

Rotorua District Council Guide to Hazardous Substances Rules: Dairy Farms

INTRODUCTION

This information forms part of a series of guides on hazardous substances for small businesses. Please read this guide in conjunction with the introductory guide.

This information applies to you if you:

- *propose to set up a new dairy farm; or*
- *already operate an existing dairy farm, but propose to significantly increase the quantities of hazardous substances you store.*

This guide includes:

- *an average range of hazardous substances for dairy farms*
- *permissible quantities of hazardous substances which can be stored on dairy farms*
- *distance-to-boundary rules applying to sensitive environments such as lakes, streams and springs or residential areas, rural villages or lakeside settlements*
- *minimum performance standards that dairy farms must comply with*

RANGE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES COMMONLY FOUND ON DAIRY FARMS

Data generated by surveys of dairy farms have helped to compile an average range of hazardous substances stored on dairy farms, as shown below.

Hazardous Substance Type	Unit	Average Quantity
Diesel/oil	litres	800
Flammable liquids (petrol, paints, thinners etc)	litres	300
Detergents, sanitisers, bleaches	litres	600
Animal remedies	litres/kg	50
Pesticides	litres/kg	90
Milk	litres	3,500
Fertilisers (excluding nitrate fertilisers)	litres/kg	1,000

WHEN IS A RESOURCE CONSENT REQUIRED FOR A DAIRY FARM?

The table below lists maximum quantities of hazardous substances which are permitted to be stored on dairy farms in the rural land use zones of the district. While there are other zones in the district where dairy farming currently occurs, these are existing uses and it is likely that this land will be used differently in the future.

If the quantities of hazardous substances you propose or intend to store on your dairy farm are below the quantities listed, you do not require a resource consent.

However, if the quantities of hazardous substances you propose or intend to store are above the quantities listed, you need to apply for a resource consent. The Council will then assess your application and determine whether a consent can be granted.

Note: If you have more than one hazardous substances storage facility on your farm and these facilities are separated by more than 30 metres, they can be assessed as separate storage facilities. If this is the case, you need to inform the Council.

MAXIMUM QUANTITIES OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES PERMITTED TO BE STORED ON DAIRY FARMS IN THE RURAL A ZONE

Hazardous Substance Type	Unit	Maximum Permissible Quantity
Diesel/Oil	litres	1700 (22,300)
Flamm. liquids (petrol, paints, thinners etc)	litres	520 (7500)
Detergents/sanitisers/b leaches	litres	1500
Animal remedies	litres/kg	75
Pesticides	litres/kg	150
Fertilisers	litres/kg	Unlimited
Nitrate fertilisers	kg	(7,500)

Note: Numbers in brackets apply if the hazardous substances concerned are stored in separate facilities and more than 30 metres from other hazardous substances storage facilities.

DISTANCE-TO-BOUNDARY RULES

If you propose to store any hazardous substances close to sensitive environments (e.g. lakes, streams or residential areas), the maximum quantities of hazardous substances for the different land use zones need to be reduced in order to be a permitted activity. Otherwise, you will need to apply to Council for a resource consent. Therefore, if you propose or intend to store any hazardous substances within 100 m of a lake, stream or spring or over a recognised groundwater resource, maximum permissible quantities of hazardous substances need to be reduced by 70%.

Also, if you propose or intend to store any hazardous substances within 20 metres of a residential zone, a rural village or a lakeside settlement, a resource consent is required. The Council will then assess your application and determine whether a consent can be granted.

Overall, the Council strongly advises that all hazardous substances are stored well away from any sensitive environmental areas and residential zones.

Note: The application of agrichemicals (including pesticides) to pasture or crops and any associated effects resulting from spray drift is regulated by regional councils. If you are involved in such activities, it is therefore recommended that you get into touch with the relevant regional council.

MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS RELATING TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The following minimum conditions apply to your business irrespective of whether it is a permitted activity or not:

The storage of any hazardous substances or hazardous wastes shall be carried out in a manner that prevents:

- *exposure to ignition sources*
- *reaction with other hazardous substances*
- *corrosion or alteration of the containers used*
- *any unintentional leakages or spills*

All locations on a site where hazardous substances are manufactured, mixed, stored, handled, loaded or unloaded must be designed and managed to:

- *contain any accidental spills of hazardous substances*
- *prevent any illegal discharges to the environment.*

Spill containment systems must:

- *be constructed from impervious materials*

- *be able to contain 125% of the volume of all containers (e.g. tanks and drums) or if the containment area is covered 100% volume of the drums or other containers used*
- *contain any spill of hazardous substances, or discharges of contaminated stormwater or fire water.*

Any stormwater originating on a site must be drained and managed to prevent accidental contamination with hazardous substances.

Any locations on a site where contaminated vehicles, equipment or containers are washed must be designed and managed so that the contaminated wash water cannot be discharged to the environment, unless permitted to do so.

Underground tanks must be designed, constructed and managed to prevent leakages and spills.

Hazardous facilities must be adequately sign posted.

Hazardous substances must be clearly labelled and backed up by Material Safety Data Sheets.

The disposal of waste hazardous substances must be undertaken only via suitable contractors and to approved facilities which hold relevant permits.

Hazardous wastes must not be discharged to the environment or the public sewerage system unless permitted to do so.

OTHER MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS RELATING TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

In addition to the minimum performance standards specified by the District Plan, there are other requirements and legislation that need to be complied with. These include:

1. Regional Council requirements.
2. The **Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO)** and associated minimum performance requirements for packaging and containers, labelling, testing, disposal etc.
3. The **Land Transport Act 1998** and associated Rule: *Dangerous Goods 1999 and NZ Standard 5433: 1999 – Transport of Dangerous Goods on Land* which specify controls for the transport of dangerous goods.
4. The **Local Government Act 1974** and associated requirements for the discharge of trade waste to the public sewage system through Bylaws, as well as disposal of solid waste in accordance with Council's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Other relevant pieces of legislation include The Radiation Protection Act 1965, Fire Services Act 1975, the Building Act 1991, the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997.

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

Please note: This guide is designed for general guidance and should not be relied on in specific circumstances. If you have any questions, please contact the Dangerous Goods Inspector (Hazardous Substance Officer) of the Rotorua District Council at the following contact numbers:

Phone: 07 348 4199

Fax: 07 346 3143