

ERMA NEW ZEALAND

# INFORMATION SHEET

Code of Practice HSNO COP 19-1  
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## Code of Practice for Disused Below Ground Stationary Tanks on Farms

### Codes of Practice: What are they and what is their significance?

Codes of Practice are able to be approved by the Authority under Sections 78 and 79 of the HSNO Act. In practice they are approved by the ERMA New Zealand Chief Executive under delegated authority.

Codes of Practice are “how to” documents. They tell you how you can meet the requirements of the HSNO regulations and controls, in a way that is legally defensible. Also, where provided for in the legislation, they may introduce requirements (such as recognised standards) that are in addition to those specified in the legislation. However, they are **not** mandatory! If you have other ways of meeting the requirements then you can adopt those instead.

Most Codes will be developed by industry or user groups rather than by ERMA New Zealand.

### Where can you get a copy of this Code?

Code HSNO COP 19-1 was developed by ERMA New Zealand. A hard copy of the Code will be held at ERMA New Zealand’s reception in our Wellington Office. You can inspect a copy there. It is also available on the ERMA New Zealand website: [www.ermanz.govt.nz](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz)

### What is this Code about?

The purpose of this Code of Practice - Disused Below Ground Stationary Tanks on Farms - is to provide a means of compliance with the requirements of clause 40(2)(b)(ii) of Schedule 8 to the Hazardous Substances (Dangerous Goods and Scheduled Toxic Substances) Transfer Notice 2004 (as amended).

This Code only applies to farms and provides the requirements that must be met to leave a disused below ground tank in the ground.

## What is in the Code?

It is not possible to give a full summary of the Code in this Information Sheet, but the following information will give you a good indication of what is covered in the Code.

### Content

Every disused below ground stationary tank on a farm that is to be left in the ground must meet the requirements of this code. A summary of these requirements is:

- Local and regional authority requirements are ascertained before any action is commenced.
- All hazardous substances are removed from the tank.
- All above ground pipework is removed.
- All openings are blanked off.
- The tank is filled with an inert material.

### Limitation

This Code is only applicable to disused tanks on farms. A farm is defined as an area of land not less than 4 hectares in size, and does not include golf courses. The land must be used principally for the purposes of agriculture.

This Code of Practice is limited to below ground stationary tanks with a maximum capacity of 3000 litres.

## Conclusion

This paper has been prepared by ERMA New Zealand to help you decide whether this Code would be of relevance to you. It is **not** in itself a Code of Practice.

## Further information or feedback

For information on hazardous substances compliance visit [www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/hscompliance.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/hscompliance.asp) or call our Hazardous Substances Compliance Line on 0800 376 234.

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