

# Test Certificates for Stationary Container Systems

Stationary tanks or process containers are required to have a Stationary Container System Test Certificate. For most tanks and process containers, this is required by 31 March 2007.

## What is a Test Certificate for a Stationary Container System?

This Test Certificate is a 'warrant of fitness' that shows the Stationary Container System is safe, properly maintained and compliant with the law. It is different from a Location Test Certificate, and in some instances both may be required.

## What is a Stationary Container System?

A Stationary Container System is a stationary tank or process container, together with any associated equipment such as its pipelines and fittings.

## When do I need a Test Certificate?

Tanks or process containers holding hazardous liquids or gases above certain quantities require a Test Certificate. It doesn't matter whether the substance is flammable, corrosive, toxic or ecotoxic, or whether the container is above or below ground. If the limits are exceeded, a Stationary Container System Test Certificate is required.

For example, a Test Certificate is required for:

- any below ground tank of more than 250 litres
- an above ground tank of more than 2,500 litres holding highly flammable substances such as petrol, solvents or acetone
- an above ground tank of more than 5,000 litres holding hazardous substances other than those which are highly flammable
- an above ground tank of more than 500 litres holding a hazardous gas such as LPG or chlorine.

A Test Certificate may also be required when a tank is connected to a burner or stationary internal combustion engine.

Further information on when a Test Certificate is required is given in the ERMA New Zealand Information Sheet Number 29 (<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-IS-29-1.pdf>).

## How do I get a Test Certificate?

A Test Certificate is issued by a Test Certifier.

A register of Test Certifiers is available from [www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/test-cert-reg.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/test-cert-reg.asp).

## What can be done if I don't comply?

Not all *existing* tanks or process containers (ie generally those constructed no later than 31 March 2004)

may be able to comply with the new requirements. In this case, a Compliance Plan will need to be submitted to ERMA New Zealand. A Test Certifier will advise you on how to do this.

All *new* tanks or process containers must have a Test Certificate immediately.

## What is a Compliance Plan?

A Compliance Plan is an alternative to meeting the legal requirement for *existing* tanks or process containers. This plan must specify the steps to:

- upgrade the Stationary Container System to achieve compliance, and the timeframe to do this, or
- manage the risks of non-compliance.

A Compliance Plan cannot be submitted for any new tank or process container.

See [www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-IS-29-1.pdf](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-IS-29-1.pdf) for further information on Compliance Plans.

## How do I apply for a Compliance Plan?

If your Test Certifier advises a Compliance Plan should be submitted, the Person in Charge must send to ERMA New Zealand a completed 'Application for a Compliance Plan' form (ER-AF-HSC13).

This form is available at [www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/hs-pubs.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/hs-pubs.asp) or call 0800 376 234 for a copy to be posted out. Guidance on how to complete this form is also available.

## Further Information

For information on hazardous substances compliance visit [www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/hscompliance.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/hscompliance.asp) or call our Hazardous Substances Compliance Line on 0800 376234.

ERMA New Zealand, PO Box 131, Wellington

Tel: 04 916 2426

Email: [hsinfo@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:hsinfo@ermanz.govt.nz)

Website: [www.ermanz.govt.nz](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz)