



When is a Permission required for a VTA?

If you are undertaking pest control operations that require the use of certain vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs), you may need a Permission from the Department of Conservation (DOC) and/or the Public Health Unit (PHU) of the local District Health Board. This requirement is set under Section 95A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act.

This information sheet provides details on the specific situations where a Permission is required. Guidance is also provided on how to obtain the Permission.

Permission from Department of Conservation

A Permission is required from the Department of Conservation for *any* VTA operation that is undertaken on land administered or managed by the Department of Conservation. To obtain this Permission, you will need to contact your local Department of Conservation Conservancy or Area office. A list of the contact numbers for the Conservancies is provided below. Note that you will need to fill out an application form or an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) to obtain this permission, available from DOC. The application will require you to provide information on a range of matters relating to the VTA operation, including the location of the treatment (operational) area, proposed control methods and outcomes of any consultation.

DOC Contact Details

DOC Conservancy	Phone No
Northland	(09) 470 3300
Auckland	(09) 307 9279
Waikato	(07) 838 3363
Bay of Plenty	(07) 349 7400
Tongariro/Taupo	(07) 386 8607
East Coast/Hawkes Bay	(06) 869 0460
Wanganui	06) 348 8475
Wellington	04) 472 5821

When is a Permission Required for a VTA

Nelson/Marlborough	(03) 546 9335
West Coast	(03) 756 8282
Canterbury	(03) 371 3700
Otago	(03) 477 0677
Southland	(03) 211 2400

For a full list of phone numbers for Conservancy and Area Offices, go to “Contact Us” on the DOC Website at www.doc.govt.nz.

Permission from the Public Health Unit (PHU) of the local District Health Board

A Permission is required from the PHU whenever any of the following VTAs are used or applied in a catchment area from which water is drawn for human consumption, or in any area where there is a risk to public health, for example in places where the public has access as of right (eg parks):

- 1080
- sodium cyanide or potassium cyanide
- yellow phosphorus
- 3-chloro-p-toluidine hydrochloride.

To obtain this Permission, you will need to contact the relevant PHU in the region the operation is to be carried out. A list of the contact numbers for the regional PHU Offices is provided below. You should not independently determine whether there may be a risk to public health and therefore whether or not a Permission is needed from PHU. In all cases, you should contact the relevant PHU. They are the agency with expertise in public health matters, and it is they who should advise you on whether a Permission is or is not required.

If you are advised that a Permission is required, you will need to fill out an application form to obtain this permission, available from the Health Protection Officer. The application will require you to provide information on a range of matters relating to the VTA operation, including the location of the treatment area, proposed control methods and outcomes of any consultation. A risk assessment is also required to be provided.

DHB PHU Contact Details

DHB Regional PHU Office	Phone No
Northland	(09) 430 4100
Auckland	(09) 623 4600
Waikato	(07) 838 2569
Whakatane	(07) 306 0847
Tauranga	(07) 571 8975
Rotorua	(07) 349 3520
Gisborne/Tairāwhiti	(06) 867 9119
Taranaki	(06) 753 7799
Hawkes Bay and Chatham Islands	(06) 834 1815
Manawatu/Wanganui/Ruapehu	(06) 350 9110
Wellington/Hutt Valley	(04) 570 9002
Wairarapa	(06) 370 5020
Nelson	(03) 546 1537
Marlborough	(03) 520 9914
Canterbury	(03) 379 9480
South Canterbury	(03) 688 6019
Queenstown/Central Otago	(03) 442 2500
West Coast	(03) 768 1160
Dunedin	(03) 474 1700
Invercargill	(03) 211 0900

If you are in any doubt about whether or not you require a Permission for your VTA operation, you should contact the relevant DOC or PHU office for their advice prior to commencing any work.

Make sure you keep a copy of any permission issued. You may be required to show it to an enforcement officer if asked.

If you would like further information on VTAs and permissions, or hazardous substances compliance generally, contact our Hazardous Substances Compliance Line by on 0800 376 234 or hsinfo@epa.govt.nz

Or contact us at:

Environmental Protection Authority
P O Box 131, Wellington.