

Pollution Prevention Assessments

■ Introduction

This fact sheet outlines the pollution assessments the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) carries out on industrial or trade process sites as part of its Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme.

■ The Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme

The Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme works with industrial or trade processes to address and reduce the pollution risk to land and water. Its main aim is to work proactively and cooperatively with businesses to reduce pollution risks.

A major focus of the programme is dealing with stormwater that leaves sites after rainfall. This is because stormwater flows directly into our region's streams, rivers, estuaries and harbours. Unless it is treated on-site, it will flow into and pollute these receiving environments. See the fact sheet "Water Pollution in the Auckland Region" for further information.





■ Pollution Prevention Assessment (PPA)

A PPA is the first step toward identifying a site's pollution risks. It also helps ensure that a site complies with the industrial or trade processes provisions of the regional plan (see the fact sheet "Industrial or Trade Processes"). Other tools include pollution prevention fact sheets and industry guides.

The assessment is guided by the Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water (PARP: ALW) industrial or trade processes provisions. Other pollution issues (e.g. air or trade-waste discharges) are not addressed, but advice may be given on how to address any obvious risks.

■ What happens during a PPA?

A pollution prevention officer will meet with site representatives to do the assessment, which will include the following:

- Explanation of assessment process and expected outcomes
- Site inspection / walk through, photographs and samples taken
- Identification of and discussion about sources of ground or stormwater pollution
- Verbal summary of findings
- Notice if any immediate action is required

After the assessment you will be sent a PPA report detailing actual and potential pollution risks. The ARC will provide suggestions to resolve key pollution issues, but responsibility ultimately lies with each company and specialist advice may be needed.

There are implications (such as abatement notices or fines) if any serious breaches of environmental legislation are found, or if the company does not rectify the pollution issues or apply for consent within the timeframes outlined in the report. See the fact sheet "Legal Requirements and Implications" for further information.



■ What will you need to do?

The PPA report outlines what your business will need to do. Depending on the level and type of pollution risks, this may include:

- Changes to how you undertake your activities e.g. moving work inside
- Changes to drainage or building containment/bunds
- Developing a written plan for managing your pollution risks
- Applying for an industrial or trade process consent
- Installing stormwater treatment devices

Timeframes for any actions are included in the report and a pollution prevention officer will work with your business to identify the best options. See the fact sheet “Industrial or Trade Processes” for further information.

■ How much will it cost?

There is usually no initial cost to your company, however if we have visited your site before and/or find significant pollution issues we may seek to recover costs. This is to ensure these costs are not unfairly borne by the ratepayer. Costs can include officer’s time, mileage, sample analysis fees and any other material expenses.

■ What benefits will the assessment have?

There are a wide range of benefits such as increased efficiencies (e.g. undertaking risky activities in a covered area can minimise pollution and also increase productivity), reduced risk of spills (therefore less lost material, clean-up costs and downtime), reduced risks of abatement notices, fines or prosecution, and reduced liability if site soils become polluted.

■ For more information

The ARC has a range of fact sheets and industry specific guidelines designed to help you comply with the requirement that you manage your site's pollution risks. Copies are available online at www.arc.govt.nz or upon request. Topics include:

- Industrial or Trade Processes
- Land and Water Pollution : Legal Background and Implications for Businesses

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