

Title	Describe the properties and applications of compost products and production issues at a composting facility		
Level	4	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the properties and applications of compost products; and describe the issues relating to production of compost products, at a composting facility.
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Classification	Resource Recovery > Composting
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 All work practices must comply with:
 - Health and at Work Act (HSWA) 2015;
 - Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991;
 - Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996;
 - NZS 4454:2005 *Composts, soil conditioners and mulches*;
 - The New Zealand Waste Strategy: Reducing Harm, Improving Efficiency* 2010 Ministry for the Environment, available at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz>;
 - Local Authority bylaws;
 - Approved Code of Practice for the Management of Substances Hazardous to Health in the Place of Work*, Occupational Safety and Health Service, available at <http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/> (WorkSafe NZ).
- 2 Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used throughout operations in accordance with company procedures. PPE includes but is not limited to – gloves, eye protection, footwear, overalls, hearing protection, respirator or facemask, high-visibility clothing, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, eye wash kit, face shield/mask; hard hat.
- 3 Definitions
 - Company procedures* mean the documented methods for performing work activities and include health and safety, environmental, and quality management requirements. They may refer to manuals, codes of practice, or policy statements.
 - Products* may include but are not limited to – standard and specialised potting mixes; general and special purpose landscaping soils; compost, composted and pasteurised mulches for various applications; composted and pasteurised soil conditioners for various applications; loose fill materials; ornamental mulches; effluent, storm water or emission treatment products; products for erosion control or site remediation; products for agricultural disease suppression; and other products for specialised applications.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the properties and applications of compost products at a composting facility.

Range evidence is required for four products.

Performance criteria

1.1 Products made at a composting facility are described in terms of their properties and purpose.

Range may include – client-specific requirements, types of compost, additives or fungal/bacterial.

1.2 Products made at a composting facility are described in terms of their application.

Range may include – home gardening, sports turf, agriculture, horticulture; client needs – soil condition, production requirements.

1.3 Products made at a composting facility are described in terms of the quality requirements of NZS 4454:2005.

Outcome 2

Describe the issues relating to production of compost products at a composting facility.

Performance criteria

2.1 Environmental impacts and their controls for the production of compost products are described in accordance with company procedures and RMA requirements.

Range environmental impacts may include – odour, anthropogenic gas emissions, particulate, litter, noise, wastewater runoff, leachate, pests, pathogens.

2.2 Health and safety hazards to on-site personnel as a result of the production of compost products is described in accordance with company procedures and RMA requirements.

Range hazards include – physical (sharps, dust, noise, heat); chemical (pesticides, heavy metals); biological contaminants (pathogens).

2.3 Compliance issues relating to the products produced in a composting recycling operation are described in terms of the RMA, HSWA, NZS 4454:2005, and local authority requirements.

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	23 April 2007	31 December 2017
Review	2	16 April 2015	31 December 2022
Review	3	28 January 2021	31 December 2025
Review	4	27 March 2025	31 December 2025

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0014

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Hanga-Aro-Rau Manufacturing, Engineering and Logistics Workforce Development Council qualifications@hangaarorau.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.