on top of waterways;
- the sun reflects off surface liquid even through long grass.

"We have been identifying things

we were not aware of including some silage pits on properties we weren't inspecting, stock in waterways and those sorts of things that can be hidden behind fences or in a dip away from general view.

"Often we only hear about illegal dumping or bad storage after a quiet word has been passed to us. That sort of thing is so obvious from the air."

The speed and convenience of the helicopter outweighed cost considerations when to you take into account staff time and fuel spent doubling back on thousands of miles of country roads.

"We have discovered several things that have obviously been happening for a few years, but compliance staff have been totally unaware of them."

Mark can see a distinct use of helicopter surveillance in the wider

hazno field for such things as illegal dumping, general leakage around industrial sites, illegal storage and checking on clean fills.

It is a little 'big brother', he admits, but it's practical. "A few farmers got really upset when they realised we would be overflying. Quite a few now joke that they worry every time they hear a helicopter – hoping their irrigators are performing properly."

The latest inspection by Environment Southland of farms with 600 or more stock (which requires them to have consents) was very pleasing. Only one of the 194 farms had a problem. This was the second inspection and the council is very pleased, both with the farmers and their new system.

Unfortunately, not the same can be said for the Waikato. A recent



A stalled irrigator makes a significant burn mark in the pasture - Environment Southland



aerial inspection of dairy farms by Environment Waikato found 25% of farms in breach of effluent management practices and following visits by officials, led to prosecution of 15 farms for breaches of dairy effluent rules.

Dairy Farmers Waikato president John Bluett says this has upset some farmers but others have changed their effluent management practices.

Environment Southland will not be resting on its laurels. The region has leapt ahead in dairy numbers as lamb and wool prices slump. The latest estimates are that 100

southern farms could convert to dairy operations in the next year.

There are 53 farms from Timaru south making the switch this winter, and frustration and pessimism is widespread among sheep farmers.

Rabobank's Otago branch manager, Jeffrey Morrison, said there had been plenty of interest in converting among sheep farmers, even before Fonterra announced the 27% lift in the price it would pay for milk solids, to a record \$5.59 a kg.

Real estate licensee Dallas Lucas said this year's total could double next winter.

Mr Morrison said he had about 20 frustrated high performing sheep farmers looking to convert. If 100 sheep farms converted, that could reduce by 300,000 the number of ewes being farmed in the south, and the number of lambs available for meat processors could drop by the same number.

There are 1600 sheep and beef farms in Otago, running 5.2 million sheep and 219,000 beef cattle, and 2200 in Southland, carrying 5.9 million sheep and 217,000 cattle.



A silage pit leaks into a pond of its own creation. Given the extent, this has probably gone on for a long time and not been noticed from the ground. - Environment Southland

Feds like fuel handling decision

Federated Farmers is pleased at ERMA's decision to exempt farmers from being approved handlers, if they are handling less than 2000 litres of petrol, says Andrew Gillanders.

"We have long been uncomfortable with this specific need for farmers storing petrol to be approved handlers, which adds unnecessary compliance costs for little benefit.

"Farmers are happy to comply with good regulation, but the approved handler rules around petrol were an unnecessary impost on farmers.

"ERMA should be congratulated for this sensible decision," Mr Gillanders said.

The exemption applies only to farmers with more than four hectares of land.

'Back shed time bombs' being cleared out

New Zealand has been working at eliminating its old and unwanted agricultural chemicals over the past few years and had disposed of 225 tonnes by June 2006. New figures are due out soon.

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) - chemical substances that persist in the environment and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment – make up the bulk of this stockpile.

New Zealand is a signatory to the United Nations Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and, as such, required to collect and dispose of them.

Pesticides containing POPs

(including DDT and dieldrin) were used widely in New Zealand from the mid-1940s until the 1970s – mainly in agriculture, horticulture and timber treatment with smaller amounts used for amenity purposes and in households.

One disposal contractor said a lot of the problem was historic with leftover chemicals “stored in the back shed” and forgotten about. Farms changed hands and new owners discovered the problem.

He said there were some “time bombs” out in the countryside still to be dealt with.

In 2002 it was estimated that 282 tonnes of intractable agricultural


pesticides remained in New Zealand, so a three-year collection programme was undertaken to collect and dispose of as much intractable material as possible. An updated estimate determined that a further 175 tonnes of material remained to be collected after June 2006.

The use of pesticides in New Zealand was not subject to regulatory control until the Agricultural Chemicals Act 1959 established the Agricultural Chemicals Board. The use of persistent organochlorine pesticides was then progressively restricted by a succession of laws until by the mid-1970s the use of agricultural POPs had effectively ceased in agriculture and horticulture.

All Stockholm Convention POPs were formally deregistered in 1989.

Old sheds like this in rural areas often contain old chemicals long forgotten about. - Kotuku Media





One certificate doesn't make a handler

What price a piece of paper? Manawatu farmer Hew Dalrymple is firmly of the opinion that a certificate doesn't make any difference to an indifferent operator.

Looking to be a good employer and responsible farmer, Hew gained his Approved Handler Certificate and went through the Growsafe programme. And his relevant staff went with the boss to get their accreditation.

Hew and brother Roger run a large operation – Waitatapia Station, west of Bulls, is 2610ha and encompasses coastal sand dunes and flats, river flats, a lake and patches of wetland. On this they raise crops, sheep, cattle and several stands of radiata and the brothers are even thinking of a little bit of rural tourism.

Given all this, Waitatapia is a HSNO dream with drenches and dips, sprays for crops, and all manner of fuels and oils for a lot of machinery.

When Hew went on his handler course, he was concerned that some people had to be helped through it by the instructors. For someone like himself who had been raised around agrichemicals, the course was simple and his own knowledge was far above what was required at the basic level.

“When you look at guys like that, is a piece of paper going to make them a better handler? You don't suddenly become great tomorrow!”

But Hew considers the courses necessary. “It's a wake-up call. Take a simple thing like drenching. A lot of people who've been farming would not necessarily take drenches seriously. After all, you put them inside things you eat.

“But on the course you get reminded that while that might be true, if a drench pack is leaking through your shirt all day and a certain patch of skin has been absorbing it all that time, then you are in trouble.”

Employer-driven compliance

Hew considers the employer is the one who drives compliance. “If the employer sets good rules, then the staff have to follow the standard.

“I think where the system will fall down is solo farmers, especially those who haven't yet had an accident, or a close call.”

“When you're working by yourself, you tend to be happy with what you are doing without questioning. When you have staff responsibilities, you look at it differently.”

Hew and his brother have gone

another step in insisting on first aid qualifications for all his staff. Part of the staff is a forestry gang who definitely require it, but everyone does it as an automatic thing, as Hew considers it an essential safety requirement on this size property where everyone can be working in their own little world separated by several hundred hectares.

Hew would like the authorities to consider what the next step is. “Should you be qualified for life just because you got through a one-day course. It would be interesting to see some of the people a few years later at a requalification and see if they have improved.”

His mantra on HSNO is: “Commonsense, commonsense, commonsense.

“Read the bloody label! If it says use gloves, then use gloves!

“Farmers will always read the bit about how much per hectare as that involves money. They need to read the whole label.”

Given the size of the operation, everything has its own place and its own separate area back in the office compound. There is a fuel shed, a workshop/garage, locked drench shed, locked cargo container that houses sprays and other chemicals with its own wash-down area, waste oil collection, etc.



The garage-workshop:
paint, strippers, cleansers,
batteries

Behind the smoko shed:
a cargo container housing all
the agrichem, with its own
wash-down area.

The rotary dip:
with its own storage and wash-down,
is in a neighbouring paddock.

Drench shed.

The fuel shed:
a wide range of specialist
lubricants as well as petrol and
diesel – waste oil collection
behind the shed.



Bane of his life is the white agrichem 20 litre plastic container and he is very pleased to see a Agrecovery depot has opened relatively nearby at Marton. "They are the bane of your life. I mean - what the hell can you do with them!" His most common agrichems come in 1000 litre pods.

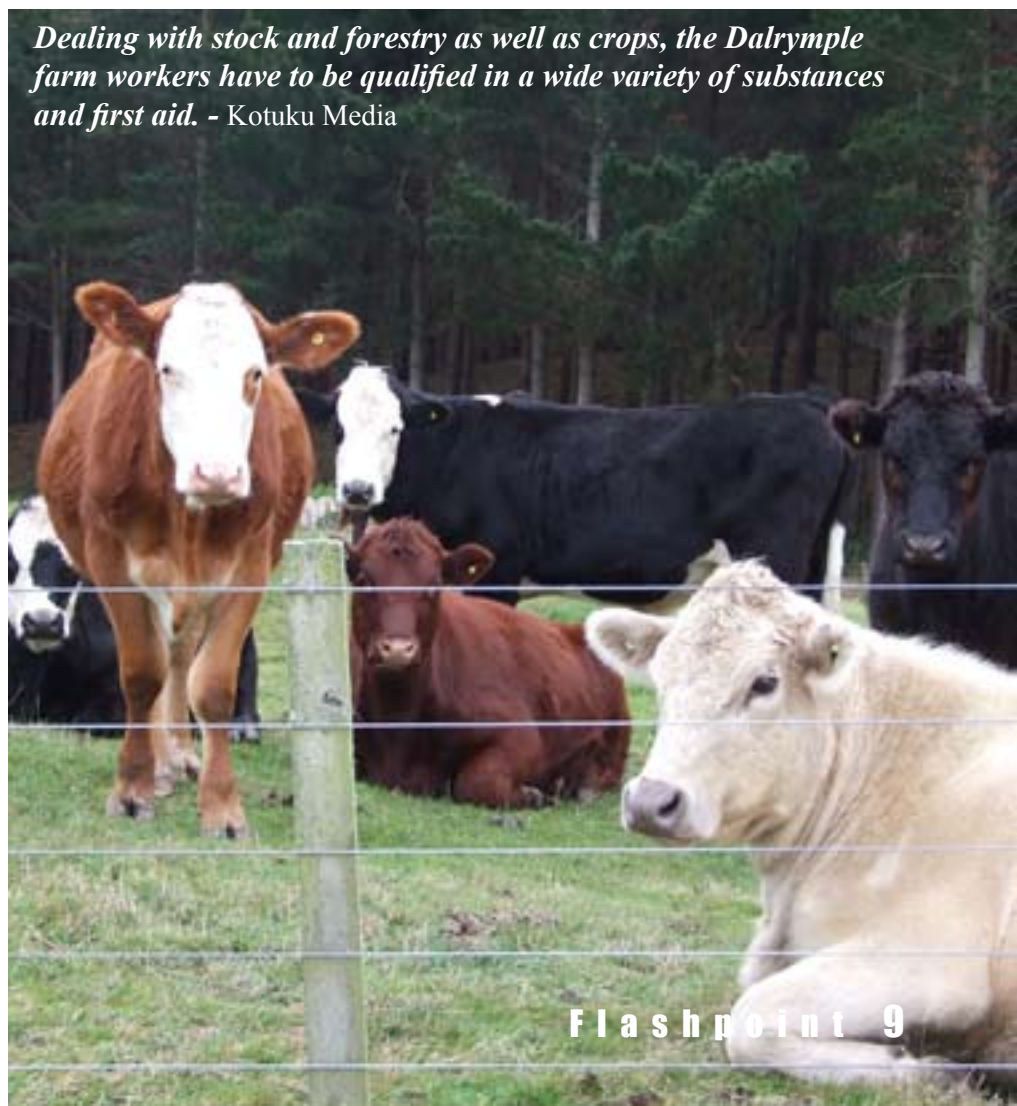
He also welcomed the news that farmers are now exempt handler certificates for 2000 litres of petrol. "Petrol is not that big a deal any more. Apart from bikes and chainsaws, everything is diesel,"

And he can't wait for the day when someone will volunteer to collect 205 litre metal oil containers - the old 44 gallon drum.

"The scrap guys will take them, but they want us to crush them first!" Consequently small stacks of them appear on rural properties.

The Dalrymple brothers won the 2007 Ballance Farm Environment Award for the Horizons region.

Dealing with stock and forestry as well as crops, the Dalrymple farm workers have to be qualified in a wide variety of substances and first aid. - Kotuku Media





Horticulture ahead of the play

The horticultural industry was ahead of the play in regard to HSNO with the Act basically verifying practices that had been developed in response to a general groundswell of consumer and environmental opinion about sprays and chemicals in general associated with fruit and vegetables.

The NZ Agrichemical Education Trust was formed in 1992 by primary producer groups and aims to develop and maintain good practice standards of agrichemical use. Trustees and members now represent 20 industry organisations and government agencies. It promotes the Growsafe training programme which HortNZ has adopted and all horticulturalists need to have been through to become an approved handler as a minimum for using agrichemicals on their properties.

Along with Growsafe goes the NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals. Most agrichemicals covered by this Standard will be classified as hazardous substances under the Hazardous Substances (Minimum Degrees of Hazard) Regulations and, depending on their hazard classifications, have a range of HSNO controls applied.

The Standard provides practical and specific guidance on the safe, responsible and effective management of agrichemicals, including plant protection products (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides), veterinary medicines, fumigants used in rural situations and agricultural use of detergents and sanitisers.

It covers:

- controls relating to use and handling, which are generally set out in the Hazardous Substances (Classes 6, 8 and 9 Controls) Regulations;
- controls relating to storage, which in the case of flammable substances are set out in the Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations;
- controls relating to disposal, which are generally set out in the Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Regulations;
- controls relating to first aid information, emergency management information and planning, and secondary containment, which are generally set out in the Hazardous Substances (Emergency Management) Regulations.

The Standard applies to agricultural

compounds; veterinary medicines; agrichemicals for home and garden, nursery, turf and amenity use; fumigants used in agriculture; detergents and sanitisers used in agriculture (except those specifically excluded).

Approval of the Standard is also limited to those products and substances covered by the scope of the Standard in section 1.1.1.

The Standard applies to agricultural compounds; veterinary medicines; agrichemicals for home and garden, nursery, turf and amenity use; fumigants used in agriculture; detergents and sanitizers used in agriculture (except those specifically excluded).

The Standard does not apply to:

- fertilisers (for code of practice, see FertResearch);
- vertebrate pest control products;
- oral nutritional compounds;
- dairy detergents and sanitisers that have been approved under the Dairy Industry Regulations



(1990 or subsequent animal products legislation) when used on farms.

The Standard is intended for all agrichemical users and specifies the requirements for the commercial use of agrichemicals for applicators (e.g. farmers and growers), contractors (e.g. aerial and ground application, and veterinarians) and suppliers (e.g. manufacturers,

wholesalers and retailers).

Horticulturalists also have ramifications under the RMA, and a few other bits of legislation to contend with.

All trainees who go through the Horticulture ITO these days emerge with the relevant qualifications in pest management or agrichemicals. It has become a base qualification.

Chem-free pipfruit sought

New Zealand fruitgrowers aim to be first in the world to produce chemical-free pipfruit.

A new ultra-low residue programme is the latest move by Pipfruit New Zealand to recapture the country's premier growing status and revive vital market share. Chief executive Peter Beaven said trials on two Hawkes Bay orchards last year successfully produced fruit with very low chemical residues from fertilisers and pesticides. The almost chemical-free fruit would satisfy international market demand and have domestic environmental benefits, he said.

A market-driven programme was the next logical step for the industry, Beaven said. "I think it will bed in preference for New Zealand apples." New Zealand was already ahead of the rest of the world in low residue pipfruit production but it was only a matter of time before the United States banned the use of organo-phosphates and Chile, New Zealand's largest southern hemisphere competitor, would be forced to fall in line, he said.

The programme uses a system of careful monitoring, increased winter orchard hygiene and prudent post-Christmas spray programmes to achieve low, or almost chemical residue-free fruit. The ultimate success of the whole project depended on its global marketing, he said. PNZ chairman Ian Palmer said the programme was the next quantum leap for the industry. "It will demand more discipline from orchardists but that is not a bad thing."



Chemicals on a supermarket scale at your local farming store.

Waste minimisation a key issue

by Rachel Depree

Sustainability is about using our limited resources more effectively. To create a sustainable New Zealand we need to reduce our waste and better manage what waste we do produce. Reducing and managing waste is everybody's responsibility and we all have a part to play.

The Government announced in February 2007 a significant work programme to improve New Zealand's sustainability. Waste minimisation was one of the Government's six focus areas.

The Government and the Ministry for the Environment will take the lead on waste and recycling issues, in line with the broader sustainability agenda and the New Zealand Waste Strategy 2002. The Government wants responsibility for waste management to be appropriately shared, to ensure that roles and responsibilities are attributed and expectations are clear. Those who cause emissions or contribute to unsustainable activities should face at least some of the true costs of their actions.

To achieve this, it is important to ensure that the approach to waste management in New Zealand is appropriate, comprehensive and will meet our needs in the future.

The Government has already announced its commitment to securing dedicated waste funding for further solid waste minimisation, including the improvement of national infrastructure, by introducing a levy on waste disposed in landfills. It is

also responding to industry calls for greater support of their already established voluntary product stewardship schemes. There have been concerns about 'freeloading' by businesses that are benefiting from the programmes but are not contributing.

Stewardship support

The Government supports product stewardship schemes, especially for products that cause particular environmental harm or pose disposal problems, for example, products containing hazardous components.

Some of these proposals require changes to legislation before they come into effect. The Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill currently before Select Committee, provides

an opportunity to progress the legislative framework for waste minimisation in New Zealand.

The Government is also keen to engage the general public and provide ways to raise people's awareness of the need to minimise waste and encourage them to play their part.

A number of priority waste streams including hazardous waste are being focused on. Progress has been made on ensuring the safe management of hazardous waste and New Zealand has met all its international obligations regarding hazardous waste. The WasteTRACK tracking system and group standards under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act are mechanisms to ensure that management continues to improve.

There is now an increasing focus on reducing the amounts of hazardous waste produced, diverting hazardous



Liquid waste truck cleaning a sump – Baywaste Services.

wastes from the waste stream, preventing the creation of new contaminated sites and managing contaminated sites.

The Ministry is working with the liquid and hazardous waste operators to raise industry standards. A contractors' group from within the industry has established a process to ensure compliance with their industry Code of Practice and is now preparing an industry accreditation standard and establishing a registration body.

An industry training package has been developed and the first trainees will be accepted in the coming months.

This is an example of an industry demonstrating leadership through self regulation. While the Ministry has worked alongside the industry, it is the members of the industry who are developing solutions and

driving progress. The Ministry commends the industry for taking the initiative in raising its standards.

Continuing from the development of the contaminated land guidelines series, the Ministry is currently consulting with its key stakeholders to inform and confirm the ongoing contaminated land work programme.

New Zealand has made significant progress, however there are and

always will be, challenges to improving waste management.

For more information on the Ministry for the Environment's waste work programme including hazardous waste go to the Ministry's website: www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/.

Rachel Depree is General Manager - Sustainable Industry Group, Ministry for the Environment.

New members

Ian Walters,
Impac Solutions LTD

Don Nightingale,
Clearview Specialist Cleaners

Nigel McCarter, Safety
Management & Info Services Ltd

Richard Langley, URS NZ Ltd

Kathleen Greer,
Arandee Industries Ltd

Peter Menzies,
Combined Rural Traders Soc Ltd

Simon Osborne,
Fire & Rescue NZ

Doug Pringle, Massey University

Malcolm Angell, HS Management

Bryan Schriiffer,
Environment Canterbury



Services

- ◆ Test Certification of Hazardous Substances Locations
- ◆ Test Certification of Stationary Container Systems
- ◆ Training and Test Certification of Approved Handlers
- ◆ Industry hazardous substances training
- ◆ Training to NZQA Unit Standards in hazardous substance management
- ◆ Consultancy advice on hazardous substances
- ◆ Emergency Management advice or services
- ◆ Development of Emergency Management Plans to the HSNO regulatory requirements
- ◆ Development of Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings approved schemes
- ◆ Resource Consent Applications related to hazardous substances
- ◆ Development of Hazardous Substances Sections of Local authority Districts Plans under RMA s.31
- ◆ Expert Witness services

Contact Us

Rex Alexander
Mob: 027 285 2611
rex.alexander@envirocom.co.nz

Artie Lind
Mob: 027 438 2373
Envirocom Canterbury
artie.lind@envirocom.co.nz

Greg Quin
Mob: 027 22 66 759
Envirocom Southern & Central
greg.quin@envirocom.co.nz

Envirocom NZ Ltd
P O Box 5235
Dunedin 9058
New Zealand
Ph: +64 3 473 1326
Fax: +64 3 473 1399
www.envirocom.co.nz



Single skin tanks for ethanol

ERMA New Zealand has relaxed the rules for storing so-called E10 petrol-ethanol blends by removing the requirement that the fuel must always be stored in double-skinned underground tanks.

Previously, the rules prohibited storage in single-skinned underground tanks.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority asked to reassess the storage rules as they effectively ruled out the environmentally-friendly E10 fuel being available at many service stations which don't have double-skinned tanks.

ERMA New Zealand accepted there were potential climate change benefits in making petrol-ethanol blends of 1 to 10% ethanol more widely available and that E10 was likely to become more widely available if the current restrictions on storage were relaxed.

ERMA New Zealand General Manager, Hazardous Substances, Andrea Eng, said precautions would still be in place to protect the environment. "Single-skinned tanks won't be able to be used to store E10 in highly sensitive areas, that is, where leaks could damage drinking water supplies. In moderately sensitive areas where tanks are near waterways, single-skinned tanks will have to undergo integrity testing and have complete records of fuel storage."

Ms Eng said the ERMA New Zealand decision effectively reduced the compliance costs for storing biofuels.

All single-skinned tanks for storing E10 will have to have a test certificate, which will confirm that tanks are structurally sound. All new fuel tanks now have to be double-skinned.

The decision was welcomed by the Minister Responsible for Climate Change Issues, David Parker. "In February, Government announced the phased introduction of biofuels

from 2008 which will require 3.4% of the total fuel sold by oil companies to be biofuel by 2012." This decision removes a major financial and practical barrier to their introduction.

"New Zealand farmers are well placed to benefit from a move to biofuels as they will likely produce the feed stocks for them such as tallow. Next generation biofuels hold the prospect of foresters and other landowners getting in on the act as technologies are developed to produce ethanol from a range of energy crops including wood," said the Minister.

ERMA's 5-year scrutiny programme

ERMA is currently evaluating insecticides azinphos-methyl, endosulfan, methyl-parathion and penta chlorophenol to determine whether there is sufficient new evidence to initiate a reassessment.

It has identified a further 16 substances which will be scrutinised over the next five years including other pesticides, methyl bromide and anti-fouling paints (listed alphabetically, not in order of priority):

2,4-D, its salts and esters and formulations

containing these substances. Acephate and its formulations. Anti-fouling paints. Benomyl and carbendazim and their formulations. Carbaryl and its formulations. Chlorothalonil and its formulations. Chlorpyrifos and its formulations. Diazinon and its formulations. Dichlorvos and its formulations. Dimethoate and its formulations. Fenitrothion and its formulations. Methamidophos (60%) and its formulations. Methyl bromide. Methyl-arsenic acid and its formulations. Paraquat and its formulations. Trichlorfon and its formulations.

Institute executive

President – Jack Travis
jack.travis@tauranga.govt.nz

Executive committee

South Island VP – Colleen Myers
Ph (03) 366 5500 colleen.myers@dol.govt.nz

North Island VP – Phillip Tse
Ph (09) 572 0063 ptse@xtra.co.nz

Immediate past president – Rex Alexander
Ph: (027) 285 261
rex.alexander@envirocom.co.nz

Secretary/ treasurer – Lyn Osmer
Ph: (03) 941 8906 lyn.osmers@ccc.govt.nz

Executive

Pete Roche hazknow@clear.net.nz

Alan Hitchiner
(07)880 8020 alan.hitchiner@degussa.com

John Hickey john@engdesign.co.nz

Colin Pullan
(03) 313 6136 colinp@wmk.govt.nz

Geoff Mayes
(04) 916 2426 geoff.mayes@ermanz.govt.nz

Anthony Lealand - Flashpoint managing editor
Ph: (03) 982 3473 firework@firework.co.nz

Still waiting for HSNO

by Derek Stannard

HSNO has been a long time coming and it still hasn't fully arrived!

One of the problems I regularly come across with clients is the task of getting information on how to comply with HSNO. Most of my clients get their information on how to manage their hazardous substances from safety data sheets (SDS).

SDSs have been around for years and were, and still are one, of the expected methods of providing information under the Health and Safety in Employment Act.

However, there was no explicit requirement for manufacturers or suppliers to have SDSs available prior to HSNO. The quality of the SDSs also varied tremendously.

HSNO has made it a requirement for suppliers and manufacturers to have SDSs available for workplaces and has also prescribed requirements for the content of an SDS.

Not mandatory

However, it is not mandatory under HSNO to include the HSNO controls such as if approved handlers are required. It is also not mandatory to include the HSNO classifications – just the general degree and general type of hazard.

Without the classifications it makes it difficult to look up the controls in the applicable Regulations, Transfer Notices (Gazettes), or Group

Standards (GS). For GS products the issues are even more complex. SDSs are not required until 1 July 2008.

However, compliance with some of the controls, such as the requirement for Approved Handlers (deemed or otherwise), are already required now (Approved Handlers required from 1 January 2007). Additionally, the staged implementation of the GS product controls only applies to new classes of substances.

If a site holds products that have been previously transferred, such as dangerous goods where compliance with the HSNO controls is required now, then compliance with the controls for any GS products with the same hazard classes is also required now.

What to do?

So how does Dad and Dave's Paint Shop find out what they have to do to comply with HSNO? They could try and work it out for themselves, but HSNO is quite technical and probably beyond the capabilities of most small (and even some large) businesses. They could try to get this information from their supplier. The supplier should know the hazard classifications for their GS products and the GS that it fits into.

In my experience, not all of them know the controls. Some suppliers will provide this as an additional service and charge accordingly. If no joy is received from the supplier, other options are seeking advice from ERMA New Zealand. There are lots of good general publications on the ERMA website, but probably nothing specific for their products.

ERMA New Zealand also offers compliance and enforcement advice. However, again this is of a general nature.

They could ask a Regulatory Authority, use ChemSafe, or engage a consultant such as a Test Certifier. However, this would still usually require that the contacted party knows the HSNO classifications and assigned GS. ERMA New Zealand has the NOTS database that holds products names and assigned HSNO classifications. Although this is not confidential information, they are unwilling to release this information to make it publicly available.

So what happens?

Derek Stannard NZCS(Chem), RCompN, BN, Post Grad Dip OSH, MBS (OSH - occupational hygiene option), is a HSNO test certifier and part-time PhD student (examining the implementation of HSNO into NZ).

He runs his own consultancy – HS2 Ltd – doing HSNO and health and safety work (training, writing SDSs, provision of advice, test certifying, auditing, policy and manual writing, emergency management, HFSPs, etc).

Prior to this Derek has been senior scientist health and safety and HSNO for MWH NZ Ltd (environmental engineering company), ERMA senior hazardous substance adviser, NZ Army officer (last posting; in charge of health and safety for the Army) and worked for the Wellington Hospital Board and DSIR.

He can be contacted on 021 1422883 or hs2@paradise.net.nz



NZ Institute of Hazardous Substances Management (Inc)

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1. Name: _____
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If NO: I am applying to be a Member Associate member

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