

Keep our Air Clean

Burning of a number of materials was banned by the Ministry for the Environment (MFE), in 2004 because of the dangers from dioxins and other toxic substances.

Some activities cause local air pollution by the release of toxic materials, including dioxins. For examples burning tyres in the open emits significant quantities of hazardous air pollutants, including carbon monoxide, particles, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins and volatile organic compounds.

In 2004 New Zealand became a signatory to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Ministry for the Environment then listed the following activities as being prohibited in New Zealand.

Prohibited Activity	Date prohibition came into force
Prohibited - burning of tyres in the open. Standard does not apply to tyres burnt in facilities with appropriately designed emission control equipment. Ban does not apply to the burning of tyres as a supplementary fuel source at facilities with emission control equipment (e.g. cement kilns).	8 October 2004
Prohibited - bitumen burning for road maintenance.	8 October 2004
Prohibited - burning of plastic coated-wire in the open. Standard does not apply to wire burnt in facilities with appropriately designed emission control equipment.	8 October 2004
Prohibited - burning of oil in the open. Exemptions for fire training and film special effects. Does not apply to the burning of tyres as a supplementary fuel source at facilities with emission control equipment (e.g. cement kilns). Burning of oil for frost protection permissible only with resource consent.	8 October 2004
Prohibited - landfill fires Ban relates to known and deliberate fires, i.e. that it prevents a fire being lit, and also if there is a fire then the standard requires that all reasonable actions are taken to put it out.	8 October 2004
Prohibited - school/healthcare incinerators unless resource consent obtained. Date for compliance brought forward after consultation with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.	1 October 2006
Prohibited - new high temperature hazardous waste incinerators Excludes incinerators in Auckland, New Plymouth and Christchurch in existence at the time of the regulation being gazetted. Two of these (Auckland and Christchurch) have since been decommissioned.	8 October 2004

For more information see:

www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/user-guide-draft-oct05/html/page2.html



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