



Firefighting Foam removal and decontamination

In 2006, New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority banned the importation and manufacture of any firefighting foam which contains perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). This was due to their bio accumulative nature and because they are persistent within the environment and in the human body.

Those in possession of the foams have since been working to remove it and decontaminate any affected plant.

We have the solution

3R Group's chemical collection service, ChemCollect, has the expertise to ensure the foams are correctly correctly dealt with. The service includes:

- Health and Safety assessments
- Flexible, tailored plans
- Options for using your own staff (under ChemCollect supervision)
- Compliant collection and disposal
- Decontamination of affected plant
- Follow-up reports



Secure and fit for purpose

When handling hazardous materials, controlling the environment is of paramount importance.

This is especially true when dealing with banned foams. Therefore, before work can be carried out, a site assessment is done. If unacceptable risks are identified, a fit-for-purpose alternative will be found. This ensures a high level of control over the process, reduces risk and ensures health and safety best practice.

Once work is completed, samples are taken and testing is done to ensure compliance is achieved. A follow-up report is also compiled.

After years in the chemical collection industry we know each case is different, which is why our planning is flexible to suit individual requirements and situations.

CASE STUDY

In 2018, 3R was contracted by Task Protection Services Limited (TPSL) to collect all its stocks of the foams stored at the Hawke's Bay, Palmerston North and Gisborne airports, and decontaminate all plant which had come into contact with it. The work involved transporting four appliances to a secure facility in Hawke's Bay. Removal and decontamination was carried out by TPSL personnel under supervision of ChemCollect staff. This was followed by testing of samples by AsureQuality.

The process ran smoothly and without incident both in terms of transporting the appliances, and decanting and decontamination, with tests reflecting a successful result.

All the foam was sent to a third party for shipping overseas where it will be safely disposed of according to appropriate regulations.

"This has been a great working relationship. We would highly recommend the ChemCollect team for all chemical removal and destruction."



Find out more about ChemCollect

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