

Auckland Unitary Plan

Standard Conditions Manual

Air Quality

Disclaimer

The information in this Standard Conditions Manual is, according to Auckland Council's best efforts, accurate at the time of publication. Auckland Council makes every reasonable effort to keep it current and accurate. However, users of the Conditions Manual are advised that:

- *Although the conditions are “standardised”, in the sense that they should be applied consistently where they are required, this does not mean that they should all be applied in every instance. Applicants need to consider the nature of the activity, and the characteristics of the site and its surroundings in considering whether to apply each and every condition.*
- *The standard conditions should be used with caution as a starting point from which appropriate conditions for the individual consent should be drafted to align with the requirements of ss108, 108AA and 220 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*
- *Further guidance as to whether to apply the conditions are included in the guidance notes that accompanies each condition.*
- *Users should take specific advice from qualified professional people before undertaking any action as a result of information obtained in this Standard Conditions Manual.*
- *Auckland Council does not accept any responsibility for, or liability whatsoever whether in contract, tort, equity or otherwise (including negligence) arising from the use of, or reliance on, this Standard Conditions Manual. This includes, without limitation, any liability arising from any error, or inadequacy, deficiency, flaw in or omission from the information provided.*

Introduction

These conditions relate to the management of discharges of contaminants into air.

Applications should also be aware of the National Environmental Standard: Air Quality and the Auckland Regional Policy Statement when assessing effects.

Which conditions should I use?

General air quality conditions

These may be imposed on all decisions on applications for discharges of contaminants into air.

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Required for all consents	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
May be required depending on nature of consent								√	√
Condition	10	11	12	13	14	15			
Required for all consents									
May be required depending on nature of consent	√	√	√	√	√	√			

Activity types

We have process and monitoring conditions for activities such as:

- Refuse transfer stations
- Crematoria
- Chicken farms
- Power stations
- Contaminated land
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Combustion (use of coal fired boilers)
- Quarries
- Chemical processes
- Manufacturing

The majority of applications that require air quality input from the Contamination, Air and Noise team will be site specific consents that require site specific conditions related to the site specific air quality management tools and systems (such as scrubbers, filters, baghouses etc). Please liaise with the air quality specialist for detailed guidance on conditions to manage these systems.

Process conditions

- Process conditions are specific to the application – sets discharge limits etc – as per the application.

Monitoring conditions

- Monitoring conditions are specific to the application and may include such things as an Air Quality Management Plan and keeping a log of sampling etc.
- The Contamination, Air and Noise Team will monitor stand alone Air Quality consents. All integrated consents will be monitored by the Council. An internal agreement between the Monitoring and Specialist Unit will ensure that all information necessary to the consent is appropriately assessed while the customer maintains a single point of contact with the council. Where a standalone consent is granted the single point of contact for the conditions can be changed to Team Leader – Contamination, Air and Noise.

Limiting Conditions

Condition 1: Controlling emissions

All processes on site must be operated, maintained, supervised, monitored and controlled using the best practicable option to ensure that all emissions authorised by this consent are maintained at the minimum practicable level.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to ensure that the minimum amount of emissions occurs even if the consent limit allows a higher limit of emissions. Section 17 of the RMA reminds us that every person has a duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate effects whether or not those effects are from a consented activity. This condition aims to make sure the lowest possible emission occur at the site.

Condition 2: Discharges beyond the boundary

Beyond the boundary of the site there must be no odour, dust, particulate, smoke, ash or fume caused by discharges from the site which, in the opinion of the Council, is noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to clearly link the activity to the general permitted activity rule and to ensure that there are no nuisance effects beyond the site boundary.

Condition 3: Visible emissions

No discharges from any activity on site must give rise to visible emissions, other than water vapour, to an extent which, in the opinion of the Council, is noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to ensure discharges are appropriate to the activity. This condition also links the activity to the general permitted activity rule.

Condition 4: Hazardous air pollutants

Beyond the boundary of the site there must be no hazardous air pollutant caused by discharges from the site, which is present at a concentration that is, or is likely to be, detrimental to human health or the environment.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to link the activity to the general permitted activity rule, ensuring that no hazardous air pollutants are discharged beyond the boundary of the site at a concentration that could harm human health or the environment. The Contamination, Air and Noise team have specialised equipment that may be used to detect levels of hazardous pollutants in the air. This equipment is taken on site if a complaint is made by the public regarding hazardous discharges.

Reporting Conditions

Condition 5: Inspection, records and monitoring reports

Details of all inspections, records, monitoring and test results that are required by the conditions of this consent must be kept for a minimum of two years from the date of each entry.

The above details must be provided to the Council on request.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to that all site maintenance and inspections are carried out in between the council inspections. This condition ensures that inspection and maintenance records are kept and that the Contamination, Air and Noise team is able to request information from any period within the last two years.

Condition 6: Significant breaches or unexpected emissions

The Council must be notified as soon as practicable in the event of any significant discharge to air, which results or has the potential to result in a breach of air quality conditions or adverse effects on the environment. The following information must be supplied:

- a. Details of the nature of the discharge;
- b. An explanation of the cause of the incident; and
- c. Details of remediation action taken.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to require the consent holder to inform the council of any unexpected actual or potential breaches of consent conditions, and to provide information as to why this may have occurred and what has been done to remedy the situation.

Condition 7: Complaints

All air quality complaints that are received must be recorded. The complaint details must include:

- a. The date, time, location and nature of the complaint;
- b. The name, phone number and address of the complainant, unless the complainant elects not to supply these details;
- c. Weather conditions, including approximate wind speed and direction, at time of the complaint;
- d. Any remedial actions undertaken.

Details of any complaints received must be provided to the Council within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to require consent holders to inform the council of any complaints and any action taken to remedy. Complaints may not come directly to the council, so this condition allows to gain a full understanding of site activities.

Site Specific Controls

Condition 8 Emission control equipment operation

No part of the process must be operated without the associated emission control equipment, consented as part of this decision, being fully operational and functioning correctly.

Condition 9: Emission control equipment maintenance

All ducting and emission control equipment associated with the process must be maintained in good condition and as far as practicable be free from leaks in order to prevent the escape of fugitive emissions.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of these conditions is to ensure that any emission control system employed such as baghouses, scrubbers, etc, are effective throughout the life of the consent. These conditions should be added to all decisions where emission control devices are required. This can include scrubbers, stacks etc. Please discuss with a Council Contamination, Air and Noise specialist if unsure.

Condition 10: Discharge limits

The discharge of specified air pollutants from the x stacks must not exceed the corresponding emission rates set out below:

Pollutant	Maximum emission concentration
Total suspended particulate (TSP)	x mg/m ³
Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	x mg/m ³
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	x mg/m ³
Lead (Pb)	x mg/m ³

All emission concentrations must be corrected to zero degrees Celsius, one atmosphere pressure and a dry gas basis.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to require routine testing of the discharges to demonstrate that they comply with the set limits for relevant contaminants discharged by the activity. The applicants AEE will have proven that if discharges are maintained below this level, significant adverse effects will not occur. Testing for various contaminants, including odour, is possible according to different standards and the frequency of testing is site specific.

Condition 11: Emission testing

Emission tests must be conducted on the **x** stack to determine compliance with condition **X** above. These tests must:

- a. Be conducted for the discharges of TSP, NO_x, SO₂, and lead;
- b. Be conducted within x months of the commencement of this consent and then annually thereafter for the duration of the consent;
- c. Be conducted during process conditions that will give rise to maximum normal emissions;
- d. Be undertaken utilising:
 - AS4323.2-1995, ISO 9096:2003 or US EPA Method 5 for TSP;
 - US EPA Method 7E for NO_x;
 - ISO 7935:1992, ISO 7934:1998, or US EPA Methods 6, 6C or 8 for SO₂;
 - US EPA Method 29 for lead;
 - or other methods approved by the Council (*see advice note below*);
- e. Comprise not less than three separate samples with the concentration results corrected to zero degrees Celsius, one atmosphere pressure and a dry gas basis; and
- f. Be carried out by companies with International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) accreditation for the methods required for testing at the site.

Advice Note:

The approval of the Council for an alternate method for source emissions testing will be based on a demonstrated advantage or equivalence of the method over the specified method for the accuracy and precision of results and the testing company being suitably accredited for the alternate test method.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to outline what sampling methods to use and what information should be collected for discharges where Council Contamination, Air, and Noise specialists have recommended that routine testing is required.

Condition 12: Emissions reporting

The results of emission tests, the relevant operating parameters, the raw data and all calculations must be submitted in the form of a report to the Council, within 30 working days of the samples being taken.

Guidance Note :

The purpose of this condition is to require reporting of the sampling to be provided to the council for our records. This condition is to be placed on all decisions where condition 11 above has been imposed.

Condition 13: Air Quality Management Plan

Within [add days] of the date of commencement of this consent an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) must be submitted to the Council for certification, to confirm that the activities undertaken in accordance with the AQMP will achieve the objectives of the plan and compliance with the relevant consent conditions. Any subsequent review of the AQMP must also be submitted to the Council for certification. The consent holder must meet the costs of the production, certification, monitoring and review of the AQMP.

The overall objective of the AQMP must be to set out the practices and procedures to be adopted to ensure compliance with consent conditions and also to meet the following objectives:

Xxxx [add objectives]

The AQMP must incorporate a series of monitoring, management and operational procedures, methodologies and contingency plans, and together must accurately record all information required to comply with the conditions of this consent. The AQMP must include the following:

- a. Identification of all fugitive and point sources for discharges of contaminants into air, including a map showing the location of each source;

- b. Procedures to minimise discharges of contaminants into air, including details of the inspection, maintenance, monitoring and contingency procedures in place for all emissions control equipment at the site;
- c. The operating parameters of emissions control equipment and the frequency and scope of the regular checks to be performed on emissions control equipment;
- d. Details of management and monitoring practices in place to minimise discharges of contaminants into air, including fugitive dust and odour;
- e. Procedures for the monitoring of dust and odour, including details of inspection procedures, recording requirements and contingency measures;
- f. The identification of staff responsibilities;
- g. The procedures for the receipt, recording and handling of air quality complaints received;

Guidance Note:

See guidance on the use of management plan conditions in the management plan conditions.

The purpose of this condition is to ensure that an AQMP is submitted for certification. This condition sets out what should be in an AQMP. It is important that management plan requirements specific to this application are incorporated into this condition. Your Contamination, Air and Noise specialist will tell you the date to insert in the first sentence. In some cases if the site is, for example, is very dusty and near a sensitive receptor then the AQMP will be required quickly, in other cases a large site may be being developed slowly with different parts established over time resulting in manufacturing occurring much later in the life of the consent, thus a later date for the AQMP may be acceptable. The Contamination, Air and Noise Team have some AQMP templates which can be provided to applicants who need to provide an AQMP.

Condition 14: Air Quality Management Plan operation

All processes on site must be operated in accordance with the certified Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to ensure that the works are carried out in accordance with the certified plan. This AQMP can be amended as per the condition below but there should be a single final certified AQMP at all times.

This condition should be placed on all decisions with the Air Quality Management Plan condition.

Condition 15: Air Quality Management Plan review

The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) must be reviewed on an annual basis and any subsequent changes to the certified AQMP must be submitted to the Council for certification prior to implementation. The Council will advise the consent holder in writing if any aspects of the AQMP are considered to be inconsistent with achieving the provisions of this consent.

Guidance Note:

The purpose of this condition is to allow the AQMP to be revised periodically, for example when expansion of operations requires it to be updated. This condition should be placed on all decisions with the Air Quality Management Plan condition.

General Advice Note:

All discharges of contaminants into air arising within the site boundary are the responsibility of the consent holder. Any person responsible for operations and discharges into air associated with the process or site should be made aware of relevant conditions of this consent.

General Advice Note: Correspondence

All correspondence relating to air quality permits can be emailed to monitoring@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz