



# **Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011**

Jerry Mateparae, Governor-General

## **Order in Council**

At Wellington this 10th day of October 2011

Present:

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council

Pursuant to section 43 of the Resource Management Act 1991, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council, and on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment given in accordance with section 44 of the Act, makes the following regulations.

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## Regulations

### 1 Title

These regulations are the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011.

### 2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on 1 January 2012.

### 3 Interpretation

In these regulations,—

**Act** means the Resource Management Act 1991

**current edition** means the edition that has legal effect when the edition is being used

**detailed site investigation** means an investigation that—

- (a) is done by a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner; and
- (b) is done in accordance with the current edition of *Contaminated Land Management Guidelines No. 5—Site Investigation and Analysis of Soils*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment; and
- (c) is reported on in accordance with the current edition of *Contaminated Land Management Guidelines No. 1—Reporting on Contaminated Sites in New Zealand*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment; and
- (d) results in a report that is certified by the practitioner

**fuel storage system** means a system in which at least 1 of the following is underground:

- (a) a storage tank for aviation kerosene, diesel, kerosene, lubricating oil, or petroleum:

- (b) the whole of the tank's ancillary equipment:
- (c) part of the tank's ancillary equipment

**HAIL** means the current edition of the *Hazardous Activities and Industries List*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment

**person** means the person referred to in regulation 5(1)(a)

**preliminary site investigation** means an investigation that—

- (a) is done by a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner; and
- (b) is reported on in accordance with the current edition of *Contaminated Land Management Guidelines No. 1—Reporting on Contaminated Sites in New Zealand*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment; and
- (c) results in a report that is certified by the practitioner.

#### **4 Relationship of regulations with territorial authority and regional council functions**

These regulations—

- (a) deal with territorial authority functions under section 31 of the Act:
- (b) do not deal with regional council functions under section 30 of the Act.

#### **5 Application**

(1) These regulations—

- (a) apply when a person wants to do an activity described in any of subclauses (2) to (6) on a piece of land described in subclause (7) or (8):
- (b) do not apply when a person wants to do an activity described in any of subclauses (2) to (6) on a piece of land described in subclause (9).

*Activities*

(2) An activity is removing a fuel storage system from the piece of land or replacing a fuel storage system in or on the piece of land, which means—

- (a) doing any of the following:
  - (i) removing or replacing the whole system:
  - (ii) removing or replacing an underground part of the system:

- (iii) taking away or putting back soil associated with the removal or replacement of the system or the part:
  - (b) doing any of the following for purposes associated with removing or replacing the whole system or part of the system:
    - (i) sampling the soil of the piece of land:
    - (ii) investigating the piece of land:
    - (iii) remediating the piece of land:
    - (iv) validating the piece of land:
    - (v) managing the piece of land.
- (3) An activity is sampling the soil of the piece of land, which means sampling it to determine whether or not it is contaminated and, if it is, the amount and kind of contamination.
- (4) An activity is disturbing the soil of the piece of land, which—
  - (a) means disturbing the soil of the piece of land for a particular purpose:
  - (b) does not include disturbing the soil of the piece of land, whatever the purpose, if the land is land to which regulation 33(9) or 36 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 applies.
- (5) An activity is subdividing land, which means subdividing land—
  - (a) that has boundaries that are identical with the boundaries of the piece of land; or
  - (b) that has all the piece of land within its boundaries; or
  - (c) that has part of the piece of land within its boundaries.
- (6) An activity is changing the use of the piece of land, which means changing it to a use that, because the land is as described in subclause (7), is reasonably likely to harm human health.

*Land covered*

- (7) The piece of land is a piece of land that is described by 1 of the following:
  - (a) an activity or industry described in the *HAIL* is being undertaken on it:
  - (b) an activity or industry described in the *HAIL* has been undertaken on it:

- (c) it is more likely than not that an activity or industry described in the *HAIL* is being or has been undertaken on it.
- (8) If a piece of land described in subclause (7) is production land, these regulations apply if the person wants to—
  - (a) remove a fuel storage system from the piece of land or replace a fuel storage system in or on the piece of land:
  - (b) sample or disturb—
    - (i) soil under existing residential buildings on the piece of land:
    - (ii) soil used for the farmhouse garden or other residential purposes in the immediate vicinity of existing residential buildings:
    - (iii) soil that would be under proposed residential buildings on the piece of land:
    - (iv) soil that would be used for the farmhouse garden or other residential purposes in the immediate vicinity of proposed residential buildings:
  - (c) subdivide land in a way that causes the piece of land to stop being production land:
  - (d) change the use of the piece of land in a way that causes the piece of land to stop being production land.

*Land not covered*

- (9) These regulations do not apply to a piece of land described in subclause (7) or (8) about which a detailed site investigation exists that demonstrates that any contaminants in or on the piece of land are at, or below, background concentrations.

**6 Methods**

- (1) Subclauses (2) and (3) prescribe the only 2 methods that the person may use for establishing whether or not a piece of land is as described in regulation 5(7).
- (2) One method is by using information that is the most up-to-date information about the area where the piece of land is located that the territorial authority—
  - (a) holds on its dangerous goods files, property files, or resource consent database or relevant registers; or
  - (b) has available to it from the regional council.

- (3) The other method is by relying on the report of a preliminary site investigation—
  - (a) stating that an activity or industry described in the *HAIL* is, or is not, being undertaken on the piece of land; or
  - (b) stating that an activity or industry described in the *HAIL* has, or has not, been undertaken on the piece of land; or
  - (c) stating the likelihood of an activity or industry described in the *HAIL* being undertaken, or having been undertaken, on the piece of land.
- (4) The person must—
  - (a) choose which of the 2 methods to use; and
  - (b) meet all the costs involved in using the method that the person has chosen.

## 7 Standards

- (1) In this regulation,—

**land use** means—

  - (a) the current use, if the activity the person wants to do is—
    - (i) to remove a fuel storage system from the piece of land or replace a fuel storage system in or on the piece of land;
    - (ii) to sample the soil of the piece of land;
    - (iii) to disturb the soil of the piece of land;
  - (b) the intended use, if the activity the person wants to do is—
    - (i) to subdivide land;
    - (ii) to change the use of the piece of land

**Methodology** means the current edition of the *Methodology for Deriving Standards for Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment

**priority contaminant** means a contaminant for which the *Methodology* derives a soil contaminant standard.

- (2) If the contaminant of concern is a priority contaminant and the land use fits within an exposure scenario adopted in the *Methodology*, the applicable standard is the soil contaminant standard for the priority contaminant.

- (3) If the contaminant of concern is a priority contaminant and the land use does not fit within an exposure scenario adopted in the *Methodology*, the applicable standard is whichever of the following is more appropriate in the circumstances:
  - (a) the guideline value derived in accordance with the methods and guidance on site-specific risk assessment provided in the *Methodology*;
  - (b) the soil contaminant standard for the priority contaminant of the exposure scenario adopted in the *Methodology* with greater assumed exposure than the actual exposure.
- (4) If the contaminant of concern is not a priority contaminant, the applicable standard is whichever of the following is more appropriate in the circumstances:
  - (a) the guideline value derived in accordance with the methods and guidance on site-specific risk assessment provided in the *Methodology*;
  - (b) a guideline value for the protection of human health that is chosen in accordance with the current edition of *Contaminated Land Management Guidelines No. 2—Hierarchy and Application in New Zealand of Environmental Guideline Values*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment.

## 8 Permitted activities

### *Removing or replacing fuel storage system*

- (1) Removing or replacing a fuel storage system is a permitted activity while the following requirements are met:
  - (a) the activity must be done in accordance with the current edition of *Guidelines for Assessing and Managing Petroleum Hydrocarbon Contaminated Sites in New Zealand*, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment;
  - (b) the territorial authority of the district where the system is located must be notified of—
    - (i) the place where the activity is to be done;
    - (ii) the dates on which it is intended that the activity begin and end;
    - (iii) the facility at which it is intended that soil taken away in the course of the activity be disposed of:

- (c) notification under paragraph (b) must be done no sooner than 1 month and no later than 1 week before the activity begins:
- (d) the volume of soil disturbed must be no more than 30 m<sup>3</sup> for each tank in the system:
- (e) the volume of soil taken away in the course of the activity must be no more than 30 m<sup>3</sup> for each tank in the system:
- (f) soil taken away in the course of the activity must be disposed of at a facility authorised to receive soil of that kind:
- (g) the duration of the activity must be no longer than 2 months:
- (h) the results of the investigation of the piece of land required by the guidelines described in paragraph (a) must be reported to the territorial authority within 3 months after the activity ends.

*Sampling soil*

- (2) Sampling the soil of the piece of land is a permitted activity while the following requirements are met:
  - (a) controls to minimise the exposure of humans to mobilised contaminants must—
    - (i) be in place when the activity begins:
    - (ii) be effective while the activity is done:
    - (iii) be effective until the soil is reinstated to an erosion-resistant state:
  - (b) the soil must be reinstated to an erosion-resistant state within 1 month after the end of the course of sampling for which the activity was done:
  - (c) soil must not be taken away in the course of the activity except as samples taken for the purpose of laboratory analysis:
  - (d) the integrity of a structure designed to contain contaminated soil or other contaminated materials must not be compromised.

*Disturbing soil*

- (3) Disturbing the soil of the piece of land is a permitted activity while the following requirements are met:



- (a) controls to minimise the exposure of humans to mobilised contaminants must—
  - (i) be in place when the activity begins:
  - (ii) be effective while the activity is done:
  - (iii) be effective until the soil is reinstated to an erosion-resistant state:
- (b) the soil must be reinstated to an erosion-resistant state within 1 month after the serving of the purpose for which the activity was done:
- (c) the volume of the disturbance of the soil of the piece of land must be no more than 25 m<sup>3</sup> per 500 m<sup>2</sup>:
- (d) soil must not be taken away in the course of the activity, except that,—
  - (i) for the purpose of laboratory analysis, any amount of soil may be taken away as samples:
  - (ii) for all other purposes combined, a maximum of 5 m<sup>3</sup> per 500 m<sup>2</sup> of soil may be taken away per year:
- (e) soil taken away in the course of the activity must be disposed of at a facility authorised to receive soil of that kind:
- (f) the duration of the activity must be no longer than 2 months:
- (g) the integrity of a structure designed to contain contaminated soil or other contaminated materials must not be compromised.

*Subdividing or changing use*

- (4) Subdividing land or changing the use of the piece of land is a permitted activity while the following requirements are met:
  - (a) a preliminary site investigation of the land or piece of land must exist:
  - (b) the report on the preliminary site investigation must state that it is highly unlikely that there will be a risk to human health if the activity is done to the piece of land:
  - (c) the report must be accompanied by a relevant site plan to which the report is referenced:
  - (d) the consent authority must have the report and the plan.

*Consequence if requirement not met*

- (5) If a requirement described in any of subclauses (1) to (3) is not met, the activity is a controlled activity under regulation 9 while it meets the requirements in regulation 9(1).
- (6) If a requirement described in subclause (4) is not met, the activity is a controlled activity under regulation 9 while it meets the requirements in regulation 9(3).

**9 Controlled activities**

*Removing or replacing fuel storage system, sampling soil,  
or disturbing soil*

- (1) If a requirement described in any of regulation 8(1) to (3) is not met, the activity is a controlled activity while the following requirements are met:
  - (a) a detailed site investigation of the piece of land must exist:
  - (b) the report on the detailed site investigation must state that the soil contamination does not exceed the applicable standard in regulation 7:
  - (c) the consent authority must have the report:
  - (d) conditions arising from the application of subclause (2), if there are any, must be complied with.
- (2) The matters over which control is reserved are as follows:
  - (a) the adequacy of the detailed site investigation, including—
    - (i) site sampling:
    - (ii) laboratory analysis:
    - (iii) risk assessment:
  - (b) how the activity must be—
    - (i) managed, which may include the requirement of a site management plan:
    - (ii) monitored:
    - (iii) reported on:
  - (c) the transport, disposal, and tracking of soil and other materials taken away in the course of the activity:
  - (d) the timing and nature of the review of the conditions in the resource consent:
  - (e) the duration of the resource consent.

*Subdividing or changing use*

- (3) If a requirement described in regulation 8(4) is not met, the activity is a controlled activity while the following requirements are met:
  - (a) a detailed site investigation of the piece of land must exist;
  - (b) the report on the detailed site investigation must state that the soil contamination does not exceed the applicable standard in regulation 7;
  - (c) the consent authority must have the report;
  - (d) conditions arising from the application of subclause (4), if there are any, must be complied with.
- (4) The matter over which control is reserved is the adequacy of the detailed site investigation, including—
  - (a) site sampling;
  - (b) laboratory analysis;
  - (c) risk assessment.

*No public notification of application for resource consent*

- (5) The consent authority must not give public notification of an application for a resource consent to do any of the activities.

*Consequence if requirement not met*

- (6) If a requirement described in this regulation is not met, the activity is a restricted discretionary activity under regulation 10 while it meets the requirements in regulation 10(2).

**10 Restricted discretionary activities**

- (1) This regulation applies to an activity described in any of regulation 5(2) to (6) on a piece of land described in regulation 5(7) or (8) that is not a permitted activity or a controlled activity.
- (2) The activity is a restricted discretionary activity while the following requirements are met:
  - (a) a detailed site investigation of the piece of land must exist;
  - (b) the report on the detailed site investigation must state that the soil contamination exceeds the applicable standard in regulation 7;
  - (c) the consent authority must have the report;

- (d) conditions arising from the application of subclause (3), if there are any, must be complied with.
- (3) The matters over which discretion is restricted are as follows:
  - (a) the adequacy of the detailed site investigation, including—
    - (i) site sampling:
    - (ii) laboratory analysis:
    - (iii) risk assessment:
  - (b) the suitability of the piece of land for the proposed activity, given the amount and kind of soil contamination:
  - (c) the approach to the remediation or ongoing management of the piece of land, including—
    - (i) the remediation or management methods to address the risk posed by the contaminants to human health:
    - (ii) the timing of the remediation:
    - (iii) the standard of the remediation on completion:
    - (iv) the mitigation methods to address the risk posed by the contaminants to human health:
    - (v) the mitigation measures for the piece of land, including the frequency and location of monitoring of specified contaminants:
  - (d) the adequacy of the site management plan or the site validation report or both, as applicable:
  - (e) the transport, disposal, and tracking of soil and other materials taken away in the course of the activity:
  - (f) the requirement for and conditions of a financial bond:
  - (g) the timing and nature of the review of the conditions in the resource consent:
  - (h) the duration of the resource consent.

*Consequence if requirement not met*

- (4) If a requirement described in this regulation is not met, the activity is a discretionary activity under regulation 11.

**11 Discretionary activities**

- (1) This regulation applies to an activity described in any of regulation 5(2) to (6) on a piece of land described in regulation 5(7) or (8) that is not a permitted activity, controlled activity, or restricted discretionary activity.

- (2) The activity is a discretionary activity.

Rebecca Kitteridge,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

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### **Explanatory note**

*This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.*

These regulations provide a national environmental standard for activities on pieces of land whose soil may be contaminated in such a way as to be a risk to human health. The activities are removing or replacing a fuel storage system, sampling the soil, disturbing the soil, subdividing land, and changing the use of the piece of land. The activities are classed as permitted activities, controlled activities, restricted discretionary activities, or discretionary activities.

The current editions of documents incorporated by reference are available on the Ministry for the Environment's website.

The regulations come into force on 1 January 2012.

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Date of notification in *Gazette*: 13 October 2011.

These regulations are administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

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