

Environmentally relevant activity standard

Regulated waste transport (ERA 57) – Version 1

This document provides eligibility criteria and standard conditions for environmentally relevant activity (ERA) 57 – regulated waste transport at threshold 1 – transporting tyres and threshold 2 – transporting regulated waste, other than tyres, in any number of vehicles.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria are constraints set to ensure environmental risks associated with the operation of the ERA are able to be managed by the standard conditions. Eligibility criteria set out the circumstances in which a standard or variation application for an environmental authority can be made.

Standard conditions

Standard conditions are the minimum operating requirements an environmental authority holder must comply with.

Standard applications

If an applicant can meet all of the eligibility criteria and standard conditions, then they can make a standard application. Applicants are required to complete a 'Standard application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Variation applications

If an applicant can meet all of the eligibility criteria but needs to vary one or more of the standard conditions to suit their operational needs, then they can make a variation application. Applicants are required to complete a 'Variation application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Site specific applications

Applicants who cannot meet the eligibility criteria must make a site specific application. Applicants are required to complete a 'Site specific application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Amendment applications

If the holder of an environmental authority needs to amend a standard condition in the issued environmental authority, then the holder must submit an 'Amendment application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Definitions

Some terms used in this document are defined in Appendix 1.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria category	Eligibility criteria
Activity General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated waste is transported by vehicles

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Standard conditions

Conditions
General
G1: All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the activity complies with the eligibility criteria.
G2: The activity must be undertaken by vehicles whose registration details must be provided to the administering authority before commencing the activity. The administering authority must be notified within 10 business days of any change to the vehicle registration details.
G3: The activity is undertaken by vehicles which are covered by a policy of insurance or other form of indemnity, for a sum that is not less than \$100,000, in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) personal injury, death, property damage and other damage (except consequential economic loss) arising out of fire, explosion, leakage or spillage of dangerous goods in, on or from the vehicle or a container on the vehicle; and b) costs incurred by or on behalf of a Commonwealth, State or Territory government authority in a clean-up resulting from any event of the kind referred to in subparagraph a) of this condition.
G4: Any breach of a condition of this environmental authority must be reported to the administering authority as soon as practicable within 24 hours of becoming aware of the breach. Records must be kept including full details of the breach and any subsequent actions taken.
G5: The activity must be undertaken in accordance with written procedures that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify potential risks to the environment from the activity during routine operations and emergencies; and b) establish and maintain control measures that minimise the potential for environmental harm; and c) ensure plant, equipment and measures are maintained in a proper and effective condition; and d) ensure plant, equipment and measures are operated in a proper and effective manner; and e) ensure that staff are trained and aware of their obligations under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>; and f) ensure that reviews of environmental performance are undertaken and recorded at least annually.
G6: The activity must not cause environmental nuisance at a sensitive place .
G7: All records required by conditions of this authority must be kept for at least five years and provided to the administering authority within 10 business days upon its request.
G8: When required by the administering authority , monitoring must be undertaken in the manner prescribed by the administering authority to investigate a complaint of environmental nuisance arising from the activity . The monitoring results must be provided within 10 business days to the administering authority upon its request.
G9: All vehicles , including tanks, containers and secondary containers used to transport regulated waste must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) maintained at all times to prevent any spillage or leakage of regulated waste or other contaminants; and b) kept free of regulated waste residues at all times when not in use; and c) must be effectively cleaned and, where used for transporting clinical waste, must be disinfected before reuse.
G10: At all times, a copy of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) this environmental authority issued by the administering authority for regulated waste transport activities; and b) the appropriate emergency guides in relation to the waste transported must be carried in the cabin of each vehicle used to transport regulated waste and when requested, be presented to an authorised officer of the administering authority or relevant regulatory agency of the State or Territory in which the vehicle is travelling. <p><i>Note: Standards Australia publish numerous guides including HB 76-2004 Dangerous Goods – Initial emergency response guide, and emergency procedure guides (AS1678 Series) which are available from SAI Global Business Publishing. Further,</i></p>

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when developing emergency guides in relation to PCB's, reference should be made to the United States Environmental Protection Agency 40CFR Part 761: Polychlorinated biphenyls: notification and manifesting for PCB waste activities: clause number 761.125

G11: When transporting **regulated waste**:

- a) any **regulated waste** not contained within weatherproof packages must be covered during transport to contain the load and protect it from wind and rain; and
- b) all **regulated waste** containers must be mounted securely to the vehicle and contained within the tray of the **vehicle**.

G12: When transporting **packaged regulated waste**, the top of any container must not protrude above the sides or gates of the vehicle by more than 30% of the height of the container.

G13: **Road tank vehicles** must:

- a) be constructed to minimise instability and risk of rollover; and
- b) be provided with roll-over protection to protect all tanks, components and fittings on the upper and side surfaces of the tank in the event of the vehicle rolling over or becoming inverted; and
- c) be provided with an effective bumper and/or barrier system to protect the tank and fittings from rear impact.

Waste

W1: Waste transported under the **activity** must be contained within a suitably designed waste containment structure that is constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering standards currently appropriate for the purpose for which the structure is intended to be used.

W2: **Regulated waste** must not be removed or released from the **vehicle** other than:

- a) for the purpose of consolidating grease trap and/or other oily wastes; or
- b) at a facility that can lawfully accept the waste.

W3: **Incompatible wastes** must not be placed in the same container or transported in such a way that mixing may occur.

W4: A record of all **regulated waste** (excluding trackable waste) must be kept detailing the following information for every load of waste transported:

- a) date of pickup of waste, including where loads are consolidated;
- b) description of waste;
- c) quantity of waste;
- d) origin of the waste; and
- e) destination of the waste.

Note: Additional waste tracking requirements apply to the transportation of trackable waste in accordance with the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

W5: All **asbestos waste** transported must be:

- a) double bagged and **sealed** in heavy duty polythene bags (minimum 200 µm thickness); or
- b) **sealed** in drums or bins that are lined with heavy-duty plastic (minimum 200 µm thickness); or
- c) where the volume or size of **asbestos waste** (e.g. large asbestos cement sheets) is greater than the volume or size of a bag, drum or bin:
 - i. for **friable asbestos waste**, **sealed** in double lined heavy-duty plastic sheeting (minimum 200 µm thickness) prior to being placed into a waste skip, **vehicle** tray or similar container; or
 - ii. for **non-friable asbestos waste**, placed in a waste skip, **vehicle** tray or similar container that has been double lined with heavy duty plastic sheeting (minimum 200 µm thickness) and kept damp, and then **sealed** within the plastic sheeting.

W6: All **asbestos waste** transported must be labelled with a warning statement to indicate the presence of asbestos and that

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dust creation and inhalation needs to be avoided.

W7: All **particulate lead waste** must be:

- a) double bagged and sealed in heavy duty polythene bags (minimum 200 µm thickness), and placed in containers on the **vehicle**; and
- b) labelled to indicate the presence of lead and with appropriate lead **risk phrase** and **safety phrase**.

W8: All **clinical** and **related waste** must be provided with a rigid **secondary containment system** during transport.

W9: **Vehicles** and load compartments must be locked when unattended.

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Appendix 1: Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
Activity	means the environmentally relevant activity to which this environmental authority relates. An activity may be undertaken on the whole or a part of a site.
ADG Code	means the <i>Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail, 7th edition</i> , or more recent versions as they become available.
Administering authority	means the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection or its successor.
Asbestos-containing material	means any material, object, product or debris that contains asbestos.
Asbestos waste	means all removed asbestos-containing materials and disposable items used during the asbestos removal work, such as plastic sheeting used for an enclosure or to cover surfaces in the asbestos work area, disposable coveralls, disposable respirators and rags used for cleaning etc.
Clinical waste	means waste that has the potential to cause disease including, for example, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) animal waste; b) discarded sharps; c) human tissue waste; and d) laboratory waste.
Combination vehicle	means a road vehicle that includes one or more trailers.
Commercial place	means a place used as a workplace, an office or for business or commercial purposes and includes a place within the curtilage of such a place reasonably used by persons at that place.
Contaminant(s)	as defined in Section 11 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
Environmental harm	as defined in Section 14 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
Environmental nuisance	as defined in Section 15 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
Friable asbestos waste	means asbestos-containing material that is in powder form or which, when dry, is or may become crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure.
Incompatible waste	means waste that may chemically react when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) placed in proximity to other wastes; and/or b) mixed with other wastes.
Land	means land excluding waters and the atmosphere.
Measures	has the broadest interpretation and includes plant, equipment, physical objects, monitoring, procedures, actions, directions and competencies.
Minimise	means minimise by taking all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the adverse effect having regard to the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the nature of the harm or potential harm b) the sensitivity of the receiving environment c) the current state of technical knowledge for the activity d) the likelihood of successful application of different measures that might be taken to

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	<p>minimise the adverse effects</p> <p>e) the financial implications of the different measures as they would relate to the type of activity</p> <p>f) if the adverse effect is caused by the location of the activity being carried out, whether it is feasible to carry out the activity at another location.</p>
Non-friable asbestos waste	means asbestos-containing material that is not friable asbestos waste , including material containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound.
Sealed	means fully contained within. Where polythene sheeting has been used, adhesive tape should be applied to the entire length of every overlap.
Sensitive place	<p>includes the following and includes a place within the curtilage of such a place reasonably used by persons at that place:</p> <p>a) a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises; or</p> <p>b) a motel, hotel or hostel; or</p> <p>c) a kindergarten, school, university or other educational institution; or</p> <p>d) a medical centre or hospital; or</p> <p>e) a protected area under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> or a World Heritage Area; or</p> <p>f) a public park or garden; or</p> <p>g) for noise, a place defined as a sensitive receptor for the purposes of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008.</p>
Packaged regulated waste	<p>means regulated waste in a container with:</p> <p>a) a capacity of not more than 450 litres; and</p> <p>b) a nett mass of not more than 400 kilograms.</p>
Particulate lead waste	means lead waste that is capable of becoming airborne or unable to be easily recovered if a spill occurs during transport. Examples include waste from foundry filters and lead based paint residues.
Records	includes breach notifications, written procedures, analysis results, monitoring reports and monitoring programs required under a condition of this environmental authority.
Regulated waste	As defined in Section 65 of the <i>Environmental Protection Regulation 2008</i> .
Regulatory agency	means the agency of a State or Territory that has responsibility for regulating the transport of regulated wastes in that State or Territory.
Related waste	means waste that constitutes, or is contaminated with, chemicals, cytotoxic drugs, human body parts, pharmaceutical products or radioactive substances.
Risk phrase	means a phrase stated in the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission's document entitled <i>National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Substances [NOHSC:2012(1994)]</i> , or more recent versions, that gives information about the substance's hazards.
Road tank vehicle	means a truck, trailer or semi-trailer or unit in a road train, incorporating a tank, or having a tank or tanks mounted thereon, either permanently or temporarily (as defined in AS 2809.1–2008 — road tank vehicles for dangerous goods).

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Safety phrase	means a phrase stated in National Occupational Health and Safety Commission's document entitled <i>National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Substances</i> [NOHSC:2012(1994)], or more recent versions, that gives information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the safe use of the substance; or b) the personal protective equipment for the substance.
Secondary containment system	means a system designed, installed and operated to prevent any release of contaminants from the system, or containers within the system, to land, groundwater, or surface waters.
Vehicle	Means a road vehicle including an articulated or combination vehicle, and does not include a train, boat or aircraft.
Waters	includes river, stream, lake, lagoon, pond, swamp, wetland, unconfined surface water, unconfined water, natural or artificial watercourse, bed and bank of any waters, dams, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea), stormwater channel, stormwater drain, roadside gutter, stormwater run-off, and groundwater and any part thereof.

Appendix 2: General obligations for environmental authority holders

This appendix is not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of all obligations under Queensland law. It provides some general information and holders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with all requirements related to their specific operation.

Responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Separate to the requirements of the eligibility criteria and standard conditions, the holder of the environmental authority must also meet their obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and the regulations made under that Act. For example, the holder must be aware of the following provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* which may apply unless the environmental harm is authorised by the conditions of the environmental authority.

General environmental duty

Section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* states that we all have a general environmental duty. This means that we are all responsible for the actions we take that affect the environment. We must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless we take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm. To decide what meets your general environmental duty, you need to consider:

- the nature of the harm or potential harm
- the sensitivity of the receiving environment
- the current state of technical knowledge for the activity
- the likelihood of successful application of the different measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm that might be taken
- the financial implications of the different measures as they would relate to the type of activity.

It is not an offence not to comply with the general environmental duty. However, maintaining your general environmental duty is a defence against the following acts:

- (a) an act that causes serious or material environmental harm or an environmental nuisance
- (b) an act that contravenes a noise standard
- (c) a deposit of a contaminant, or release of stormwater run-off, mentioned in section 440ZG.

More information is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) website www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

Duty to notify

Section 320A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* explains the duty to notify. The duty to notify applies to all persons and requires a person or company to give notice where serious or material environmental harm is caused or threatened. Notice must be given of the event, its nature and the circumstances in which the event happened. Notification can be verbal, written or by public notice depending on who is notifying and being notified.

The duty to notify arises where:

- a person carries out activities or becomes aware of an act of another person arising from, or connected to, those activities that causes or threatens serious or material environmental harm
- while carrying out activities a person becomes aware of the happening of one or both of the following events:
 - the activity negatively affects (or is reasonably likely to negatively affect) the water quality of an aquifer
 - the activity has caused the unauthorised connection of two or more aquifers.
- the owner or occupier of contaminated land or an auditor performing an auditor's function (as defined in section 568(b) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* becomes aware of:
 - the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land; or

- o a change in the condition of the contaminated land; or
- o a notifiable activity having been carried out, or being carried out, on the contaminated land; that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm.

For more information on the duty to notify requirements refer to the guideline 'Duty to notify of environmental harm' (EM467).

Some relevant offences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Non-compliance with a condition of an environmental authority (section 430)

Section 430 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* requires that a person who is the holder of, or is acting under, an environmental authority must not wilfully contravene, or contravene a condition of the authority.

Environmental authority holder responsible for ensuring conditions complied with (section 431)

Section 431 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* requires that the holder of an environmental authority must ensure everyone acting under the authority complies with the conditions of the authority. If another person acting under the authority commits an offence against section 430, the holder also commits an offence, namely, the offence of failing to ensure the other person complies with the conditions.

Causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437–39)

Material environmental harm is when the harm is not trivial or negligible in nature. Serious environmental harm is harm that is irreversible, of a high impact or widespread, or that is caused to an area of high conservation value or special significance.

Serious or material environmental harm excludes environmental nuisance.

Causing environmental nuisance (section 440)

Environmental nuisance is unreasonable interference with an environmental value caused by aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles or smoke. It may also include an unhealthy, offensive or unsightly condition because of contamination.

Depositing a prescribed water contaminant in waters (section 440ZG)

Prescribed water contaminants include a wide variety of contaminants listed in Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.

It is your responsibility to ensure that prescribed water contaminants are not left in a place where they may or do enter a waterway, the ocean or a stormwater drain. This includes making sure that stormwater falling on or running across your site does not leave the site contaminated. Where stormwater contamination occurs you must ensure that it is treated to remove contaminants. You should also consider where and how you store material used in your processes onsite to reduce the chance of water contamination.

Placing a contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443)

A person must not cause or allow a contaminant to be placed in a position where it could reasonably be expected to cause serious or material environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

Some of the relevant offences under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

Littering (section 103)

Litter is any domestic or commercial waste and any material a person might reasonably believe is refuse, debris or rubbish. Litter can be almost any material that is disposed of incorrectly. Litter includes cigarette butts and drink bottles dropped on the ground, fast food wrappers thrown out of the car window, poorly secured material from a trailer or grass clippings swept into the gutter. However, litter does not include any gas, dust, smoke or material emitted or produced during, or because of, the normal operations of a building, manufacturing, mining or primary

industry.

Illegal dumping of waste (section 104)

Illegal dumping is the dumping of large volumes of litter (200 litres or more) at a place. Illegal dumping can also include abandoned vehicles.

Relevant offence under the Environment Protection Regulation 2008

Waste tracking (Chapter 5, Part 9)

Waste handlers must submit waste tracking information to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection as part of the process for tracking waste types as listed in Schedule 2E of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. The waste tracking enables the department to track waste from its source to the place of storage, recycling, treatment or disposal.

Responsibilities under other legislation

An environmental authority pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* does not remove the need to obtain any additional approval for the activity that might be required by other state and/or Commonwealth legislation. Other legislation for which a permit may be required includes, but is not limited to, the:

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
- Australian Dangerous Goods Code
- Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) Polychlorinated Biphenyls Management Plan Revised Edition – April 2003
- Contaminated land provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Fisheries Act 1994*
- *Forestry Act 1959*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 / Petroleum Act 1923*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- Safe Work Australia Code of Practice on How to Safely Remove Asbestos 2011 or the Safe Work Australia Code of Practice on How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace 2011 or any subsequent versions
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011
- *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*
- *Water Act 2000*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 and Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2011

Applicants are advised to check with all relevant statutory authorities and comply with all relevant legislation.