



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Brooke van Velden	Portfolio	Workplace Relations and Safety
Title of Cabinet paper	Health and Safety Sector Relief: Research, Teaching and Testing Laboratories	Date to be published	22 January 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
December 2025	Health and Safety Sector Relief: Research, Teaching and Testing Laboratories	Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
2 December 2025	Health and Safety Sector Relief: Research, Teaching and Testing Laboratories EXP-25-MIN-0120 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of commercial information.



Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Health and Safety Sector Relief: Research, Teaching and Testing Laboratories

Portfolio Workplace Relations and Safety

On 2 December 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

- 1 **agreed** to amend Part 18 of the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations) to allow research, testing and teaching laboratories that are not involved in the production of goods for sale to manage handling (research laboratories), packaging, and storage risks arising from oxidising substances and flammable liquids and solids, through a risk management plan;
- 2 **agreed** to amend Part 18 of the Regulations so that the same regulatory requirements apply to storage that is connected to the research laboratory as to the laboratory itself;
- 3 **agreed** to amend Part 18 of the Regulations so that workers in research laboratories should not be required to be certified to handle hazardous substances because they already have higher levels of training than this certification requires;
- 4 **agreed** to amend Part 18 of the Regulations to clarify that a research laboratory manager does not need to be on site at all times, but should be available to provide oversight;
- 5 **agreed** to amend Part 18 of the Regulations to replace the requirement that research laboratory managers need to hold knowledge of all hazardous substances used in the laboratory with a requirement to have relevant knowledge to manage the safety risks of each substance and the equipment in the laboratory;
- 6 **authorised** the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety to make minor and technical changes during drafting consistent with the policy intent of the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0120;
- 7 **authorised** the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decisions.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary
(see over for attendance)

Present:

Hon David Seymour (Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Andrew Hoggard

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for EXP