

# Choosing a technical expert to manage the disposal of PFOS

**When choosing a technical expert to dispose of materials containing or contaminated by PFOS, we recommend that you consider the following criteria. Please note that this list is designed to help you make this sort of decision, but it is not a comprehensive list. This list can also apply when planning the disposal of other persistent organic pollutants (POPs) or class 9 hazardous substances.**

## Selecting an expert

Staff designing waste-management plans for the management and disposal of PFOS should:

- be reputable experts with a track record in an appropriate field, ideally with at least five years or more of related experience (for example, managing persistent organic pollutants, managing hazardous waste, or in-process engineering of firefighting equipment)
- have a tertiary education in a field that is relevant to the parts of the plan that they develop
- belong to a recognised professional body that assesses and certifies environmental professionals in competency criteria of training, experience, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, such as:
  - Engineering New Zealand – see <https://www.engineeringnz.org/>
  - the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) scheme run by the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) – see [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org).

In the absence of such a professional body specific to waste management, the staff should have a similar high level of experience, training, conduct and behaviour to that required for the above professional bodies.

- be someone whose professional standing could allow them to provide expert testimony in court.

You could also check whether the expert, or their organisation(s), has:

- quality assurance programmes that are regularly audited
- professional indemnity insurance.

## Supporting evidence

Evidence to show how practitioners, certifiers and organisations preparing PFOS management plans meet the above criteria could include the following. The list is not exhaustive.

- CVs
- Case studies
- References
- Quality assurance accreditation certificates
- Professional indemnity insurance certificates

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