

Frequently asked questions

What is HAIL?

HAIL means Hazardous Activities and Industries List – there are 53 activities and industries identified by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) which have the potential to discharge contaminants to land where the activity or industry is taking or has taken place in the past.

Does being a HAIL site mean my land is contaminated?

Not necessarily. Your site may have been entered on the register as the site has had an activity or industrial processes that is on HAIL (a confirmed land use history). However; it may be a confirmed contaminated site through testing.

How will this affect my site?

Registration of your site has no effect on how you use your land now. However; if land use changes or the land is subdivided, an investigation to determine the effects of any contamination will be required.

Why has this project been undertaken?

To fulfil their functions under the Resource Management Act (RMA) Regional Councils are required to keep a record of the location of hazardous activities (past or present) that have the potential to contaminate land. This will enable Regional Councils to manage potential risk to the environment and to people's health. The National Environmental Standard (NES) for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health applies to all land on the HAIL register. If the land use changes, the effects of any contaminants on human health will need to be assessed as part of the resource consent process.

Is this only happening in the Horizons Region?

No. This is a nationwide project for all activities appearing on HAIL.

What if the Regional Council's information is incorrect?

If you believe the information held is incorrect you will need provide evidence that there is no Contamination or that the information should be different.

What happens next?

If your site information is correct, after one month the information will be forwarded to your local district or city council to be included on their property files. Your site will remain on the register with the category Verified Site History until there is a change of use or subdivision.

What if I want to change the use or subdivide my land?

As your site contains a HAIL activity, the National Environmental Standard (NES) for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health applies. Your local district or city council will require a site investigation by a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner as part of the resource consent process to change the use of your land or subdivide your site.

What happens if when a property has been soil tested and the results are clear? Will the property then be taken off the HAIL register?

When a property has been soil tested and no contaminants have been detected, the category on the Land Use Register is changed from 'Verified Site History' to 'No Identified Contamination'. The site report will be updated to show an investigation has been undertaken, and what the results of that investigation were.