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• NICNAS Existing Chemicals Program Review

The Existing Chemicals Program is currently under review with the intention to more effectively evaluate the chemical issues raised by industry, specialists, employees and the community, using the current resources. The background papers to this review, which started in 2003, are available at: www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/Existing_Chemicals/Review_Of_The_Existing_Chemicals_Program.asp

Early in 2006 NICNAS will release a Public Consultation Paper of the options that have been raised by various industry and focus groups approached so far. More limited evaluations are expected to replace some of the extensive Priority Existing Chemical assessments.

• New Aust. Workplace Chemicals Framework

The Australian Safety & Compensation Council (formerly NOHSC) is currently combining the Dangerous Goods (Storage & Handling) and the Workplace Hazardous Substances, Regulations and Codes of Practice, in preparation for GHS.

The AS&CC are currently holding discussions with key stakeholders. A public consultation paper will be available in mid 2006.

Contact: AS&CC ph: 02-6121-6000, email: info@ascc.gov.au

Hazmat & Environment Notes

are prepared by:

Jeff Simpson

Hazardous Materials Consultant
Editor & Publisher

My approach is to provide a short, succinct note on each hazardous material issue, sufficient to allow you to make a decision of whether it is relevant to you. If you need more information contact details / website / etc are provided.

I encourage all readers to make comment on draft regulations, codes and standards.

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Hazardous Substances

• Proposed NICNAS Activity on Nanomaterials

NICNAS is proposing to establish an inventory of current uses and applications of Nanomaterials in industrial and domestic chemical products that are imported into and/or manufactured in Australia. This will assist in prioritising those Nanomaterials that may require additional safety testing and/or regulatory controls.

Nanomaterials (materials designed at the molecular level whose small size <100 nanometers) are currently of regulatory interest due to potential environmental and/or health impacts. The nature of Nanomaterials is that they are significantly smaller than 'conventional' chemicals and may have increased capacity to be absorbed, have a greater surface area and may have increased reactivity.

There will be a Call for Information in the February 2006 Chemical Gazette. This will enable outcomes of the OECD Workshop on the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials, in Washington, 7-9 Dec 2005, to be taken into account in determining how to define 'Nanomaterials' and what information will be required.

Note: Nanomaterials used as sunscreen/UV filters, regulated by the TGA, are not subject to the Call for Information notice.

From Chemical Gazette 6 Dec 05 www.nicnas.gov.au

• Report on Tasmanian Bitumen Workers Issues

Was published on the 29th June 2005. This reports on the investigation by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, following comment and debate over potential health issues faced by workers on Tasmanian roads who were exposed to bitumen over the past 40 years.

In relation to road building the report covers: **bitumen** and **asphalt** (asphalt is an amalgam of bitumen and aggregates) - both petroleum based and still currently used - and **coal tar** which comes from a coal source (but was last used in 1949). Thirty-four former bitumen workers were interviewed to discover the substances used, work practices adopted, their level of exposure to bitumen fumes and their subsequent health experiences.

While there are some acute irritation effects from exposure to bitumen fumes, which may act on the eyes, nose and throat, bitumen fumes are not classified as carcinogenic and key international studies have found limited evidence of carcinogenicity from exposure to bitumen fumes.

Nationally it has been proposed that a watching brief be maintained by the AS&CC on the health effects resulting from the use of asphalt.

The 3Mb, 79 page pdf is downloadable from www.dier.tas.gov.au/publications/

From the Tas. Dept of Infrastructure, Energy & Res. Report

• New Approach Reduces Number of Fish Tested

A newly validated test approach for Ecotoxicological Effects has been endorsed by the European Commission.

The European Commission's researchers have come up with a simple, yet very effective, approach. that entails initial testing with algae and daphnia. Fish are only used for

testing at the lowest level of concentration where toxic effects are observed in algae and daphnia. If the fish survive at this concentration, no further testing is required.

From: [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?refere](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1203&CFID=%20254284&CFTOKEN=14047803)
[nce=IP/05/1203&CFID=%20254284&CFTOKEN=14047803](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1203&CFID=%20254284&CFTOKEN=14047803)

With thanks to Drs. A.C.H. van Peski who informed me

• USA Nanoscale Materials Evaluation Progress

The USA National Pollution Prevention & Toxics Advisory Committee (NPPTAC) met on 29th Sept 2005 and have prepared an overview document: [Nanoscale Materials Work Group Overview Document](#) (Draft 18 page Word document, 228 KB) or enter www.epa.gov/oppt/npptac/nanowgoverviewdraft051011final.doc. This overview discusses the issues needing to be considered for a Nanoscale Materials Voluntary Program (NVP). The USA EPA's potential outcomes for a NVP include:

1/ Give a better understanding of the types of engineered nanoscale materials; the physical, chemical, hazard and exposure characteristics of such substances; the volume of such substances; and the uses of such substances;

2/ Help the USA EPA develop capacity and a process to identify and assess risks of engineered nanoscale materials;

3/ Help the USA EPA determine what information it needs about engineered nanoscale materials and articulate those information needs to industry and other stakeholder groups;

4/ Help the USA EPA understand what risk management practices are being used at production, processing, use and disposal stages, and what additional risk management practices need to be implemented;

5/ Prompt or reinforce the implementation of risk management practices; and

6/ Provide the information and experience needed to develop an overall approach to the treatment of nanoscale chemical substances under USA TSCA that builds public trust in nanoscale materials while enabling innovation and responsible development.

From the USA EPA NPPTAC Nanoscale Materials Work Group Overview Document 10/8/05 Draft at www.epa.gov/oppt/npptac/meetings.htm

Also look at the USA NIOSH website on Nanotechnology [/www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/default.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/default.html)

• Nanotechnologies: A Preliminary Risk Analysis

This European report comes from a workshop organized in Brussels on 1–2 March 2004 by the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General of The European Commission, 3.16 Mb pdf file, 143 pages.

Nanotechnologies may not only present potential benefits, but also potential risks. The Report contains policy options and recommendations from experts at the workshop

The preferred 5th policy option would help to:

- **avoid preventable hazards and risks** relating to nanotechnologies, taking practical steps to avoid potential hazards and risks when scientific evidence is not complete and still being assembled;

- **set up a framework** within which (a) stakeholders including scientists, industrialists, and citizens can participate in shaping the course of nanotechnologies and (b) nanotechnologies can develop safely;

- **monitor the development** of nanotechnologies by acquiring and generating the relevant data, keeping the possibility of further regulation in the future open and making sure that such regulation would rest on more complete data and a deeper scientific understanding.

The **Recommendations** by the experts at the Workshop are:

- 1/ Developing a **nomenclature** for intermediate and finished engineered Nanomaterials.
- 2/ Assigning a universally recognized Chemical Abstract Service (**CAS**) Registry **number** to engineering NPs.
- 3/ Advancing **science** by collecting **data** and performing their **analysis**;
- 4/ Developing **measurement instruments**,
- 5/ Developing standardized **risk assessment methods**,
- 6/ Promoting **good practices** with respect to risk assessment, human and environmental health and safety,
- 7/ **creating institutions** to monitor the development / establishing nomenclature / promote standards / and evaluate the appropriateness of further, nano-specific regulation,
- 8/ **Establishing a dialog** with the **public** and with **industry** to ensure that both take part in decisional processes,
- 9/ Developing **guidelines** and **standards** for: risk assessment; production and handling; commercialisation,
- 10/ **Revisiting existing regulations** and, when appropriate, revising them,
- 11/ **Maximizing the containment of free engineered nanoparticles** until their possible hazards have been identified and addressed or until they have been rendered innocuous,
- 12/ Striving for the **elimination** whenever possible and otherwise the **minimization** of the production and **unintentional release** of nanosized particles

Goto: http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/04_scher_en.htm and Select "Nanotechnologies"

The Policy Options & the Expert Recommendations are on pages 22 to 28.

Chemical Management

• New Zealand Hazardous Substances Update

- Notified Toxic Substances (NOTS)

All NOTS (including single component NOTS) must be transferred under the NZ HSNO Act by 1 July 2006. A **Notified Toxic Substance (NOTS)** is a substance that was notified under section 32 of the Toxic Substances Act 1979 up until 2 July 2001. The information notified included the trade name of the product and the product's chemical composition. ERMA New Zealand has been processing these notifications since July 1998.

The Transfer Process is largely a translation of the old controls to the new system. Reassessment involves a more in depth consideration of the risks, costs and benefits. Notified Toxic Substances will be Transferred to HSNO by way of Group Standards that cover them.

From: www.ermanz.govt.nz/help/faq-transfer.asp

- Group Standards

Group Standards represent a new HSNO approval pathway, which is being established as part of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Approvals and Enforcement) Amendment Bill (which is awaiting its second reading in the NZ Parliament). The risk of substances in the Group Standard will be managed by a single set of conditions, rather than by the controls set out in the HSNO regulations. NOTE: Any new hazardous substance manufactured or imported into New Zealand that complies with the conditions of a Group Standard will not need its own individual Part V approval. Compliance with a Group Standard will be deemed an approval under HSNO. Subsequently this will reduce the need for industry to submit new applications for similar substances.

It is the responsibility of all Notifiers to know under which Group Standard each of their NOTS is deemed to be an HSNO approved substance. The on-going use of NOTS that are not deemed approved by a Group Standard after 1 July 2006 will be illegal.

Currently under review are a large range of **draft Group Standards** for these NOTS (each will have a single set of conditions to manage risks posed by the substances throughout their life-cycle).

Editor's Comment: The initial suite of draft Group Standards developed by ERMA New Zealand have extra requirements for your company that you may wish to comment on: e.g. Setting up an Inventory of all component chemicals in hazardous products (both hazardous and non-hazardous) that were not present in NZ as at 30 June 2006 ; Chemicals of Concern at ANY concentration in a product requiring the product to be notified to ERMA; (M)SDSs being prepared for NZ to have the HSNO Approval Number, Group Standard, HSNO Classification under Regulatory Information to aid compliance

From: www.ermanz.govt.nz/help/faq-transfer.asp.

Download the current suite of draft Group Standards from: www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/consult-gs.asp. It is most important to read the Consultation Document (Executive Summary) in order to understand how Group Standards are to be used (this document is repeated for each set of Group Standards).

Current Round (Nov 2005): [Paints](#), [Animal Nutritional Products](#), [Lubricants](#), [Adhesives](#), [Dyes and Pigments](#), [Inks](#), [Industrial and Institutional Cleaners](#), [Fragrance Materials](#), [Corrosion Inhibitors](#), [Food Additives](#). These contain 89 Group Standards and the associated Site & Storage Conditions.

Second Round (end Jan 2006): Catalysts; Dental products; Embalming products; Fertilisers; Fire Fighting Products and Flame Retardants; Leather Industry; Metal Alloys; Pharmaceuticals; Polymers; Refrigerants; Solvents; Textile Industry

Third Round (end Mar 2006): Aerosols; Bitumen and Bitumen Additives; Construction Products; Cosmetics; Diagnostic Reagents; Domestic Products; Photographic Products; Plasticisers; Surfactants; Water treatment Chemicals

From: www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/groupstandards/index.asp#bg

- NZ Consultation on Chemicals of Concern

Chemicals of Concern are a group of chemicals that have been identified as having the potential to pose a particular risk to human health and the environment. ERMA New Zealand has compiled a list of Chemicals of Concern from overseas sources and is currently consulting on this document.

The proposal is that importers or manufacturers of substances or products that are deemed HSNO approved by way of a Group Standard approval must notify the Authority if that substance or product contains a Chemical of Concern. Information to be provided under this notification includes the name of the substance or product and its associated group standard, the component that is a chemical of concern and the concentration of that component. This information will be used to assist in the development of reassessment programmes under ERMA New Zealand's risk reduction strategy.

The purpose of this consultation is to obtain comment on:

- 1/ the proposal to develop a list of Chemicals of Concern, &
- 2/ chemicals that should be included as a Chemical of Concern.

The list of Chemicals of Concern will be a living document. The current draft list is included in the consultation document and includes all persistent organic pollutants covered under the Stockholm Convention, even though these have been effectively banned under the HSNO Act. For ease of use, the draft list is presented in two categories of a/ Pesticides and b/ Other Chemicals.

From: www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/gc/coc.asp and from the Consultation Document.

• REACH – Has Passed the EU Parliament Plenary Vote

The European Parliament (EP) on 17 November voted to approve the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) legislation (398 votes in favour, 148 against and 41 abstentions at first reading).

Members of the EP decided to cut the industry's obligations on registration. However companies would only be granted authorisation for 5 years and would have to replace particularly dangerous chemicals with less dangerous ones.

EU member states will vote on the legislation on 19 December. It will then go back for a second reading to the European Parliament in 2006.

From: www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-11-23/inbrief.htm and

From: Europa Newsletter 1st December 2005 at http://europa.eu.int/newsletter/index_en.htm

• SPORT: Making REACH Work in Practice

This 2 page July 2005 brochure contains the key recommendations from the Strategic Partnership on REACH Testing (SPORT) work in practice. The strategic partnership is between the European Commission, Member States and a broad industry coalition led by Cefic.

Simplification:

- The legislation proposals are too demanding.
- Simplification of requirements and simple procedures and tools are necessary to enable SMEs to meet the coming time, resource and expertise challenges.
- Development of guidance and tools are necessary but not enough to make REACH workable.

- The exploitation of the wealth of existing information needs to be maximised.
- The process of gathering use and exposure information up the supply chain must be simplified.

Clarity:

- The legal roles and responsibilities must be clear to all actors.
- Legal certainty and economic feasibility are required to facilitate working in voluntary consortia of registrants.
- There is a need for legal clarity and suitable tools for registering groups of substances which will save time and resources.

Preparedness:

- Authorities, as well as companies, must prepare themselves to adapt to the radically changed roles foreseen in REACH.
- Work processes, procedures and organizational set-ups must be adjusted accordingly.
- Clear guidance and appropriate tools are required and must be fully tested and validated prior to REACH becoming operational.

From the brochure (86Kb pdf) downloadable from: www.cefic.org/Templates/shwPublications.asp?NID=470&T=3&S=24&DID=385

The Full SPORT Report and Annexes are available at: www.sport-project.info/

I was alerted to these documents by the Journaal Stoffen En Preparaten, Nov 2005 issue.

• Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) consists of three components: a high-level declaration; an overarching policy strategy; and a global plan of action. A matrix of concrete measures has been developed for chemicals management based on: risk reduction; knowledge and information; governance; capacity-building; and illegal international traffic.

Numerous risk reduction actions are proposed to protect human health and the environment from the unsound management of chemicals.

The decisions from the International Conference on Chemicals Management, Dubai, February 2006 will eventually effect your business. so it is important to become to understand the SAICAM and get involved.

For details on the SAICM go to: www.chem.unep.ch/saicm. Various background documents are accessible from here. One that I found interesting was: www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/prepcom3/en/INF4.pdf, submitted by the Government of Switzerland, for the SAICM PrepCom3, 19-24 September 2005 meeting, on Principles and Approaches of sustainable Development and Chemicals Management.

The Australian Govt Dept of Environment & Heritage website, will refer to the SAICM International Forum at: www.deh.gov.au/settlements/chemicals/international/index.html and will speak on SAICM at Hazmat 2006, 25-26th May 2006.

• Updated Drug Precursor Code – June 2005

Originally developed in 1994, relaunched in 2002, this latest June 2005 version reflects current trends as the

production, supply and use of amphetamine type substances continues to increase as a problem within our society. Several chemicals have moved up to higher categories of control.

The National Code of Practice for Supply Diversion into Illicit Drug Manufacture has been developed for members of the Plastics And Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) and Science Industry Australia (SIA). It is voluntary with the expectation of self-regulatory arrangements between industry membership, law enforcement agencies and the community. If necessary this could be formalised through legislation or regulation. ISBN: 1 876320 08 7, 20 pages, 93 Kb pdf.

From the foreword to the Code. Available from the www.scienceindustry.com.au/pages/regulatory.asp

Editor's Comment: All chemical & equipment supplier's should operate to this Code as standard practice.

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

• Formaldehyde PEC Report Withheld

The publication of the Formaldehyde Priority Existing Chemical assessment report has been withheld due to the lodging of applications for review in the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT) for review of the decisions made by the NICNAS Director on the variation requests to the draft assessment report.

From Chemical Gazette 6 Dec 05 www.nicnas.gov.au

Editor's Comment: You now have a bit more time to get ready to change the classification Risk Phrases for your Formaldehyde containing products. I assume the Report is will now be published by about mid 2006.

• Tris(2,3-Dibromopropyl) Phosphate PEC Report

Tris(2,3-Dibromopropyl) Phosphate (TBPP) CAS No. 126-72-7 was declared a Priority Existing Chemical for a full risk assessment on 6 July 2004.

TBPP is not manufactured in Australia, and to date, has not been imported into Australia. TBPP is not currently used in Australia, and there is no available information on former uses. One chemical company offers the chemical for import into Australia from the U.S.A, packaged as a 1000 mg ampoule. Clothing and textiles imported from the US, Japan and Europe will not be treated with TBPP as it is banned in these countries.

TBPP has low acute oral and dermal toxicity in animals. It is not an eye or skin irritant in rabbits. Limited evidence in humans indicates a very weak skin sensitization potential. There is no indication of a skin sensitization potential in the available animal studies. No data on respiratory sensitization are available.

Based on the development of malignant tumours in the kidneys and at distal sites in both rats and mice, TBPP is classified as a Category 2 carcinogen. No definite conclusion can be drawn from the data regarding the adverse reproductive potential of TBPP. TBPP is not considered to be a developmental toxicant from the available animal studies. TBPP is a genotoxic carcinogen in rodents. It will be covered by the Risk Phrases: R45 May cause cancer (Carcinogen Category 2); R68 Possible risk of irreversible effects (Mutagen Category 3)

TBPP is not readily biodegradable. Weight of evidence for bioaccumulation indicates that the chemical will not bioaccumulate to a significant extent, as depuration appears to be initially rapid. It is covered by the Risk Phrase: "Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects".

In AICS it will be annotated for research and development only; and if it becomes known TBPP-treated clothing or textiles are being imported into Australia, NICNAS should be notified immediately.

PEC Report 27 is downloadable as a 103 page, 1.25Mb pdf file from www.nicnas.gov.au

• Regulation of Cosmetic Chemicals: Final Report and Recommendations, 1 Nov 05

The Government has endorsed the reform of cosmetic regulation in Australia including the establishment of the new NICNAS Cosmetic Guidelines.

To implement these reforms, NICNAS will:

- work in partnership with community, industry and Government consistent with its Community Engagement Charter
- Establish an Implementation Working Group with a view to:
 - Reviewing & finalising the NICNAS Cosmetic Guidelines;
 - Establishing a group of experts to provide ongoing advice to the Director, NICNAS on matters relating to the NICNAS Cosmetic Guidelines;
 - Determining a mechanism for transfer of cosmetic chemicals from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) to Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS), where needed.

The 23 page Report, 3.12Mb pdf (due to the first and last page graphics, originally a 543 Kb pdf) is available from www.nicnas.gov.au/Cosmetics.asp

From 1 Nov 05 Chemical Gazette and the Report

• New Chemicals – Low Volume Exemptions

The Cosmetic and Non-Cosmetic Low Volume Exemptions criteria are outlined in the NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers section 2.5.

There are 3 categories for cosmetics:

Cosmetic (<1% & Not classified as Hazardous Chemical, Dangerous Good nor with Environmental Effects); Cosmetic (no unreasonable risk & <10kg); Cosmetic (no unreasonable risk & 10-100kg & advise NICNAS prior to introduction using Form 15).

There is 1 category for non-cosmetics:

Non-Cosmetic (no unreasonable risk ≤100kg)

All the above categories require Annual Reporting and information to be kept for 5 years. Low volume exemption provisions may be subject to auditing by NICNAS.

There is a Non-Cosmetic Form NCE-1 for use as an aid in determining no unreasonable risk and must be kept by the introducer for record keeping purposes with supporting documentation. This form can be sent to NICNAS for data entry purposes relating to annual reporting requirements.

The criteria for No Unreasonable Risk can be found in Chapter 2.6 of the NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers. Some chemicals will be unsuitable for exemption and a list of

criteria for unsuitable chemicals can be found at the end of Chapter 2.6 in the NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers.

Forms: www.nicnas.gov.au/Forms/New_Chemicals.asp

Handbook:

www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Handbook.asp

For further information contact:

NCE guidance: Jennifer Turner ph: 02-8577-8847

email: jennifer.turner@nicnas.gov.au

From Chemical Gazette 6 Dec 05 www.nicnas.gov.au

• Annual Reporting of Low Volume Exemption Chemicals

The on-line software is expected to be operational by February 2006 for those waiting to complete their Annual Report to 31 Aug 2005. There is now reduced reporting where quantities are <10kg where introducers can opt to provide only the total number of chemicals introduced at this level (i.e. no chemical details).

Go to: www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/Reporting_Annually.asp.

Contact for Annual reporting: Lewis Norman ph: 02-8577-8854, email: lewis.norman@nicnas.gov.au

• Two Flame Retardant Chemicals taken off AICS

Hazardous flame retardant chemicals, Octabromobiphenyl (CAS No. 27858-07-7) and Decabromobiphenyl (CAS No. 13654-09-6), listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention), have been removed from the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances.

Prior written permission from the Director, NICNAS must now be obtained for importation / manufacture of these chemicals as of the 17th November 2005.

From Chemical Gazette 6 Dec 05 www.nicnas.gov.au

• Potassium Perfluorbutane Sulfonate - NICNAS Hazard Assessment Report, November 2005

Potassium Perfluorobutane Sulphonate (PFBS), CAS 29420-49-3, which is a highly water soluble surfactant substance. PFBS-based chemicals may be substituted into products which currently contain Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS).

Australia, the current major use identified to date of PFBS-based chemicals is in the high performance industrial chemical category. PFBS-based chemicals are also used in consumer carpet protection treatments, industrially applied corrosion resistant paints and coatings.

PFBS-based chemicals degrade to PBFS. In water, PFBS is expected to be persistent as the it will not hydrolyse, photolyse or biodegrade. A range of tests show, however, that PFBS will not be toxic to birds, algae, aquatic invertebrates, fish or sewage micro-organisms. PFBS is not bioaccumulative or toxic to aquatic organisms and is not classifiable for the aquatic environment under the GHS. However as PFBS is persistent, levels may build up and be distributed in the environment over time.

PFBS shows low acute oral and dermal toxicity. No information on acute inhalation toxicity is available. PFBS is not irritating to skin. Potassium PFBS is found to be an eye

irritant with the potential to cause severe eye damage. There is no evidence of skin sensitisation.

NICNAS has recommended that PFBS CAS 29420-49-3, be classified as Hazardous with R36 – Irritating to eyes.

NICNAS will also annotate the AICS to restrict dispersive use in the aquatic environment. Any planned dispersive use will need to be notified to NICNAS for assessment.

Download: www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/Other.asp

From: NICNAS Existing Chemicals Hazard Assessment Report for Potassium Perfluorbutane Sulfonate, Nov 2005.

• Register Of Industrial Chemical Introducers as at 23 November 2005

There are now about 4000 registered chemical introducers. This is ~250 introducers fewer than in the 3 May 2005 list.

Listed in Dec 05 Chemical Gazette at www.nicnas.gov.au

• Hydrofluoric Acid Actions since PEC 19 in 2001

The awareness of the hazards of HF and regulatory controls have been improved significantly in the period since publication of the preliminary PEC 19, in June 2001.

NICNAS considers that the level of awareness of the hazards of HF and current regulatory controls are such as not to require proceeding, at this stage, to a full risk assessment of HF (which was an option in PEC 19).

NICNAS will continue normal post assessment followup for HF to identify issues that warrant further regulatory action.

Editor's Comment: This 4 page report provides a useful summary of the various actions now mostly in place and has cross-links to access the various referenced State Authority's documents.

From NICNAS Chemical Gazette, 4th Oct 2005

The updated (PACIA) Hydrofluoric Acid Code of Practice will be available to purchase from PACIA ph: 03-9429-0670, in early 2006.

TGA Chemicals

• Disinfectant Consultation (Hospital, Household & Commercial grade)

There are to be revised regulatory requirements for hospital, household and commercial grade disinfectants following a recent review. Some aspects may be from the 1st Jan 2006.

1. Disinfectants (with specific claims) are to be listable.
2. Exempt household/commercial grade disinfectants (containing a new chemical entity) to be listable.
3. Disinfectants Excluded from Regulation under TGA Act. The TGA are trying to get a better understanding of the numbers and types of disinfectant products that are currently regulated as exempt disinfectants. Excluded disinfectants will become regulated under NICNAS.
4. Therapeutic Goods Order 54 and Guidelines specify the standards for performance of disinfectants and sterilants as well as the standards for packaging and labelling. They have been split into 2 parts.

For Point 3 contact the TGA on ph: 02-6232-8444

From: www.tga.gov.au/consult/2005/disinfectants.htm

• Skin Reactions with Glucosamine Tablets

Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin (ADRAC) has received 51 reports of allergic skin reactions including erythematous rash, angioedema, urticaria, rash and pruritus with Glucosamine. Some Glucosamine is obtained from seafood, and products sold in Australia containing Glucosamine from this source have a statement specifying this on the label. People with a shellfish allergy may be more susceptible to allergic skin reactions when taking Glucosamine sourced from seafood. In several cases reported to ADRAC, the patient had tolerated another Glucosamine-containing product without adverse effect.

From: www.tga.gov.au/adr/aadrb/aadr0512.htm

• Safety of Sunscreens Containing Nanoparticles of Zinc Oxide or Titanium Dioxide

When Zinc Oxide or Titanium Dioxide are used in 'nanoparticle' form (less than 100 nanometres), they can't be seen on the skin but still retain the suncreening properties of the coarser material.

A theoretical concern has been raised that if Zinc Oxide or Titanium Dioxide in nanoparticle form are absorbed into skin cells they could possibly interact with sunlight to increase the risk of damage to these cells. However, initial studies of the absorption of these particles has proved inconclusive, some suggesting little penetration into the deeper layers of epidermis and others (using more complex skin flexing protocols) showing some absorption.

Further research is needed to establish if these materials are absorbed into human skin and if so what effects they may have if they are absorbed. The TGA is monitoring the emerging scientific literature in this area. The TGA advises that there is no evidence that sunscreens containing these materials pose any risk to the people using them.

From: www.tga.gov.au/npmeds/sunscreen-zotd.htm

• NDPSC Record of Reasons: Nov 99 to Current

The National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee (NDPSC) Record of Reasons provides the background and discussion about why a chemical is Scheduled, the Cut-off %s chosen; or the key discussion details about chemicals of possible concern.

For example in the 11-13 October 2005 NDPSC Record of Reasons, Chlorhexidine is discussed with the foreshowed decisions to go the February 2006 meeting of making it Schedule 7, Schedule 5 at >1-3% and not Scheduled at ≤1%. Other interesting issues covered are Alkaline Salts and should the Scheduling pH be lowered to 11.0; and Iodomethane as an alternative to Bromomethane.

From: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/records.htm

Editor's Comment: This is a very useful discussion forum by classification specialists who are considering which chemicals should or should not be Scheduled Poisons.

The March 2003 Guidelines for the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee are available from: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/ndpscq.htm 163 Kb pdf, 43 pages

• FAISD Handbook, 4th Edition, Nov 2005

Fourth Edition, Nov 2005 of the **Handbook of First Aid Instructions, Safety Directions, Warning Statements and General Safety Precautions** for Agricultural and

Veterinary Chemicals, is now available to download, 132p, 394Kb pdf.

Some recent changes included are:

1/ 66 substances have been amended or added.

2/ Warning Statements for Carbaryl, Codes 46 & 47 have now been added.

46 Avoid bare skin contact with treated surfaces for 7 days

47 Do not apply to food producing plants

3/ Following the creation of FAI code 'm' corrections have been made to 99 substances.

First Aid Instruction 'm' - If swallowed, splashed on skin or in eyes, or inhaled, contact a Poisons Information Centre (Phone eg Australia 131126; New Zealand 03 4747 000) or a doctor at once. Remove any contaminated clothing and wash skin thoroughly. If swallowed, activated charcoal may be advised. Give atropine if instructed.

From www.tga.gov.au/docs/html/faisd.htm

Food Chemical Issues

• Steviol Glycosides as Intense Sweeteners

Steviol glycosides are high intensity sweeteners, extracted from *Stevia Rebaudiana*. They are 250-300 times sweeter than sucrose and have been used for several years in a number of countries as sweeteners for a range of food products.

An application was received on 31 May 2005 to approve the use of Steviol Glycosides¹ (extracts of the herb *Stevia Rebaudiana*) as an intense sweetener for a wide variety of foods and include Steviol Glycosides in Schedule 1 or 2 of Standard 1.3.1. The applicant has paid the fee for the initial assessment.

The Initial Assessment Report A540 is now available. FSANZ has accepted the Application to be done and now seeks submissions to assist it to assess the Application at Draft Assessment.

Steviol Glycosides and Rebaudioside A are the major components of Stevia. The Applicant claims that the ratio of these two components is the main determinant of taste 'quality'. Where Steviol Glycosides are more than 50% of the total Glycosides the taste is 'common / traditional', with a 'metallic' or 'liquorice' after-taste. Where Rebaudioside A makes up more than 50%, the taste is 'improved' with a reduced after-taste.

Japan has approved Steviol Glycosides for more than 30 years and other countries that allow the use of Steviol Glycosides are China, Russia, Korea, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Indonesia and Israel. Steviol glycosides are not approved as an intense sweetener in the USA or EU.

Public Submissions can be made until 1 Feb 2006.

www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/applications/applicationa540stevi3096.cfm

• Sulphites, Benzoates and Sorbates: 21st ATDS Australian Total Diet Study (ATDS) – Aug 2005

Previous ATDSs looked at pesticide residues and contaminants only, finding that these present a very low public health and safety risk. FSANZ is now investigating those food chemicals for which there are insufficient data,

1/ Imidapril Hydrochloride

Imidapril Hydrochloride is a long acting, non-sulphahydril prodrug, which is hydrolysed to form an active metabolite, an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor. To be used in the treatment of heart failure in dogs.

CAS: 89396-94-1, Formula: C₂₀H₂₈CIN₃O₆, MW: 441.91 gmol⁻¹, SUSDP S4.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0510p13.pdf

2/ Quinalbarbitone Sodium

Quinalbarbitone Sodium belongs to a group of drugs called barbiturates. The product containing Quinalbarbitone Sodium and Cinchocaine hydrochloride is proposed for use in euthanasia of dogs, cats and horses.

CAS: 309-43-3, Formula: C₁₂H₁₇N₂NaO₃, MW: 260.27 g/mol, SUSDP S8 and Appendix K (Drugs required to be labelled with a sedation warning).

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0510p15.pdf

3/ Milbemectin

Milbemectin is a member of the Mectin class of insecticides/acaricides. It acts on the peripheral nervous system resulting in increased chloride ion flow and in inhibition of neurotransmission. It has contact and stomach action with limited plant systemic activity but exhibits translaminal movement.

CAS: Milbemycin A3: 51596-10-2, Milbemycin A4: 51596-11-3
Formula: Milbemycin A3: C₃₁-H₄₄-O₇ MW: 528.7
Formula: Milbemycin A4: C₃₂-H₄₆-O₇ MW: 542
SUSDP S6, or is ≤1% then S5.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0511p11.pdf

4/ Silicon Carbide

Silicon carbide is proposed for use as an agricultural chemical product as an animal browsing deterrent.

CAS: 409-21-2, Formula: SiC, MW: 40.1, Not Scheduled

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0511p14.shtml

5/ Emodepside

Emodepside is a bis-Morpholino Cyclic Octadepsipeptide with 8 chiral centres of fixed stereochemistry and thus emodepside is optically active. Emodepside is an anthelmintic effective against ascarids and hookworms as it acts by stimulation of the Presynaptic Latrophilin receptor belonging to the secretin receptor family, causing paralysis and death of the parasite.

CAS: 155030-63-0, Formula: C₆₀-H₉₀-N₆-O₁₄, MW: 1119.42, SUSDP S6, or is ≤2.5% then S5.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0512p12.pdf

6/ Pinoxaden

Pinoxaden comes from the Phenylpyrazoline class of chemicals. Its chemical structure is different to any existing ("dim" or "fop") grass-weed herbicide. It acts on the enzyme Acetyl Coenzyme A Carboxylase (ACCCase), by inhibiting ACCCase and blocks fatty acid biosynthesis. This interferes with grass weeds formation of biomembranes. To be used as a post emergence herbicide to control grass weeds in wheat and barley.

CAS: 243973-20-8, Formula: C₂₃-H₃₂-N₂-O₄, MW: 400.5 g/mol, SUSDP S6, or is ≤10% then S5.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0512p14.pdf

• Amended Active Constituent Standards

Maldison, Metiram and Paraquat Dichloride active constituent standards have been amended following representation from registrants. The amended standards are available on the APVMA's [website](http://www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0512p26.shtml).

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0512p26.shtml

Dangerous Goods

• Progress: Aust. Dangerous Goods Code 7th Ed.

The public comment is now being evaluated by the National Transport Commission. Review and consideration of all submissions will be by the Dangerous Goods Steering Group (DG SG) drawn from the wider Advisory Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (ACTDG). This review by such a limited group has concerned some associations.

The ADG Code 7th Edition is expected to be published around mid 2006 and then the implementation into Regulations for each State and Territory will follow in late 2006 and possibly into 2007.

All formal submissions (87) are listed on [ADG7 Submissions](http://www.adg.gov.au/ADG7Submissions) webpage (and 55 are downloadable).

From: www.ntc.gov.au, Quicklink: Dangerous Goods Code.

• SA Dangerous Substances & Major Hazard Facilities Bill 2005

The draft for comment provides revised requirements for dangerous substances, modified requirements for explosives and new requirements for major hazard facilities. When introduced, the Act and Regulations will replace the existing *Dangerous Substances Act 1979* and the *Explosives Act 1936*, and their associated Regulations. The draft Bill (55 pages, 292 Kb pdf) and Explanatory Information (6 pages, 202 Kb) can be downloaded from the website below.

Public comment is sort by 10 March 2006. E-mail comment to kelly.helen@sau.gov.sa.gov.au

From: www.safework.sa.gov.au and select "Legislation" then "Dangerous Substances Draft .."

• High Consequence Dangerous Goods Vic Regs

In Victoria the term "High Consequence Dangerous Goods" or HCDG has been adopted for those dangerous goods and other substances that are of security concern because they have the potential for miss-use to cause mass casualties and/or mass destruction. The Victorian Government made law in August 2005 to allow for the regulation of these materials, with the introduction of the Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulation 2005.

The Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulations 2005 address the risks arising from security concerns associated with the import, export, manufacture, store, sell, supply, use, handle, transfer, transport or disposal of high consequence dangerous goods by allowing for the implementation of a Licensing system. The transition period ends on 1st Jan 2006 after which those dealing with Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate will require a Licence.

The Regulations are downloadable from Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents

www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au, Select Statute Book, 2005, then go down to [Dangerous Goods \(HCDG\) Regulations 2005](#).

From: www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/so_dangerousgoods#high

• **Prompt Govt Action On Chemicals is Sort**

Early Nov 2005: A tip-off from a Sydney chemical supplier assisted police in their investigations of an alleged terrorist plot have demonstrated the close working relationship that exists between the chemical industry and police in the management of potentially dangerous chemicals.

The industry's national body is critical of the failure of federal, state and territory governments to introduce consistent and effective national controls over chemical, radiological and biological substances that may pose potential security threats.

The chemical industry and police have jointly developed a national code of practice intended to detect and prevent criminals obtaining chemicals and equipment to make illegal drugs

In recent months the industry has been critical of the inability of federal, state and territory governments to enact timely, consistent and effective national regulation for the management of Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN).

"We have made numerous representations to the Prime Minister and senior Ministers and their state counterparts seeking implementation of consistent and effective national regulation of a range of chemicals, but government has been slow to respond to the proposals put before it." Michael Catchpole, Chief Executive, PACIA.

From www.pacia.org.au Media, News Releases

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

• **Ambient Air Quality NEPM Review - URGENT – Issues Scoping Paper**

The purpose of this Issues Scoping Paper is to gain stakeholder input to identify key issues that are to be considered in the Review of the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM). The paper does not represent a position on any issue, and as such does not reflect the views of the Australian Government or that of any State or Territory.

27 pages, 215 Kb pdf. Email comments to: kscott@ephc.gov.au by 19 Dec 2005.

From: www.ephc.gov.au/nepms/air/air_nepm_review_issues_paper.html

• **Air Toxics Tier 2 Methodology – URGENT**

The National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) encourages you to make your views on the development of draft methodology for prioritising Tier 2 air toxics known, and to make available any information that you consider pertinent to the process.

The methodology contains questions that relate to both health effects (hazard) and environmental effects (exposure). Combining the scores for each component provides a method for ranking pollutants based on the potential risk posed to the Australian population.

29 pages, 453 Kb pdf. Email comments to: kscott@ephc.gov.au by 19 Dec 2005.

From: www.ephc.gov.au/nepms/air/air_toxics_tier_2.html

• **Industrial Residues – A National Approach**

There are a number of factors which are currently inhibiting the potential reuse of many industrial residues.

The public discussion paper "Development of a National Approach – Principles and Guidance for Assessing the Beneficial Reuse of Industrial Residues to Land Management applications" aims to seek comment to develop:

- consistent criteria for determining whether a particular industrial residue is fit for reuse
- supporting information that would be needed from proponents so that a determination can be made on the reuse of an industrial residue material.

Downloadable from the website below as a 24 pages, 277 Kb pdf. Comment closed 4 Nov 2005.

From: www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/industrial_residue.html

• **SA Draft Hazardous Waste Strategy - URGENT**

The objective is to provide a framework to achieve sustainable management of hazardous waste, by protecting and enhancing the environment while allowing economic and social development.

This Hazardous Waste Strategy is expected to be seen as an instrument to stimulate industry to change the way that they view hazardous waste and, in particular, its generation. Industry should strive to be innovative and view the elimination of hazardous wastes as good business sense.

34 page, 290 Kb pdf Draft is downloadable from <http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/instructions.html>. Comment closes 30th December 2006. There is an on-line consultation forum.

SA is also seeking comment on their **Draft Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Bill 2005**, in order provide for sufficient powers to deal with land that was contaminated before 1995.

Submissions close Monday 27 February 2006. Go to <http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/instructions.html>

• **Long-Term Containment Facilities: Vic EPA Role**

This information bulletin explains: the Victorian EPA's role in assessing the proposed design and operation of the facility; and if the facility is established, EPA's role in regulating the operation of a long-term containment facility.

Publication No.: 1011, Sept 2005
epanote2.epa.vic.gov.au/EPA/Publications.NSF/PubDocsLJ/1011?OpenDocument

• **Polypropylene Fibre Reinforced Polypropylene**

Recently, polypropylene fibres have been used to reinforce PP and these so-called self-reinforced materials show great promise in terms of enhanced mechanical properties and recyclability.

It was found that up to 50% post-manufacture Self Reinforced Polypropylene (SRPP) waste can be re-used in the SRPP manufacturing process. Post-processing waste is

likely to be reprocessed as regular PP in injection moulding of commodity items. The project used shredded SRPP waste as a fibrous reinforcement in PP, retaining the value-added properties of SRPP. At end-of-life, SRPP parts should be disassembled and reprocessed. Paint can be removed using proprietary agents.

A Lotus Elise car front access panel, was designed, prototyped and tested. The new part was 57% lighter than the existing part and passed environmental durability tests. A stiffening bracket for the panel was also developed in SRPP and bonded to the front access panels to obtain all-PP assemblies.

These materials are still in the infancy and much work is required to develop industrial-scale and low-cost processes, sandwich structures, joining and finishing technology.

These paragraphs are extracts from:
www.foresightvehicle.org.uk/disproj1.asp?wg_id=1117

Publications

- **Laboratory Guide to Workplace Safety 2005/06**

This chart is to help manage occupational health and safety in laboratories. It contains a set of summary information on hazard identification, risk assessment, controls as well as storage & disposal of chemicals.

Free copies (it has advertising around the perimeter of the chart) are available from Pro-Visual Publishing, ph: 02-8272-2611, email: enquiries@provisual.com.au. Information about Pro-Visual is available from www.provisual.com.au.

Standards

- **Standards – www.standards.com.au**

AS 4482.1-2005: Guide to the investigation and sampling of sites with potentially contaminated soil - Non-volatile and semi-volatile compounds. Published 2 Nov 05, ISBN 0-7337-6974-8, 58 pages, pdf \$99.40, hardcopy \$110.44.

AS 3846-2005: The Handling and Transport of Dangerous Cargoes in Port Areas. Published 16 Nov 05, ISBN 0-7337-7000-2, 132 pages, pdf \$140.58, hardcopy: \$156.20.

ISO 7225:2005: Gas Cylinders - Precautionary Labels. Specifies the hazard symbols and text and application of precautionary labels intended for use on individual gas cylinders containing single gases or gas mixtures. Published 18 Aug 05, 7 pages, pdf \$62.56, hardcopy \$69.51.

- **Drafts – free pdf files from www.standards.com.au**

DR 05491 CP: Emergency Procedure Guide - Transport - **Oxidizing Agents**. 31 Oct 2005, 2 pages, free pdf.

DR 05492 CP: Emergency Procedure Guide - Transport - **Organic Peroxides**. 31 Oct 2005, 2 pages, free pdf.

DR 05493 CP: Emergency Procedure Guide - Transport - **Organic Peroxides, Temperature Controlled**. 31 Oct 2005, 2 pages, free pdf.

DR 05494 CP: **Class Labels** for Dangerous Goods 31 Oct 2005, 37 pages, free pdf.

DR 05561 CP: Protective Clothing - Part 1: Protection Against Chemicals - Determination of Resistance of protective clothing materials to permeation by liquids and gases. Revision of AS 3765.1-1990 (in part) and AS/NZS 4503.1:1997, 6 Dec 05. *Note: the draft does not include a copy ISO 6529:2001 which our standard is identical with and reproduced from.*

DR 05564: Confined Spaces Requirements and risk control measures for ensuring the safety of those who must enter or carry out tasks associated with a confined space. Revision of AS/NZS 2865:2001. 8 Dec 05, 53 pages, 1.33 Mb free pdf.

- **Standards Undergoing Review**

Committee ME-057 is currently undertaking a major review of AS 2809, *Road Tank Vehicle for Dangerous Goods*.

Parts: 1/ General requirements for all road tank vehicles; 2/ Road tank vehicles for flammable liquids; and 3/ Road tank vehicles for compressed liquefied gases.

Committee ME-057: Road tankers for hazardous liquids and gases. Chairman: Stephen Klaric. Projects Manager: Inderjeet Kaur; email: Inderjeet.Kaur@standards.org.au.

Seminars, Conferences, Courses

- **Enviro 2006 Conference & Exhib'n, 8-11 May 2006 Melbourne.** The theme is: Building Sustainable Cities

From: www.enviroaust.net/e6/. Cost will be ~\$1400 for the 3 days. For details contact the conference secretariat: Quitz Pty Ltd, ph: 02- 9410 1302, email: quitz@bigpond.net.au

- **Safety In Action 2006, 16th 18th May, Melb**

Conference streams include Emergency Services, Risk Management, Safety in Off-Shore Petroleum Industry. SIA will include a large Trade Show. Organised by the Safety Institute of Australia (Vic).

One day costs approx. \$350. For details contact the SIA Conference Organiser ph: 03-9654-7773, email: safety@aec.net.au, website: www.safetyinaction.net.au.

- **Port & Maritime Security & Counter-Terrorism 2006**

Conference and Exhibition addressing the security situation of Australia's vast marine border, maritime transport sector and wider regional considerations.

18th and 19th May 2006. Dockside, Sydney. Cost \$2304.

More details: www.informa.com.au and select "Transport",. Informa: ph: 02-9080-4300, email: enquiries@informa.com.au

- **Fire Safety Engineering International 2006**

Conference theme: "The Future of Fire Safety Engineering" To be held at Gold Coast, Australia, 24-25 May 2006.

More details: www.sfs.au.com/Events.shtml, ph: 03-9865-8677, email: fse06@sfs.au.com

• **Hazmat 2006 Conference, 25-26 May 2006, Melb**

Covers Dangerous Goods; Hazardous Substances; Global Harmonisation; NICNAS, Waste Disposal; Emergency Response; Security; Liability Issues; etc. With good networking opportunities with the speakers.

Cost ~\$800, Members of Supporting Orgs ~\$700, All Distance Attendees ~\$600. Contact Fire Protection Assoc'n of Australia (FPAA) ph: 03-9890-1544, fax: 03-9890-1577, email: nlowerson@fpaa.com.au website: www.fpaa.com.au

• **PACIA National Conference, 18-20 June 2006**

Will cover Security of Chemicals, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); Government Red Tape Taskforce

The Sebel Heritage Golf & Country Club, Yarra Valley – Melbourne. Contact PACI ph: 03-9429-0670, email: info@pacia.org.au

A Happy Festive Season and New Year to everyone.

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