



RULES FOR EXHIBITS ENTERED IN NIWA BAY OF PLENTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

The following safety rules regarding the construction and care of displays are necessary to prevent electrical fires, injury to visitors and stress to animals and plants that are part of the display.

1. **Construction**

Exhibits must be durable, safe, self-contained, stable, and not exceed the maximum size (see condition 3). Moveable parts must be firmly attached. Exhibits must also be designed to be safe from any interference from members of the public. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that all valuable parts are securely attached or able to be removed by the Exhibitor for safekeeping when the exhibit is left unattended.

2. **Use of Mains Electricity**

Any exhibit requiring mains electricity must have a suitable cord 3 metres long with a durable 3 pin plug correctly attached. All parts involving mains electricity must comply with the relevant electrical regulations. The wiring should be carried out by a registered electrician. Exhibitors using mains electricity for high voltage equipment must use an RCD or a suitable isolating transformer to supply electricity to their exhibit to give a greater margin of safety.

3. **Electrical Safety**

Voltages over 100 volts must have all conductors (wires and switches) completely and securely enclosed by non-conducting materials to prevent any possibility of an observer receiving an electrical shock. Such projects must be safe at all times, which means it must be able to be disconnected or locked when unattended. Nails, tacks, etc must not be used to secure wires because of the possibility of shorting and fire. Correct procedures for securing wires must be observed.

4. **Fire Safety**

Heating elements must be mounted on a suitable non-combustible support so that there is no possibility of fire. Lamps must be well ventilated to avoid heat build-up and only non-combustible materials used near the lamp. No gas supply is available. An Exhibitor wishing to use gas must seek written permission from the Organising Committee to use any supply of gas. Gas is to be supplied by the exhibitor if approval is given. Please supply full details of the proposed supply: type of gas, size and age of cylinder, use of the gas.

5. Radiation

Any radio transmitter in working order must comply with the relevant radio transmitting regulations and be licensed. Microwave and high frequency radiation must be safe and have a warning sign. Any damaging radiation (e.g. UV light) must be shielded so viewers could not be harmed. Radioactive materials are permitted only when written permission has been gained from the Organising Committee and they must comply with the relevant regulations.

6. General Safety

Explosives, including explosive gases, must not be exhibited. Dangerous chemicals (including strong alkalis and acids) are not to be used in any exhibit (if in doubt contact the Organising Committee). All exhibits using liquids of any kind must stand in a leak proof tray. Exhibitors must have sponges, cloths etc to wipe up and remove any spills. No direct water supply is available. Should your exhibit require water you will need to design it so it has its own reservoir. No large pools. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to ensure that the area immediately surrounding their exhibit is kept clean, dry and tidy at all times.

7. Caring for Living Organisms

Micro-organisms (Bacteria and Fungi)

If you intend to bring micro-organisms to the venue, you must follow the guidelines in "Safety and Science" Published by the Ministry of Education and available to all schools. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of your exhibit.

Plants

Most often carrying out scientific investigations with plants will cause no regulatory problems. However, if you are working with noxious plants please dispose of them in a responsible manner. Remember that some plants/plant parts may be poisonous. If working with registered endangered New Zealand plants you need to get permission from the Department of Conservation before starting your experiments.

Animals

For Science and Technology Fairs all vertebrates and some invertebrates are to be considered. You may need to apply for permission prior to starting your research. Go through the chart below and then if necessary download the application details from the Education page of the Royal Society website www.rsnz.org.nz. This permission process is easy for you to do so please do not "forget" to attend to it or be put off. It is part of good scientific practice. If you are working with protected indigenous animals, e.g. koura, you will need to also contact Department of Conservation for permission.

NOTE 1: Examples of interfering with an animal are:

- Exposing it to any drug, chemical or biological product, parasite, radiation, electricity or abnormal environment; OR
- Subjecting it to enforced activity, unusual restraint, abnormal nutrition, or surgery; OR
- Depriving it of usual care.

NOTE 2: Live animals will not be accepted as part of your exhibit, but you may study animal behaviour and record your findings.

8. **General Rules**

The Organising Committee reserves the right to not display any exhibit and to withhold any prizes for which the judges consider an adequate standard has not been reached. The Organising Committee also reserves the right to group Entry Forms where numbers are insufficient in particular classes. The judges and the Organising Committee reserve the right to withdraw prizes and promote others in the class if rules are discovered to have been broken. The Organising Committee's decision in all matters is final. **THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGES TO EXHIBITS, ALTHOUGH ALL CARE WILL BE TAKEN.** The Science Fair will be open to the public (after Judging has been completed) during which time exhibitors need not be present.

DO I REQUIRE ETHICS APPROVAL FOR MY EXPERIMENT?

Animal Ethics

If you are entering a project involving an animal, ask your teacher for the information about Animal Ethics. You **MUST** have Animal Ethic Committee approval **BEFORE** the Science Fair. There is a link on the Bay of Plenty Science Fair website for this.

Follow the chart below

