

Pacific Conversations

NOUMEA CONVENTION PART 2

KNOW MORE, DO MORE, TOGETHER



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Did you know we have a Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping?

It is a protocol to the Noumea Convention for the protection of natural resources and environment of the South Pacific region. Known as the “Dumping Protocol” it is the guide to help Parties prevent, reduce and control pollution by discharge of wastes and other matter in the South Pacific. Formed in 1990, the Protocol was amended in 2006, known as the 2006 Amendment to the Dumping Protocol, which is yet to be accepted by Parties and entered into force.

Why Do we need a Dumping Protocol?

These are appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution in order to protect our ocean and marine life.

What's in the Dumping Protocol?

The protocol provides a list of the different types of wastes that may or may not be discharged in the Pacific Ocean, and guidance on accessing a permit to discharge in the protocol area.

The general considerations and conditions for dumping permits include possible effects on amenities, marine life, fish and shellfish culture, fish stocks and fisheries, seaweed harvesting and culture as well as other uses of the sea.

Another consideration is the practical availability of alternative land-based methods.

Other than as provided in the Protocol, the types of wastes prohibited from discharge include the following:

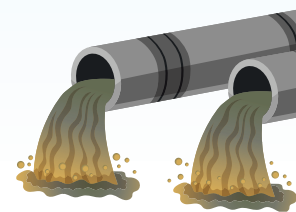
- Organohalogen compounds an example includes polychlorinated biphenyls, insecticides such as DDT.
- Mercury and mercury compounds such as in fluorescent lamps and thermometers.
- Cadmium and cadmium compounds such as that found in rechargeable batteries.
- Persistent plastics and other persistent synthetic materials, for example, netting and ropes, which may remain in suspension in the sea in such a manner as to interfere materially with fishing, navigation or other legitimate uses of the sea.
- Crude oil and its wastes, refined petroleum products, petroleum distillate residues and any mixtures containing any of these taken on board for the purpose of dumping.
- Materials in whatever form such as solids, liquids, semi-liquids, gases, or in a living state - produced for biological and chemical warfare.

This does not apply to substances, other than substances produced for biological or chemical warfare, which are rapidly rendered harmless by physical, chemical or biological processes in the sea provided they do not:

- make edible marine organisms unpalatable, or
- endanger human health or that of marine biota.

Who are Parties to the Noumea Convention, and the “Dumping Protocol”?

12 of the SPREP Members have ratified or acceded the Noumea Convention. These are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, United States of America.



Interested? You can learn more about the Dumping Protocol visit www.sprep.org.



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*A resilient Pacific environment sustaining
our livelihoods and natural heritage in
harmony with our cultures.*