

Glossary

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Accident	A sudden event causing harm to people, property or the natural environment.
Acute toxicity	Adverse effects caused by a substance with toxic properties occurring within a short time following exposure to that substance.
Adjusted quantity	The amount (mass in tonnes or cubic metres, at 101.3 kPa and 20°C, for compressed gases) of a substance that has been assessed as generating no significant off-site effects in a heavy industrial area after site- and substance-specific considerations have been taken into account.
Adjustment factor	The product of the individual factors for each Effect Type (i.e. Fire/Explosion, Human Health and Environment) that increase or decrease the likelihood and consequences of the release of a hazardous substance.
Base quantity	The amount (mass in tonnes or cubic metres, at 101.3 kPa and 20°C, for compressed gases) of a substance that has been assessed as generating no significant off-site effects in a heavy industrial area before site- and substance-specific considerations have been taken into account.
Bioaccumulation	Accumulation of a substance within the tissues of living organisms.
BOD₅	The biochemical oxygen demand (measured over a five day period) which is the amount of dissolved oxygen in a body of water required for the breakdown of organic matter in the water.
Carcinogenic	Causing a statistically significant increase in the incidence of tumours – see HSNO Regulations.
Chronic toxicity	Adverse effects caused by a substance with toxic properties which occur either after prolonged exposure or an extended period after initial exposure.
Cleaner production	The use of techniques to reduce the need for raw materials and/or energy and the amount of wastes generated. These techniques may include the use of recyclable materials, the use of less hazardous substances or the reduction in their quantity, and the use of renewable resources.
Code of practice	Means any document for the purpose of specifying procedures and practices, or equipment and facilities for the management of hazardous substances, including documents issued and approved in accordance with HSNO.
Consent status index	Numerical values in the district plan that are used to determine the consent status of a facility.
Consequence	The outcome of an event or situation expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage or gain (AS/NZS 4360:1999).

Corrosive	Capability of breaking down metal or human tissue on contact – see HSNO Regulations.
Cumulative risk	The risk posed by a hazardous facility added to or multiplied by risks from other facilities.
Ecosystem	A biotic community and its abiotic environment, considered together as a unit. Ecosystems are characterised by a flow of energy that leads to trophic status and material recycling.
Ecotoxic	Capability for toxic effects on non-human organisms and ecosystems – see HSNO Regulations.
Effect types	The effects generated when a hazardous substance is released or reacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fire/explosion effects concerned with damage to property, the built environment and people by substances with explosive, flammable or oxidising properties • human health effects concerned with adverse effects to the well-being and health of people by substances with toxic or corrosive properties • environmental effects concerned with damage to ecosystems or natural resources by substances with ecotoxic or corrosive properties.
Emergency plan	A regularly updated document serving as an emergency response guide by identifying and cataloguing the elements required to respond to an emergency, and defining responsibilities and specific tasks in an emergency.
Environment	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities • all natural and physical resources
Environmental effect	Any change to the environment regardless of scale, intensity, duration or frequency, in relation to the use, development, or protection of natural and physical resources (based on the RMA).
Environmental management system	Part of the overall management system that includes organisational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy (ISO/DIS 14050).
Environmentally damaging substances	Substances which are not intrinsically hazardous but may cause adverse effects if discharged into the environment in large quantities (e.g. milk and other organic liquids).
Environmentally sensitive areas	Areas that, in the judgement of the local community and/or regulatory authority, should not be subject to more than a specified low risk, or where additional safeguards are required when undertaking activities exceeding the specified low risk. Environmentally sensitive areas may include aquifers, waterways, wetlands, coastal environments, special ecosystems or species habitats.
Explosiveness	Capability of sudden expansion due to a release of internal energy – see HSNO Regulations.

Flammability	Capability to be ignited in the presence of oxygen and to sustain combustion – see HSNO Regulations.
Frequency	Measure of likelihood expressed as the number of occurrences of an event in a given time. See also Likelihood and Probability.
Harm	Injury or damage to health, property, or the environment.
Hazard	Actual or potential source of harm or a situation with a potential to cause adverse effect (modified from AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Hazard rating	The level of hazard (high, medium or low) applied to a hazardous substance for the purpose of an HFSP calculation, based on its HSNO classification.
Hazardous activity	An activity which does not include the use, storage or otherwise handling of a hazardous substance but which may pose a risk to the environment or a community (for example, earthworks).
Hazardous facility	Activities involving hazardous substances and sites, including vehicles for their transport, at which these substances are used, stored, handled or disposed of – see section 1.2.
Hazardous sub-facility	A hazardous facility that is separated by more than 30 metres from any other hazardous facility on the same site.
Hazardous substance	Any substance with hazardous properties including those substances defined as hazardous for the purpose of the HSNO Act.
Hazardous waste	As defined in hazardous waste discussion document (MfE, 1998).
HSNO	Includes both the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 and HSNO Regulations in relation to hazard classification and life cycle requirements for hazardous substances.
Likelihood	Qualitative description of probability or frequency (AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Off-site effects	Effects on people, property and/or the natural environment outside the boundary of the site of a hazardous facility.
Oxidising capacity	Capacity to contribute to fire or explosion due to the release of oxygen – see HSNO Regulations.
Performance requirements	Controls which say what is to be achieved (including in measurable terms), without being prescriptive (based on MfE, 1994).
Precautionary approach	The need for caution in managing adverse effects of hazardous substances where there is scientific and technical uncertainty about those effects (based on HSNO).
Probability	Likelihood of a specific outcome, measured by the ratio of specific outcomes to the total number of possible outcomes. Probability is expressed as a percentage or number between 0 and 1, with 0 indicating an impossible outcome and 1 indicating an outcome is certain (based on AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Property performance requirements	Standards relating to the nature of the hazardous properties (e.g. explosive, toxic, corrosive etc) of a given hazardous substance (based on MfE, 1994)

Proposed quantity	The quantity of a hazardous substance proposed to be used or stored on a site.
Quantity ratio	The ratio of the proposed quantity of a substance over the applicable base quantity.
Receptor	Ecological entity exposed to the stressor (USEPA, 1996).
Residual risk	The risk remaining after risk treatment measures have been taken (modified AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Risk	The chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives. It may be an event, action, or lack of action. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS 4360:1999). In the context of this Guide, risk is the chance of something happening that will have an impact on the environment.
Risk analysis	The systematic use of available information to determine how often specified events may occur and the magnitude of their likely consequences (AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Risk assessment	Overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation. (AS/NZS 4360:1999 and AS/NZS 3931:1998.)
Risk management	The systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, assessing, treating and monitoring risk (AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Risk mitigation	Steps taken to reduce the probability of occurrence or the magnitude of the consequences (AS/NZS 4360:1999).
Separation distance	The distance from the edge of the area where hazardous substances are used, stored or otherwise handled to the edge of the area exposed to defined adverse effects.
Site management system	The means of ensuring the ongoing safety of a hazardous facility through sound management. A site management system should include safety policy, provide a description of organisational structure and responsibilities, include operating, emergency and monitoring procedures, and carry out regular performance auditing.
Spill containment system	A structure which will contain liquid or solid hazardous substances in the event of a spill, and prevent them from entering the stormwater system or a natural water body.
Storage	The containment of a substance, either above ground or underground, which is not being used for manufacturing or altered to another substance, but does not include use of a substance as a cooling or heating medium. Storage does include the filling and emptying of the container.

Substance

- Any element, defined mixture of elements, compounds, or defined mixtures of compounds, either naturally occurring or produced synthetically, or any mixtures thereof.
- Any isotope, allotrope, isomer, congener, radical, or ion of an element or compound which has been officially declared by the Environmental Risk Management Authority to be a different substance from that element or compound.
- Any mixtures or combinations of any of the above.
- Any manufactured article containing, incorporating or including any hazardous substance with explosive properties (HSNO).

Unintentional release

Unplanned or unwanted release of a hazardous substance or substances that may or may not be detected immediately.

Use

The manufacturing, processing or handling of a substance for a particular activity without necessarily changing the physical state or chemical structure of the substance involved. This includes mixing, blending and packaging operations, but does not include the filling or drawing of substances from bulk storage tanks unless the processing is permanently connected to the bulk storage, and does not include loading out and dispensing of petroleum products.