

AIR

Air quality in the urban parts of Canterbury such as Christchurch and Timaru at times is poor. The air quality issues are centred around domestic fires, industrial activities and congested roads. The air pollutants can cause reduced visibility, dust and odour nuisance and can have negative impacts on human health.

Air quality issues in Canterbury occur at three scales:

- (a) Localised air quality issues associated with odours, dust, smoke, agrichemical spray and other discharges to air from the domestic, transport, commercial, agricultural, horticultural, manufacturing and industrial sectors; and
- (b) Ambient air quality issues related to wintertime air pollution in urban areas, as in Christchurch and Timaru, with its associated health effects and nuisance effects resulting from combustion processes; and
- (c) Global air quality issues connected with the reduction in the ozone layer and with greenhouse gas emissions and consequential global warming.

In Canterbury geography and climate also contribute to the wintertime air pollution problem. In winter temperature inversions occur that can trap air pollution near the ground. This is where cold air is held under layers of warmer air, stopping the tiny particles in smoke from dispersing. Low to non-existent winter wind speeds also prevent the pollutants from blowing away. This creates chronic air pollution problems as seen with Christchurch wintertime smog issues.





INDUSTRIAL AIR EMISSIONS

A variety of small and medium sized industrial and commercial processes are located in Canterbury (e.g. dry-cleaning, spray painting, abrasive blasting, seed-cleaning, printing processes, timber mills, freezing works and particle board manufacture). These can have a localised impact on air quality, such as on human health and nuisance effects. The release of gases, odour, dust and noxious fumes into the air is regulated by Environment Canterbury.

Chimney stacks

Environment Canterbury regulates chimney height and discharges to ensure pollutants are discharged to air in a way which minimalises adverse health effects. This helps prevent the build up of harmful contaminants at ground level, particularly in our urban areas.

The height of a chimney stack above the ridge line of surrounding buildings is determined by the processes and volumes involved. It is also important that pollutants are discharged vertically into the air without obstruction. Devices such as rain hats, and wind deflectors direct pollutants towards the ground - and towards your staff and neighbours. These are no longer acceptable.

If you are unsure if the height of your chimney stacks is correct then you should contact Environment Canterbury's Customer Services on (03) 353 9007 and 0800 EC INFO (0800 324 636).

Air pollution control equipment

Regular physical checks are needed for all air pollution control equipment. This is a requirement of operating this equipment and discharging pollutants to air. You should have procedures for regularly checking your equipment for:

- Gas leaks
- Liquid leaks
- Holes
- Dust.
- Rust.

In the event of damage or breakdown repairs must be carried out immediately.

Accidental air emissions

To reduce your environmental and occupational liability for accidental air emissions you need to:

- Assess your risk
- Reduce your risk
- Think ahead: what you need to do before you have an accidental air emission
- Write your emergency procedure: what to do if you have an accidental air emission
- Train your staff
- Keep up to date.

Your emergency procedure should specify all the steps you need to take to ensure your staff do the right things in an emergency. The checklist will tell you how to do this,



IN THIS MODULE

	Done	Date
Do you need an air discharge consent?		
Air emissions controls		
Air pollution control equipment		
Operation and maintenance		
Accidental emissions		
What you need to do to prevent an accidental air emission		
Write your emergency procedure		
What to do in the event of an accidental air emission		
A basic procedure for your emergency air emission kit		
Train your staff		
Keep up to date		
Other (specify)		
Cross check		
Action list		

DO YOU NEED AN AIR DISCHARGE CONSENT? Do you have any of these processes on your site? (Tick those that apply to your site.) ☐ Abrasive blasting inside * Metal work processes * Abrasive blasting outside Milk treatment and drying Acid production and use Oil refining ☐ Adhesives manufacture Oil well flaring ☐ Agricultural chemical manufacture Paint manufacture Anodising, galvanising and electroplating Paper manufacture Particle board and plasterboard production ☐ Asphalt production ☐ Brewing of alcoholic beverages Petroleum storage and transfer facilities * Pharmaceutical product manufacture ☐ Brickworks ☐ Bulk materials (storage and handling?) * Powder coating processes (excluding filtered discharge to internal workplace air according to ☐ Cement manufacture OSH requirements) ☐ Clay firing * Printing processes using water-based inks* ☐ Commercial composting Printing processes using solvent-based inks ☐ Commercial laboratory fume cupboards* (check % of organic solvent content by weight) ☐ Cooking or processing of animal or plant Radioactive materials production or usage matter (restrictions on raw material capacity (excluding use for medical purposes) apply) Rendering of animal matter by application of ☐ Cremation Discharges of heat, steam and water vapour * Resins, lacquers and plastics manufacture ☐ Dry cleaning * Rubber manufacture □ Enamelling Seed cleaning plants * (check distance from ☐ Fellmongery existing sensitive activities) Fertiliser manufacture and bulk handling Soap and detergent manufacture ☐ Fibreglass application > I kg/hr Small scale spray coating not within/within a Flour milling spray booth Foam manufacture Spray painting in a booth, using <2 L/hr Food or animal product cooking and processing * Spray painting in the open using isocyanatebased coatings ☐ Freezing works Fugitive dust emissions from unconsolidated Stock food production surfaces * Stripping by immersion using hydrocarbon solvents Fumigation processes using ethylene dibromide, ethylene oxide, methyl bromide or hydrogen Tanning of hides cyanide ☐ Timber drying kilns ☐ Glass manufacture Timber mills and joinery factories discharging Hydrocarbon manufacture, refining or wood waste (check distance from existing purification sensitive activities) ☐ Ink and dye manufacture Tyre buffing Isocyanate-containing materials - production Waste Incineration and use (excluding spray coating processes in Water blasting * booths using <2 L/hr) Laboratory fume cupboards in educational Woolscouring and dag crushing facilities * Workplace ventilation * Laminating using adhesives and resins * an activity that may be permitted under certain Metal melting, including foundries and smelters, conditions but excluding welding and soldering

If you ticked one or more of these processes you may need either an air discharge consent, or you may need to make sure you meet certain operating conditions to be a permitted activity. To find out more contact Customer Services (03) 353 9007 or 0800 EC INFO (0800 324 636) at Environment Canterbury.

AIR EMISSION CONTROLS

Chimney Stacks	
Are all your stacks the required height above the roof ridge line? Who	NO YES N/A
When	
Completed	
If you are unsure if the height of your chimney stacks above the roof ridge line is correct then you should contact Environment Canterbury and talk to a Customer Services Officer (03) 353 9007 and 0800 EC INFO (0800 324 636) for further information or your Pollution Prevention Officer.	
2. Do you have any stacks with devices such as rain hats or wind deflectors that obstruct the vertical discharge of contaminants from your stacks?	NO YES N/A
If YES, you need to remove these devices as they are no longer acceptable.	
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	
Use the next checklists if you have any of the following:	
□ Cyclones □ Bio-filters □ Scrubbers □ Electrostatic precipitators □ Afterburners □ Cardboard/Paper filters	
Bag filters Wet wall filter system	
Sock filters Impaction separators.	
3. Do you have operational plans and routine maintenance for all air pollution control systems on your site?	NO YES
If NO contact a suitably qualified professional if necessary and add to your Maintenance Programme.	
Cyclones	
4. Is your cyclone sealed to the hopper or collection device that material falls into at the base of the cyclone?	NO YES
If NO, seal the hopper or collection device to your cyclone to reduce risk of potential dust emissions.	
5. Is the collection device on your cyclone emptied on a regular basis and is this task on your Maintenance Programme? (see Housekeeping module)	NO YES
If NO, add to maintenance programme or have staff check regularly.	

	AIR		
NO YES	6. Is your system prone to blockages or overfilling?		
	If YES, you and your staff should investigate as to why this is happening. You could try either:		
	• Put a fill detector on the collection device		
	Put a level detector on the cyclone itself and attach an audio visual alarm.		
NO YES	7. Is the cyclone free of dents or holes?		
	If NO, you need to look at repairing the cyclone to ensure free flow of internal air.		
	Scrubbers		
NO YES	8. Do your scrubbers have an adequate liquor flow?		
	If NO install flow detectors.		
NOYES	9. Do you monitor your scrubbers for pressure drop? Is this task on your Maintenance		
	Programme?		
NO YES	10. Do you regularly change the liquors on all scrubbers when it gets fouled as per the manufacturers guidelines for your process and equipment? Is this task on your		
	Maintenance Programme?		
	If NO, add to maintenance programme or have staff check regularly.		
	Chemical Scrubbers		
NO YES	II. Do you test your chemical scrubbers regularly to ensure there are adequate levels of active chemicals present?		
NO YES	12. Do you always have chemicals available should the equipment need topping up?		
NO YES	13. Are these tasks on your Maintenance Programme?		
	If NO, have staff check regularly and add to maintenance programme.		
	After Burners		
NO YES	14. Do you monitor the temperature continuously and log it on a chart?		
	If NO install temperature sensors.		
NO YES	15. Do you monitor O ₂ (Oxygen) and opacity continuously and log it on a chart?		

16. Do you have a contingency plan to deal with any dramatic changes in temperature?	NO YES
If NO, develop monitor and report programme and include with contingency plan.	
17. Do you regularly check afterburners for any visible discharges?	NO YES
18. Are all these tasks on your Maintenance Programme?	NO YES
If NO, have staff check regularly and add to maintenance programme.	
Bag Filters and Sock Filters	
19. Do you monitor the pressure drop across the filter and physically check for any signs of visible emissions?	NO YES
20. Do you carry out regular preventative maintenance by:Checking the bags for holes	NO YES
 Performing leak tests ensuring the hopper is regularly emptied? 	
If NO, have staff check regularly and add to maintenance programme.	
Bio-filters	
21. Do you regularly check the consistency of media to ensure that there are no dry patches with cracks and no wet patches with bubbling gas?	NO YES
If NO, have staff check regularly and add to maintenance programme.	
22. Do you have a temperature gauge on the inlet to ensure equipment does not get too hot? Too much heat will kill the bio-organisms.	NO YES
If NO install a temperature sensor and recorder and add to your maintenance programme.	
23. Do you monitor the system for any change in back-pressure?	NO YES
This may indicate that media must be removed or replaced.	
24. Are all the above tasks on your Maintenance Programme?	NO YES
If NO, add to maintenance programme.	

FUGUTIVE SITE EMISSIONS Assess your risk

Assess your risk	
Walk around your site and look and smell for uncontrolled emissions that may be escaping from your site.	
31. Can you smell anything strange or do you get eye, nose or throat irritation when you first enter the work area? These are signs of equipment leaks or faults.	NO YES
32. Can you notice signs of smoke, dust or fumes that indicate fugitive discharges?	NO YES
33. Is there any discolouration, residue or corrosion on the roof or around vents or pipes that ventilate work or storage areas?	NO YES
34. Is there dust or deposition of particles from site processes or stockpiled materials around the site?	NO YES
If you answered YES to any of the above four questions, put them on the Action List, trace the source and prevent any recurrence.	
35. Check the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for high risk substances on your site (large volumes or sensitive location). Do they list any environmental hazard or eco-toxic characteristics and specify emission control or disposal methods?	NO YES
36. Do you have emergency procedures for an accidental release of any emission into the air?	NO YES
 37. Have you looked at past accidents on your site or the sites of similar companies? Evaluate your Inventory Sheets (see Spills module), high-risk areas and identify: The most probable accidental air emission The most serious potential accidental air emission Any requirements you need to handle these. 	NO YES
If, NO, to both above prepare and/or update site emergency procedure as suggested overleaf.	
Reduce your risk	
38. Evaluate what happened with past air emissions or near misses and look at your high risk areas. Are there any changes you could make to site design or operating practises to reduce the risk of another incident?	NO YES N/A
39. Have you already looked at the Housekeeping module to help you establish a regular maintenance programme?	NO YES
If NO – Use the SDS for the hazardous substance and the information in this guide to create an accidental air emission procedure.	

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENTAL AIR EMISSION

Think ahead about what you need to:

Know

Do

Have available

	nave available.			
	In the event of an accidental air emission so you will be able to cope.			
NO YES	40. Have you filled out the emergency telephone contact sheet at the end of this module and posted it by the phone in high risk places?			
NO YES	41. Have you identified sensitive environments that could be affected by an incident at your site, such as schools, rest homes or residential areas?			
NO YES	 42. Do you have supplies of material and equipment suitable for controlling, cleaning up and disposing of: The most probable emission The most serious potential emission? 			
	If NO, Consider the need for things such as brooms for sweeping up air discharge fallout and tarpalins to cover any loose material.			
NO YES	43. Do you have personal protective equipment to protect the health and safety of your staff?			
	If NO, Consider the need for things like gloves, respirators, first aid and emergency treatment.			
NO YES	 44. In your highest risk spots or by an accessible telephone, have you put on the wall copies of: The completed emergency telephone contact list, AND A I-page version of your emergency procedure, or A copy of the brief accidental air emission procedure overleaf? 			

45. Do you have your SDS data sheets readily accessible?

If NO, to the two questions above put them on the Action List and appoint a staff member to develop procedures and regularly review these and ensure SDS are accessible.

YES

WRITE YOUR EMERGENCY PROCEDURE/EVACUATION PLAN

What to do if you have an accidental air emission

You must have an accidental air emission procedure. It could form part of your Emergency Response Plan or other Health and Safety procedures. A good procedure will have the steps outlined below.

 46. Does your procedure instruct staff how to be safe? Such measures include: If a hazardous chemical is discharged, will staff know which way is upwind? Wearing personal protective equipment. 	NO YES
47. Does your procedure instruct staff to stop the source?	NO YES
 Instructions could include: Shutting down the relevant part of the plant or factory Turn off the tap or valve, plug the leak. 	
 48. Does your procedure have steps for identifying the source? Steps could include: Walk around the plant and find out where the emission is coming from. If you have been on site you will have become desensitised to the smell and it may not appear strong to you. Ask around If the emission is minor, contact the site engineer and fix at the end of the shift If the problem is located within the site boundaries and is hazardous fix it immediately If the emission is causing a nuisance beyond the site boundary, fix it immediately Check that you are complying with all air discharge consent conditions Action your site emergency drill if necessary Prepare an evacuation plan for your staff as well as your neighbours. 	NO YES
 49. Does your procedure provide instruction on who to notify? Contacts should include: Your supervisor The New Zealand Fire Service and the Police if it is a discharge of toxic fumes Environment Canterbury, the licensing authority that issued your consent People in homes, schools or businesses downwind of you and anyone else on your emergency phone list. 	NO YES

MORE DETAIL FOR YOUR SITE As you walk around your site and make new observations, there may be extra things you see that you want to add. If so, add them here. ITFM: ACTION: _ ITEM: ACTION: ITEM: ACTION: _ CROSS CHECK 55. Can you make links to related programmes such as: Ventilation Industrial Hygiene Noise Maintenance. **ACTION LISTS** If you ticked a (highlighted box) then this is an action you need to take. Put all actions on a copy of the ACTION LIST at the back of this module. **SIGNS OF SUCCESS** By the time you have gone through the AIR checklists you should have achieved these key successes: You have a recording system for all events and look at data to come up with ways of stopping events happening in the future Your chimney stacks are the required height above your roof ridge lines and do not have devices fitted that cause vertical obstruction of contaminants Your air pollution control systems are all properly installed and regularly inspected and maintained You have a written emergency procedure for accidental air emissions and your staff

regularly practise and review your emergency drill.

A BASIC PROCEDURE FOR YOUR EMERGENCY AIR EMISSION KIT

Photocopy, laminate and put this near your spill kit for staff to read when they use it.

ACCIDENTAL AIR EMISSIONS WHAT TO DO

I BE SAFE

- What is it?
- Do you need safety gear?
- Assemble in an agreed location

2 STOP THE SOURCE

- Turn off the tap or valve if it is safe to do so
- Designate and train specific staff to do this

3 FIND THE SOURCE

Repair if possible

IF UNKNOWN

- Shut down plant if necessary
- Action site emergency drill if necessary
- Evacuate

4 NOTIFY

- Tell your supervisor
- Call the Fire Service and the Police if necessary
- Environment Canterbury
- Tell your neighbours if necessary
- See your Air Pollution Emergency Telephone Contact Sheet.

5 CLEAN UP

- Stop wash water or sweepings getting into stormwater grates or soil
- Clean contaminated clothing or equipment
- · Clean up within the contained area

6 DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY

• Call your approved waste disposal contractor to take away contaminated materials and clean up gear or clothing

7 RESTOCK AND REVIEW

- · Replace materials and equipment
- Review the incident what can be learnt?

AIR POLLUTION ALERT!

Who must you call when you have an air pollution incident?

SERIOUS ALERTS

111	Fire, Police, Ambulance
	Your Supervisor or Company
	Your council's dangerous goods inspector or environmental health officer
03 474 7000	National Poisons and Hazardous Chemicals Information Centre, Dunedin - Urgent Line
	Your firm's approved waste disposal services contractor
	Identified Sensitive Environments:

ALL ALERTS

Call Environment Canterbury's 24-Hour Pollution Hotline:

Christchurch (03) 366 4663 Timaru (03) 688 3320

Call us IMMEDIATELY
We can give you advice and help.

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