

May 2018

Certifying stationary container systems

Use this guide to help you work out if your stationary container system needs a compliance certificate. A compliance certificate certifies that your tank and associated equipment is safe and complies with the rules.

'You' – the PCBU

In simple terms, a PCBU is an individual or a company conducting a business or undertaking.

This guide is for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) who have a stationary container system in their workplace. It is designed to help you meet your compliance requirements under the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 ('The Regulations'). In this sheet, 'you' means the PCBU.

More information on PCBUs and other duty holders in the workplace and their duties is available on our website: worksafe.govt.nz

What is a stationary container system?

A stationary container system is a tank or process container and its associated equipment, pipework and fittings, normally located in one place. Stationary container systems can contain flammable, oxidising, toxic or corrosive substances.

What kind of container do you have?

There are two types of stationary container system you may use to hold hazardous substances at your workplace.

Stationary container system with a stationary tank

Stationary tanks are used for storing or supplying hazardous liquids, and are normally located at specific places. Stationary tanks include:

- all parts and materials that help to maintain the structure and integrity of the tanks
- any means of closing the tanks (eg a lid or fitted cover)
- any component of the tanks intended to protect the contents of the tank from harm (eg lightning protection), and
- any other components that are integral parts of the tanks (eg liquid height indicators, heating coils, or internal valves).

Stationary container system with a process container

Process containers are stationary containers that hold a hazardous substance during manufacture or use (eg a mixing container, reaction vessel, distillation column, drier or dip tank).

Types of compliance certificates

You may need both a stationary container system compliance certificate and a location compliance certificate for your tank or process container.

Stationary container system compliance certificate

Follow the flowchart on the next page to work out whether you need a stationary container system compliance certificate.

What are the threshold requirements for a stationary container system compliance certificate?

Requirements for stationary tanks

You must have a stationary container system compliance certificate for your tank if it is:

- a below ground tank (including tanks that are covered by earth or other material) holding more than 250 L
- an above ground tank, holding more than 2,500 L of class 3.1A and 3.1B substances (eg petrol or solvents)
- an above ground tank, holding more than 5,000 L of substances other than class 3.1A or 3.1B (eg diesel, caustic soda and corrosives)
- an above ground tank, holding more than 500 L of gas
- used with a vapouriser, or
- used with a dispenser
- a tank that provides fuel to an oil burning installation which has a capacity greater than:
 - 500 L for a class 3.1D substances (eg diesel and waste oil) supplying an internal combustion engine
 - 50 l for class 3.1A, 3.1B and 3.1C substances (eg petrol) supplying an internal combustion engine
 - 60 L for class 3.1 flammable substances supplying a burner
- a tank that provides fuel to an oil burning installation with a service tank.

Requirements for process containers

You must have a stationary container system compliance certificate for your process container if it is:

- below ground (including process containers that are covered by earth or other material) of any size
- above ground, greater than 250 L and intended for use with a hazardous gas, or
- above ground, greater than 1,000 L and intended for use with a hazardous liquid.

You don't need a compliance certificate if:

- your process container is made from fire-resistant material and complies with the Health and Safety in Employment (Pressure Equipment, Cranes and Passenger Ropeways) Regulations 1999, or
- your tank contains LPG.

Even if your stationary container system doesn't need a compliance certificate, it still needs to meet the requirements under the Regulations. For more information on these requirements, visit our [website](#)

Location compliance certificate

Location compliance certificates apply to workplaces where flammable, oxidising, toxic or corrosive substances are present in quantities above certain thresholds.

A location compliance certificate certifies that the location where hazardous substances are used and stored is compliant with the Regulations.

Use the [Hazardous Substances Calculator](#) to find out whether you need a compliance certificate for your tank or process container. If you need one, you must arrange for a compliance certifier to visit your workplace.

Stationary container system compliance certificates

