



Environmental
Protection Authority
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

Fire Fighting Chemicals Group Standard 2017 - HSR002573



GROUP STANDARD

UNDER THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND NEW ORGANISMS ACT 1996

Fire Fighting Chemicals Group Standard 2017

Pursuant to clause 5 of Schedule 7 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (the Act), the Environmental Protection Authority has reviewed and, for the purpose of updating, reissues this Group Standard.

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1. Name of Group Standard

Fire Fighting Chemicals Group Standard 2017

HSNO Approval Number

The HSNO Approval Number for this Group Standard is HSR002573.

2. Commencement

This Group Standard comes into force on 1 December 2017.

3. Interpretation

- (1) In this Group Standard, unless the context otherwise requires, words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in Schedule 2. Any words or phrases that are used but not defined in this Group Standard but that are defined in the Act have the same meaning as the Act.
- (2) In this Group Standard, references to a hazardous property of a substance being equivalent to a specified HSNO hazard classification, means a reference to the specified hazard classification as set out in the Hazardous Substances (Classification) Notice 2017.

4. Scope of Group Standard

Substances covered by Group Standard

- (1) This Group Standard applies to hazardous substances under section 96B(2)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act.
- (2) This Group Standard applies to solid or liquid substances that are imported or manufactured for use as a fire fighting chemical.
- (3) A substance referred to in subclause (2) must have one or more of the following (but only the following) hazards:
 - (a) acute toxicity, HSNO 6.1D or 6.1E classification;
 - (b) HSNO 6.1E (aspiration hazard) classification;
 - (c) skin irritancy, HSNO 6.3A or 6.3B classification;
 - (d) eye corrosivity, HSNO 8.3A classification;
 - (e) eye irritancy, HSNO 6.4A classification;
 - (f) respiratory sensitisation, HSNO 6.5A classification;
 - (g) contact sensitisation, HSNO 6.5B classification;
 - (h) mutagenicity, HSNO 6.6A or 6.6B classification;
 - (i) reproductive toxicity, HSNO 6.8A, 6.8B or 6.8C classification;
 - (j) target organ toxicity, HSNO 6.9A or 6.9B classification;
 - (k) ecotoxicity, HSNO class 9.

Substances excluded from Group Standard

- (4) This Group Standard excludes any substance if it contains—
 - (a) asbestos; or
 - (b) a chemical that:
 - (i) is a persistent organic pollutant within the definition in section 2 of the Act; or

- (ii) exhibits the characteristics of a persistent organic pollutant as set out in paragraph 1 of Annex D to Schedule 1AA of the Act.
- (5) This Group Standard excludes any substance that is or contains—
 - (a) perfluoroalkyl sulfonate; or
 - (b) perfluorooctanoic acid.
- (6) This Group Standard excludes any substance that contains a chemical that is a mutagen or reproductive toxicant that is not listed on the Inventory of Chemicals, unless—
 - (a) the new mutagen or reproductive toxicant is used to completely replace an existing mutagen or reproductive toxicant in the substance; and
 - (b) the new mutagen or reproductive toxicant has a lower hazard classification than the existing mutagen or reproductive toxicant.
- (7) This Group Standard excludes any substance that is a hazardous chemical not listed on the Inventory of Chemicals.
- (8) For the purposes of subclause (7), “chemical” means any element or compound in its natural state or obtained by any production process, including any impurities and any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the chemical but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the chemical or changing its composition.

5. Conditions of Group Standard

The conditions that specify the obligations and restrictions for substances covered by this Group Standard are set out in Schedule 1.

Advisory Note: In addition to requirements specified in this document, people who are undertaking work in a workplace involving hazardous substances covered by this Group Standard have obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Schedule 1: Conditions of Group Standard

Part 1 - Compliance with EPA Notices

1. Labelling and advertising

Substances covered by this Group Standard must comply with the relevant provisions of the Hazardous Substances (Labelling) Notice 2017.

2. Safety data sheets

Substances covered by this Group Standard must comply with the relevant provisions of the Hazardous Substances (Safety Data Sheet) Notice 2017.

3. Packaging

Substances covered by this Group Standard must comply with the relevant provisions of the Hazardous Substances (Packaging) Notice 2017.

4. Disposal

Substances covered by this Group Standard must comply with the relevant provisions of the Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Notice 2017.

5. Restriction on supply, storage and use

Substances covered by this Group Standard must comply with the relevant provisions of the Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice 2017.

Part 2 - Notification to the Authority

6. Inventory of Chemicals

- (1) When a substance is imported into, or manufactured in, New Zealand after 30 June 2006, the importer or manufacturer must ensure that all hazardous chemicals contained in the substance are listed on the Inventory of Chemicals.
- (2) If that substance contains a hazardous chemical that is not listed on the Inventory of Chemicals, then the importer or manufacturer of the substance must at the time they first import or manufacture the substance, notify the Authority in writing of—
 - (a) the name of the substance; and
 - (b) the HSNO approval number and/or title of the group standard under which the substance is deemed to have been approved; and
 - (c) the name and CAS number of the chemical not listed on the Inventory of Chemicals that is present in the substance; and
 - (d) the concentration of that chemical in the substance; and
 - (e) the hazardous properties of the chemical, including the provision of the relevant hazard data used to assign the substance to the group standard; and
 - (f) the proposed use of the substance.
- (3) Subclause (2) applies subject to clause 4(6) - (8) of this Group Standard (Scope of Group Standard).

Part 3 - Other Matters

7. Assigning a substance to a group standard

- (1) If an importer or manufacturer considers that this Group Standard applies to the importation or manufacture of a substance, then the importer or manufacturer is responsible for assigning the substance to this Group Standard.
- (2) In order to assign the substance to this Group Standard, the importer or manufacturer must—
 - (a) ensure that the substance complies with clause 4 of this Group Standard (Scope of Group Standard); and
 - (b) keep a record of how it was determined the substance complies with clause 4 of this Group Standard.
- (3) The importer or manufacturer must—
 - (a) ensure that the record contains sufficient information to allow for independent verification that the substance complies with clause 4 of this Group Standard (Scope of Group Standard); and
 - (b) have that record available for inspection.

Schedule 2: Interpretation

asbestos has the same meaning as in the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 but does not include substances that contain naturally occurring traces of asbestos

CAS number means Chemical Abstract Services Registry number

condition means any obligation or restriction imposed upon a substance by a group standard

fire fighting chemical means any chemical that is used to prevent, suppress or extinguish a fire and includes any suppressant that reduces the surface tension of water and/or produces a foam which is applied directly on to the flame of a fire to extinguish the fire. It also includes fire retardants that are mixed with water and applied to unburnt vegetation so that combustion is not supported

Inventory of Chemicals means an inventory kept and maintained by the Authority of chemicals known to be present in New Zealand

perfluoroalkyl sulfonate is a generic term used to describe any fully fluorinated carbon chain sulfonate, and includes any higher and lower homologues as well as perfluorooctane sulfonate

perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) means the parent acid (CAS number 1763-23-1) and any salts thereof, including the potassium (CAS number 2795-39-3), lithium (CAS number 29457-72-5), ammonium (CAS number 29081-56-9) and diethanolamine (CAS number 70225-14-8) salts

perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a fully fluorinated eight-carbon chain carboxylic acid (CAS number 335-67-1)

substance means any solid or liquid fire fighting chemical that is within the scope of clause 4 of this Group Standard (Scope of Group Standard)

workplace has the same meaning as in the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the group standard but is intended to provide guidance to users of the group standard.

- (1) Under the Act, section 96E(3) provides that a hazardous substance to which section 96B(2)(a) applies is deemed to have been approved by the Authority under section 29.
- (2) Any transitional measures that were in this Group Standard immediately prior to 1 December 2017 but have expired have not been included in this reissued Group Standard.
- (3) All amendments made under section 96B to the Group Standard since it was first issued that are still in force have been incorporated into this reissued Group Standard.
- (4) In addition to requirements specified in this document, people who are undertaking work in a workplace involving hazardous substances covered by this Group Standard have obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
- (5) A person relying on this Group Standard will have four years (until 1 December 2021) to comply with the Labelling, Safety Data Sheet and Packaging Notices. Within that time, a person may comply with the equivalent conditions in the Group Standard in force immediately before 1 December 2017. All other aspects of this Group Standard apply from 1 December 2017.



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