



COVER SHEET

Minister	Hon Brook van Velden	Portfolio	Workplace Relations and Safety
Minister	Hon Simon Watts	Portfolio	Energy
Title of Cabinet paper	Regulatory changes to support development of the hydrogen sector	Date to be published	16 February 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
December 2025	Regulatory changes to support development of the hydrogen sector	Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Office of the Minister for Energy
2 December 2025	Regulatory changes to support development of the hydrogen sector EXP-25-MIN-0121 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO

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.



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.

Regulatory Changes to Support Development of the Hydrogen Sector

Portfolio Energy / Workplace Relations and Safety

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

- 1 **noted** that the decisions, outlined below, implement an action in the Government’s *Hydrogen Action Plan* and help meet New Zealand’s decarbonisation goals by enabling the development of the hydrogen sector;
- 2 **noted** that the decisions, outlined below, also support the National-ACT Coalition Agreement commitment to reform health and safety law and regulations, by providing regulatory clarity and reducing unnecessary barriers and compliance costs;
- 3 **agreed** to amend the Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010 to:
 - 3.1 provide alternative criteria for endorsing hydrogen appliances and fittings for use when certification is not available;
 - 3.2 provide for the development and use of safety instruments for:
 - 3.2.1 alternatives to odourisation for hydrogen or hydrogen blends;
 - 3.2.2 easier approval of hydrogen appliances and fittings;
 - 3.2.3 other provisions in future as risks and barriers emerge;
- 4 **agreed** to the development and use of safety instruments under the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 to address emerging risks for:
 - 4.1 electrical safety;
 - 4.2 types of electrical installation;
 - 4.3 electrical safety standards for fittings and appliances;
 - 4.4 other provisions relevant to hydrogen to be added, edited, or removed when appropriate;

5 **agreed** to the development of Safe Work Instruments under the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 to address emerging risks for hydrogen by setting requirements for:

- 5.1 managing risks of flammable gases, and liquids;
- 5.2 hydrogen transportation;
- 5.3 stationary container systems to apply to tank systems used in hydrogen fuelling stations;
- 5.4 additional standards or requirements for dispensers and associated equipment to be recognised in the future as they develop;

6 **agreed** to update references in the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 so that the latest versions of the *United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations (UN Model Regulations)* and AS/NZS 60079.10.1 are cited;

7 **agreed** to enable the use of multiple-element gas containers and similar storage containers by:

- 7.1 amending the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 to remove or update provisions that prevent their use and add the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (2025) as an acceptable standard;
- 7.2 removing consequential conflicting references and requirements in the Health and Safety in Employment (Pressure Equipment, Cranes, and Passenger Ropeways) Regulations 1999;

8 **agreed** to the development of specialised requirements for hydrogen fuelling stations in the Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010, safety instruments and Safe Work Instruments;

9 **agreed** to the development of specialised requirements for cryogenic liquid hydrogen in the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 and Safe Work Instruments, including thresholds for fire and emergency management and substance locations, keeping substances secure from unauthorised access, and incorporating relevant tank design and construction standards;

10 **noted** that the technical detail of the regulatory changes will be developed following Cabinet's agreement to the policy parameters in the paper under EXP-25-SUB-0121, for approval by the Ministers for Workplace Relations and Safety and the Minister for Energy;

11 **authorised** the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety and the Minister for Energy to make decisions, consistent with the policy in the paper under EXP-25-SUB-121, on any issues that may arise during the drafting of the regulatory amendments;

12 **authorised** the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety and the Minister for Energy to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decisions.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

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