

Title	Prevent hazards associated with working with hazardous and toxic substances on construction sites		
Level	4	Credits	4

Purpose	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify different types hazardous substances and toxic environments for building and construction sites, and apply the appropriate controls for compliance with the Site Safety Plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation; and identify and apply procedures to monitor controls of working with hazardous and toxic substances.</p> <p>This unit standard is for people who wish to act as Safety Supervisors or become involved in health and safety and injury prevention over a wide range of building and construction activities and environments.</p>
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Classification	Construction > Construction Health and Safety, and Injury Prevention
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 *Compliance* is required with the hierarchy of controls outlined in the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), i.e: elimination of significant hazards; isolation of significant hazards when elimination is not practicable; and minimisation of significant hazards where elimination and isolation are not practicable.
- 2 *All practical steps* means all steps to achieve the result that it is reasonably practicable to take in the circumstances, having due regard to: nature and severity of the harm; current state of knowledge about that harm; current state of knowledge about the means available to achieve the result and availability and cost of each of those means.
- 3 *Hazards* refer to those occurrences, processes, substances or situations as determined by the supervisor that are an actual or potential cause or source of harm associated with, but not limited to: process, activities, environment, equipment, materials, work organisation, site and facilities. Contributing factors may include noise, vibration, temperature, pressure and mechanical, ergonomic stressors, and chemical agents.
- 4 *Codes of Practice* refer to any issued code of practice approved by the Minister of Labour under Section 20 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), and any work carried out in accordance with that code.

Specific Publication – Management of Substances Hazardous to Health (MOSHH) in the Place of Work, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour, July 1997.

- 5 *Standards* refer to any New Zealand or other Standards that provide technical guidance and specifications. Standards may also be specified in Regulations. Specific Publication – Workplace Exposure Standards, issued by Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour, August 2002.
- 6 *Guidelines* refer to any information on health and safety produced by the Occupation Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour or Accident Compensation Corporation for the provision of health, safety and injury prevention in the building and construction industry. The guidelines are referenced to Regulations, situations or hazards, and may be based on relevant sections of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, Standards contained in former legislation, or accepted good practice and supportive information.
Specific publication – Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety in the Construction Industry, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour, April 1996.
- 7 *Legislation* relevant to this unit standard includes, but is not limited to: Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, specifically, the definitions referring to Construction Work and Notifiable Work; Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996; Toxic Substance Regulations 1983; Human Rights Act 1993; Privacy Act 1993; Local Government Act 1974; Resource Management Act 1991; Building Act 1991.
- 8 *Safety Supervisor* is defined as a person recognised as a health and safety practitioner pertaining to the building and construction industry or trades.
- 9 *Organisation* may refer to any business engaging, controlling, or employing people in a building and construction environment.
- 10 *Site Safety Plan* is defined as a building and construction site specific document that demonstrates an organisation's means of compliance with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and includes but is not limited to the following:
- assignment of responsibilities for on site implementation;
 - hazard identification methods;
 - accident investigation and report methods;
 - site emergency procedures;
 - site communication strategy;
 - strategy for the co-ordination of on site trade activities;
 - site audit procedures.
- 11 *Substance hazardous to health* means any substance or product containing a substance to be used or produced in a workplace that is known or suspected to cause harm to health. This includes:
- Those substances that are classified as hazardous under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 excluding micro-organisms.
 - Scheduled substances as defined by the Toxic Substance Regulations 1983.

- Those substances that are listed in the Workplace Exposure Standards publication currently applicable in New Zealand.
- 12 *Engineering Controls* these involve the use of plant or processes which minimise the generation, suppress, or contain a substance hazardous to health or limit the area of contamination in the event of spill or leaks.
- 13 *Administrative Controls* are work practices that require people to work in safer ways and relate to the way in which work is performed.
- 14 *PPE or Personal Protective Equipment* is used as another control measure to increase protection and safe guard health.
- 15 This unit standard requires assessment in a practical work situation, on site. *On site* refers to a wide range of building and construction environments within which trade skills are required.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Identify different types of hazardous substances for building and construction sites and apply the appropriate controls for compliance with the Site Safety Plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation.

Range all substances whether solid, liquid, chemical, adhesives, solvents, dust, gas, vapour, mist, spray, fumes, that are or will be used or produced in the work areas.

Performance criteria

1.1 Hazards are identified in terms of each type of harmful substances to identify the controls required for health and safety compliance.

Range hazard factors include but are not limited to – lack of information, unlabelled and/or defective containers, incompatible substances, unknown substances, no assessment process, little or no training, failure to eliminate, isolate or minimise, inadequate personal protective clothing and equipment, contamination, uncontrolled work areas, inappropriate storage or location, lack of Engineering and Administrative controls.

- 1.2 Controls required when carrying out work with hazardous substances are applied to ensure that all practical steps are taken to maintain health and safety compliance.

Range prevention and control measures to be considered but not limited to – prior consideration to all substances that can or will arise from work on a building, identifying and labelling substances in the workplace, reviewing information on the identified substance (such as Material Safety Data Sheets), keeping current inventories and registers, checking locations and storage, assessing the risk, allocating responsibilities, sufficient training and supervision, controlling the work area involved, determining the degree and type of exposure and reviewing assessment, sufficient Engineering and Administrative controls, emergency procedures which provide for sudden or unexpected release of the substances hazardous to health and immediate danger of exposure.

Outcome 2

Identify and apply procedures to monitor controls of hazardous substances.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Identified hazards and related control measures are documented in accordance with the Site Safety Plan and the Management of Substances Hazardous to Health (MOSHH) document.
- 2.2 Work involving hazardous substances is inspected for compliance against Site Safety Plan, the Management of Substances hazardous to Health (MOSHH) document, relevant legislation and the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE).
- Range identification, information, prevention and control, monitoring, training and supervision, allocation of responsibilities, controlled places of work, monitoring exposure, assessment and assessment review. Specifically, Engineering controls, Administrative controls, and PPE.
- 2.3 Corrective action is taken to meet provisions of controls required for compliance with health and safety legislation and the Site Safety Plan.
- 2.4 Results of all inspections are recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Site Safety Plan.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	21 May 1999	31 December 2024
Revision	2	12 February 2003	31 December 2024
Review	3	25 August 2022	31 December 2024

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0048
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.