

Zinc regulation in Aotearoa New Zealand

In New Zealand, the use pattern of zinc compounds dictates the type of controls applied and the agencies granting approval:

- The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) approves most of these.
- Products containing zinc in veterinary medicines are registered on the agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines (ACVM) list administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).
- Zinc-containing pesticide products are registered under the ACVM for agricultural use.
- Zinc compounds used in nutritional products for human consumption are regulated by Medsafe and by MPI.
- In most regions, the discharge of collected agricultural effluents is a permitted activity that does not require resource consent but needs to comply with the standards and terms set by each regional council. This therefore covers effluent that contains agrichemicals and veterinary products containing zinc.
- The Ministry for the Environment regulates the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act. The HSNO Act manages the disposal, classification, packaging and transport of hazardous substances – this includes substances with zinc.

Monitoring and reporting by regulating authorities

Zinc is monitored in soils at dairy and drystock sites (predominantly pasture grazing beef cattle, sheep and deer for meat, wool and velvet production). However, it is not one of the main indicators routinely monitored under soil quality reporting. Overall, SOE data is collated and presented by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ every 3 years. To date, SOE monitoring does not yet extend to the state of lakes or groundwater in agricultural areas.

You can explore two environmental reports on the Science Learning Hub – [Environment Aotearoa 2022](#) and [Our Atmosphere and Climate 2020](#).

Knowing what's out there

Regulating the environmental fate of chemicals

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 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
Te Kaitiaki Taiao a Te Whare Pāremata

Text adapted from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report [Knowing what's out there: Regulating the environmental fate of chemicals](#).