



On 1st December 2017 the HSNO Act was replaced by the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Act 2017. This introduced a new requirement to have the words HAZCHEM on all signage for sites with Classes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8.

Details of these regulations are pasted below.

A sticker with the words HAZCHEM printed on them can be purchased and added to existing signage to rectify this issue. Or new signage will need to be purchased which reflects the new requirement if the word HAZCHEM is missing.

Some websites selling signage:

<https://nzsafetyblackwoods.co.nz/en/hazchem-600-x-150-pvc-each--188018s>

https://www.industrialsigns.co.nz/?s=hazchem&post_type=product

<https://safetysign.co.nz/shop/hz1-hazchem-sign/>

This is just a small sample, a google search of the words “HAZCHEM Signage” gives you many other options.

2.6 Signage requirements for general duty

- (1) For the purposes of [regulation 2.5](#), if a hazardous substance is located in a building at a workplace, but is not confined to a particular room or compartment within the building, the PCBU with management or control of the workplace must ensure that there is positioned at every vehicular and pedestrian entrance to the building and the land on which the building is located signage—
 - (a) stating that hazardous substances are present; and
 - (b) stating the general type of hazard of each of them; and
 - (c) describing the immediate response action to be taken in an emergency.
- (2) Despite subclause (1), if the hazardous substance is a class 1 substance, the PCBU must ensure that signage that complies with paragraphs (a) to (c) of that subclause is positioned—
 - (a) at every vehicular and pedestrian entrance to the building; and
 - (b) at every approach to the building that is within the boundary of the land where the building is located and that emergency services organisations may use.

- (3) *If hazardous substances are located in a particular room or compartment within the building, the PCBU with management or control of the workplace must ensure that signage that complies with subclause (5) is positioned at each entrance to the room or compartment.*
- (4) *If hazardous substances are located in an outdoor area, the PCBU with management or control of the workplace must ensure that signage that complies with subclause (5) is positioned immediately next to that area.*
- (5) *The signage required by subclauses (3) and (4) **must**—*
- (a) *contain—*
 - (i) *the word **EXPLOSIVES** in relation to class 1 substances; or*
 - (ii) ***the word HAZCHEM in relation to class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 8 substances; and***
 - (b) *state the hazardous properties and describe the general type of hazard relating to each category of hazardous substance present through the use of—*
 - (i) *hazard pictograms consistent with the correct classification of the hazardous substances present; or*
 - (ii) *hazard statements consistent with the correct classification of the hazardous substances present; and*
 - (c) *describe,—*
 - (i) *if the substances include explosive substances, the precautions necessary to prevent unintended explosion of an explosive substance; and*
 - (ii) *if the substances include flammable substances, the precautions necessary to prevent unintended ignition of a substance; and*
 - (iii) *if the substances include oxidising substances or organic peroxides, the precautions necessary to prevent unintended combustion of, acceleration of a fire from, or thermal decomposition of, an oxidising substance or organic peroxide; and*
 - (d) *describe the immediate response action to be taken in an emergency.*
- (6) *Subclause (4) does not apply if the hazardous substance is class 6.1A, 6.1B, 6.1C, or 6.1D vertebrate toxic agents or agrichemicals at a temporary storage site.*