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March 26, 2015

New Zealand – Draft Requirements for Importers and Manufacturers of Hazardous Substances

The New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 17 March 2015 issued a Proposal for EPA (Information) Notice, which will affect importers and manufacturers of hazardous substances. The Notice as enforced will require every importer and manufacturer of hazardous substances to supply the EPA with their business trading name, New Zealand Business Number, email address and telephone number for the business and for the main contact of the business, and the business website. Natural persons who import and manufacture hazardous substances for their own personal use without transferring to any other party are exempt from this rule.

The EPA is also considering a requirement whereby importers and manufacturers must report the annual quantity of hazardous substances being imported or manufactured as well as the HSNO approval number covering those substances.

Hazardous substances in New Zealand are regulated under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism (HSNO) Act, and substances imported into or manufactured in New Zealand must fit a group product standard and have an HSNO approval number. Although regulations and guidelines currently exist to guide the industry in determining whether a product meets the standard of a given HSNO approval number, the reporting process has mostly been voluntary. This proposed Notice is part of the EPA's efforts to reform the hazardous substances management under the HSNO Act. Public comments are accepted until 28 April 2015.

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