



PURPOSE This synopsis provides definition of terms and further references to support examples in practice according to environmental classification.

SCOPE All peri-operative staff.

DEFINITIONS The following terms are used within this document.

TERM	DEFINITION
Substance	Any element, defined mixture of elements, compounds, or defined mixture of compounds, either naturally occurring or produced synthetically, or any mixtures thereof. Any isotope, allotrope, isomer, congener, radical, or ion of an element or compound which has been notified to be a different substance from that element or compound. Any mixtures or combinations of any of the above. Any manufactured article containing, incorporating, or including any hazardous substance with explosive properties.
Hazardous substance	Any substance that has one or more of the following intrinsic 'hazardous properties'- explosiveness; flammability; ability to oxidise (accelerate a fire); human toxicity (acute or chronic); corrosiveness (to human tissue or metal); eco-toxicity; capacity, on contact with air or water, to develop one or more of the above properties.

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ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

The table below indicates New Zealand legislation and other documents associated with this policy

TYPE	DOCUMENT TITLES	
	The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, 1996	
Logialation	Health and Safety in Employment Act, 1992, (with accompanying Codes of	
	Practice and Regulations).	
Legislation	The Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act: 2001	
	Radiation Protection Act 165	
	Radiation Protection Regulations 1982	
	Health and Disability Services Standards NZS 8134:2008	
	Safe Staffing Healthy Workplaces: DHBNZ & NZNO, 2006	
Recommended	Code of ethics, NZNO: 2006	
Best Practice	New Zealand Consensus Statement on the Health Benefits of Work: 2011	
	National Radiation Laboratory Code of Safe Practice for the use of X-rays in	
	Medical Diagnosis 2010	
	International Federation of Perioperative Nurses Guidelines	
Guidelines	ICN Occupational Health and Safety Fact Sheets, 2010	
	Code of Conduct, NCNZ: 2009	

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Environmental Classification	Hazard Exposure/Examples in Practice	Reference
Biological	From biological components of surgical smoke resulting from use of electro-surgical devices and lasers From blood-borne pathogens from percutaneous injuries, splashes and other body fluid contact From infectious micro-organisms From chemical and protein allergens in latex Traffic flow	See Standard 1 - Infection prevention and Control AORN - Guidance Statement: • Environmental Responsibility • Creating a Patient Safety Culture AORN - Recommended Practices for: • Safe Environment of Care • High Level Disinfection • Traffic patterns in the Perioperative Practice Setting AORN - Patient transfer and transport
Chemical	Anaesthetic gases Disinfecting and sterilizing agents Specimen preservatives Cleaning agents	 AORN - Guidance Statement: Environmental Responsibility Creating a Patient Safety Culture AORN - Recommended Practices for: Safe Environment of Care High Level Disinfection ICN Occupational Health and Safety Fact Sheets, 2010

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Physical	Fire	PNC Guidance Statement – Surgical Safety Checklist
	Electrical	AORN Guidance Statement Fire Prevention in the Operating Room
	Smoke Plume	AORN Policy and Procedure Fire safety in the Operating Room
	Radiation	AORN Recommended Practices for Reducing Radiological Exposure in the
	Compressed Gases	Perioperative Practice Setting
	Medical Error	AORN Recommended Practices for the Prevention of Retained Surgical Items
		(Sponge, Sharp and Instrument Counts)
		AORN Recommended Practices for Electrosurgery
		AORN Guidance Statement: 'Do not use' Abbreviations, Acronyms, Dosage
		Designations and Symbols – to be used in conjunction with local policy

Environmental Classification	Hazard Exposure/Examples in Practice	Reference
Ergonomic	Back Injuries Repetitive Motion Moving Patients Carrying heavy instruments and equipment Static or awkward posture Standing for long periods of time in one position	AORN Recommended Practices for Positioning the Patient in the Perioperative Practice Setting
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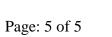
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Psychosocial	Long hours	District Health Boards/NZNO Nursing and Midwifery Multi-Employer Collective
	Call-out	Agreement 2011
	Nursing shortage	NCNZ Guideline - Responsibilities for Direction and Delegation of Care to Enrolled
	Overtime – often mandatory	Nurses 2011
	Burnout	
	Demographic diversity	
	Verbal and/or physical abuse	
Psychosocial	Absence of, or lack of recognition of a code of	See:
	conduct for all team members	Standard 1 - Legal, Cultural Safety, Collaborative Team Practice, Education and
	Tolerance of abuse from medical staff	Professional Development.
	Absence of respect from peers and other	Standard 3 – Bi-Cultural safety
	healthcare professionals	Standard 4 – Communication
	Absence of workplace safety programme	NCNZ Guideline - Responsibilities for Direction and Delegation of Care to Enrolled
	Lack of commitment by management to	Nurses 2011
	adhere to workplace safety programme	NCNZ Guideline – Delegation of Care by a Registered Nurse to a Health Care
		Assistant - 2011

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