

Chapter Overview

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This document provides planning guidance for hazardous facilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). It sets out methods for determining the resource consent status of hazardous facilities under the RMA and discusses one particular method, the Hazardous Facility Screening Procedure (HFSP), in greater detail as well as presenting information on using this method in district plans.

- Section 1** provides background on the review of the 1995 document *Land Use Planning for Hazardous Facilities*, commonly known as the 'Red Book'. The 'Red Book' introduced guidelines for hazardous facilities and a new planning method, the Hazardous Facility Screening Procedure (HFSP). A definition of hazardous facilities is discussed and how the RMA deals with activities involving hazardous substances. Particular attention is given to the HFSP and how it can be made more accessible and user-friendly.
- Section 2** introduces relevant statutes for hazardous substances management, including the RMA and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996. The RMA is the principal statute for land use controls for hazardous facilities, while the HSNO Act deals with life-cycle controls. Controls under both statutes are intended to be consistent and complimentary. Other relevant statutes for hazardous substance management include the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), the Building Act 1991 and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997.
- Section 3** briefly outlines how the HSNO Act classifies hazardous substances establishing a series of hazard categories, with more stringent controls placed on substances with higher hazards. The system is broadly based on the United Nations (UN) system for the transport of dangerous goods, but includes additional categories for some highly hazardous substances, including toxic and ecotoxic substances.
- Section 4** introduces land use planning methods for activities involving hazardous substances, including the HFSP and other methods. The advantages and disadvantages of the various methods are discussed. Irrespective of the adopted land use planning method, a series of controls need to be applied to all activities. These include minimum performance requirements under the RMA and the HSNO Act, and matters to be addressed in Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEEs) and assessment criteria for resource consent applications. Specific matters such as transboundary issues, transport and disposal of hazardous substances and relevant management systems are also addressed.
- Section 5** provides background on the HFSP, including its development, use and application as well as an upgraded version of the procedure. The purpose of the HFSP is to establish whether a proposal for a hazardous facility requires a land use consent. The procedure helps to evaluate acceptable quantities of hazardous substances on a proposed site, based on a preliminary assessment of environmental effects. Explanations are given on how and when the HFSP is applied, where it should not be applied and which activities may be exempted.

Section 6	explains how the HFSP is linked with district plans through a Consent Status Matrix. This matrix contains a series of numerical values called Consent Status Indices that are assigned to each land use zone in the district. Numerical values (Quantity Ratios) calculated with the HFSP are compared against these indices to determine whether a proposed hazardous facility requires a resource consent. Guidance is provided on developing a Consent Status Matrix and on assigning and calibrating Consent Status Indices.
Section 7	discusses issues related to the implementation of the HFSP, such as the development of an implementation strategy to ensure the smooth introduction and long term administration of the procedure. This section discusses a range of concerns and solutions and the importance of monitoring the implementation of the HFSP.
Section 8	offers a model planning chapter on hazardous facilities to guide councils in the preparation of their district plans. It includes relevant definitions, a brief issue statement, objectives and policies, expected outcomes and a series of rules for hazardous facilities. The chapter is general in approach and will require translation into the context of particular districts.
List of abbreviations	provides a quick reference list for the abbreviations used in this document.
Glossary	contains a list of important terms and definitions.
References	gives a list of the documents used to prepare the Guide.
Bibliography	lists relevant Guidelines, Codes of Practice, Standards and other information sources (including electronic databases and websites) for the management of hazardous substances.
Appendix A	contains information on the rating of hazardous substances for the HFSP, based on the classification system adopted under HSNO.
Appendix B	lists commonly used hazardous substances for which the HFSP rating has already been completed.
Appendix C	is a guide enabling users to undertake their own research and subsequent rating of hazardous substances.
Appendix D	presents a spreadsheet for simplifying the HFSP calculations
Appendix E	details three case studies showing the application of the HFSP.
Appendix F	provides a model section 32 explanation that can serve as justification for the use of the HFSP under section 32 of the RMA.
Appendix G	contains a model schedule to accompany a district plan section on hazardous facilities.