



How do I find a “Suitably qualified and experienced practitioner”?

Not all environmental consultants are suitably qualified to undertake all types of contaminated land assessment and investigation work. This work requires consultants with specific skills, experience and technical expertise. The following describes three main ways to find a “suitably qualified and experienced practitioner”:

1. Use a consultant that holds a current Certified Environmental Practitioner (Site Contamination Specialist) accreditation. Following the publication of the NES Users’ Guide a contaminated land industry accreditation scheme has been established (similar to a ‘certified engineer’ or a ‘master builder’) and is available to New Zealand (and Australian) environmental consultants. Consultants who hold this accreditation should be considered to be “suitably qualified and experienced” under the NES, as the scheme’s requirements are generally consistent with the criteria outlined in the NES Users’ Guide. [<http://www.cenvp.org/directory/>]
2. Check that your consultant’s experience and qualifications are aligned with the guidance in the NES Users’ Guide. Not all contaminated land consultants hold the Site Contamination Specialist accreditation yet many of these consultants may still be considered suitably qualified and experienced practitioners by Councils. To check whether they are suitable, use the guidance provided in the NES Users’ Guide “*who is a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner?*” [<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma-land-hazards/users-guide-national-environmental-standard-assessing-and-managing>] and consider 3 below.
3. Ask your local council for advice. Your city or district council may be able to suggest consultants that are considered suitable to undertake contaminated land investigations and reporting. Councils may also use their discretion to consider consultants without a Site Contamination Specialist accreditation as “suitably qualified and experienced”, but it is worth checking with them before you make a final decision.