



# Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act (1996)

Version Nos:

2

## 1. Introduction

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act - known as the HSNO Act - was passed in June 1996 and was aimed at streamlining and updating the system for managing the risks from hazardous substances and new organisms (including genetically-modified organisms) in New Zealand. While it was passed into law in 1996, the HSNO Act came into force for new organisms in July 1998 and in July 2001 for hazardous substances (although for hazardous substances there is a transitional period during which those substances already legally in the country are being transferred to the new law).

The HSNO Act replaces the Explosives Act 1957, the Dangerous Goods Act 1974, the Toxic Substances Act 1979, the Pesticides Act 1979, and parts of the Animal (1967) and Plants (1970) Acts covering the intentional introduction of new species into New Zealand. It has also replaced two interim voluntary arrangements set up to deal with the relatively new technology of genetic modification.

The purpose of the Act is to "protect the environment and the health and safety of people and communities by preventing or managing the adverse effects of hazardous substances and new organisms."

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) decides if new organisms and hazardous substances can be introduced into New Zealand. It manages any risks that hazardous substances and new organisms pose to the environment and public health and safety.

OSH, Occupational Safety and Health Service, Department of Labour monitors the Act.

<b>Revision History</b>	<b>Version:</b>	2
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	<b>Authorised By:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
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