

New Zealand Trade & Industrial Waste Forum 2012 abstract

LIQUID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE CODE COMPLIANT OPERATORS: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND WHO IS BENEFITTING?

There are now more than 50 liquid and hazardous waste code compliant operators throughout New Zealand, tracking more than 300 million litres of waste per annum. What makes these operators different than other operators? What are the benefits to territorial authorities, code compliant operators, the community and the industry as a whole?

Code compliant operators are independently audited and certified on a three-yearly basis, demonstrating that they comply with the Liquid and Hazardous Wastes Code of Practice. The Code was developed to improve operating standards within the liquid and hazardous waste industry, protect human health and the environment, and provide good-practice references for parties involved in the industry.

The Liquid and Hazardous Waste Operators Certification Council was established to administer the Code of Practice and certify operators as compliant. It also encourages the development of good industry practice.

Code Compliant operators must use WasteTRACK to track all wastes carried by the company, from generation to treatment and/or disposal. WasteTRACK enables territorial authorities to determine what wastes are generated, who generates the waste, who transports the waste, and where it is disposed of in its region.

By incorporating the code compliancy requirement into trade waste bylaws, territorial authorities are given another tool to identify and solve liquid waste issues, it assists with monitoring and in most cases, reduces their workload. It can also improve the code compliant operator's awareness of how to work safely and creates a level playing field for them by not competing with low cost and potentially illegal disposal practices being undertaken by those operators who are not as transparent as the code compliant operators.

Ultimately waste is managed in a responsible manner through the utilisation of code compliant operators and that is good for territorial authorities, the community and the industry as a whole.

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