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• Classification Amdts to the ICNA Act & Regs

In the June-August 2012 Hazmat & Environment Notes edition I raised concern about the definition of Hazardous Chemical under the INCA Act & Regulations.

“Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment Categories are now Explicitly EXCLUDED from the ICNA Act/Regs.”

Editor's Comment: This amendment now explicitly excludes some hazardous chemicals such as the Hazardous to the aquatic environment categories from the ICNA Act/Regs. This is different to how the Hazardous Substances Criteria document was referenced in the previous INCA Act/Regs, as the hazards excluded from being classified for workplace health & safety were NOT previously explicitly referenced in the ICNA Act/Regs.”

I have had no response from NICNAS since publication of this concern, to explain how the Aquatic Environment Categories are able to be still included under the INCA Act & Regulations.

I assume this means my concern is correct.

For NICNAS to continue to apply these Environmentally Hazardous Classifications in the ICNA ACT/Reg, I strongly urge NICNAS to clarify the situation, and amend the INCA Act/Regs to explicitly include them.

• Review of NICNAS – July 2012 Submissions

The July 2012 submissions (45), in response to the Discussion Paper: Review of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification & Assessment Scheme, are available on the Dept of Health and Ageing website.

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-nicnas-submissions-2012

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

• Australian Child Health & Air Pollution Study (ACHAPS) Final Report (May 2012)

On 11 September 2012 the Standing Council on Environment and Water released the findings of a study into the effects of air pollution on children's respiratory health. The aim of the study was to provide information for the revision of the national standards - the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure.

2,860 children aged 7-11 years from 55 schools at 30 locations across Australia participated in the study. The selected schools were all within 3 kilometres of an air monitoring station.

The study found consistent evidence that higher levels of air pollution were associated with adverse respiratory health effects in children.

The study found that Nitrogen Dioxide had the strongest association with adverse respiratory effects in children. The study also found some adverse respiratory health effects associated with Particles.

The panel study was not able to demonstrate any adverse effects of ambient O₃ on children's lung function, symptoms or medication use.

Air quality in Australian cities is among the best in the world. However, ACHAPS demonstrates that even under these conditions, an association between air pollution and adverse respiratory health effects can be detected. This implies that there are health benefits to be gained from further reducing pollution.

<http://www.scew.gov.au/publications/pubs/air/achaps-final-report-may2012.pdf> (185 pages)

For further information ph: 02-6274-1819 or email: SCEW.Secretariat@environment.gov.au

From: www.scew.gov.au/nepms/aaq/achaps-final-report-may2012.html

• Hexabromocyclododecane Consultation by Environment Canada – Oct 2012 - 2 Dec 2012

To achieve the risk management objective, and as outlined in the proposed in the [Proposed Risk Management Approach for Hexabromocyclododecane \(HBCD\)](#), that was published in November 2011 (Canada, 2011b), the Government of Canada is proposing to implement regulations to prohibit the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale, import and export of HBCD and products containing HBCD, from 31 Dec 2016.

This will be achieved through the addition of HBCD to the [Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2005 \(SOR/SOR/2005-41\)](#) [EC, 2005], herein referred to as "Prohibition Regulations".

The following substances have been identified by industry as acceptable alternatives to HBCD for the two-step Expanded Polystyrene Foams process (Cheminfo Services Inc., 2010):

1. Tetrabromobisphenol A bis(Allyl Ether) (CAS 25327-89-3)
2. 1,2,5,6-Tetrabromocyclo-octane (CAS 3194-57-8)
3. Tribromophenyl Allyl Ether (CAS 3278-89-5) (page 12)

Consultations close: 2 Dec 2012.

Send comments to: Chemicals Management Division, Gatineau Quebec K1A 0H3, ph: 1-888-228-0530 / 819-956-9313, email: GR-RM@ec.gc.ca

The Proposed Approach at: www.ec.gc.ca/ese-ees/default.asp?lang=En&n=5F5A32FB-1

From: www.ec.gc.ca/ese-ees/default.asp?lang=En&n=6668F8BC-1

• OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals

The OECD *Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals* is a collection of about 100 of the most relevant internationally agreed testing methods used by government, industry and independent laboratories to identify and characterise potential hazards of new and existing chemical substances, chemical preparations and chemical mixtures. They are used primarily in regulatory safety testing and subsequent chemical and chemical product notification and chemical registration. They can also be used for the selection and ranking of candidate chemicals during the development of new chemicals and products and in toxicology research.

They cover: 1/ physical-chemical properties; 2/ effects on biotic systems; 3/ degradation and accumulation; 4/ health effects; 5/ other test guidelines; 6/ Principles of Good Laboratory Practice and Compliance Monitoring; 7/ working papers related to the development of these OECD Guidelines.

From: www.oecd-ilibrary.org/content/package/chem_guide_pkg-en

• Asbestos in Vehicles: NSW Safety Alert

Provides advice on vehicles that contain Asbestos gaskets.

Recently, following the testing of spare parts, new vehicles imported from China were found to have Asbestos gaskets. Asbestos has been a prohibited product in Australia since December 2003 but, in many countries, such as China, it is still used in manufactured products.

As well as imported new vehicles many older vehicles manufactured before January 2004 contain Asbestos in brake, clutch linings and gaskets.

Alert: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/asbestos-in-vehicles-safety-alert-3872.pdf

From: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/asbestos-in-vehicles-safety-alert.aspx

• Beware of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Risks

5 Sept 2012: Energy Safe Victoria and WorkSafe are warning Victorians never to use petrol generators or outdoor gas appliances inside following the death of a man in Ferntree Gully on Sunday.

Without proper ventilation, CO builds up quickly and can reach dangerous levels within minutes. And it's not only the risk of CO poisoning, if you use these appliances indoors they consume all the air and you risk death from oxygen depletion. CO poisoning is most commonly caused by faulty gas heaters.

The symptoms of CO poisoning can include headaches, fatigue and nausea.

If an appliance must be run in an enclosed or poorly ventilated area, the exhaust pipe should be fitted with an extraction system that vents to the outside.

From: www.worksafenews.com.au/component/k2/item/242-beware-carbon-monoxide-never-use-generators-indoors.html

Chemical Management

• WA WHS Model Regs and Codes Consultation

Western Australia (WA) Work Health and Safety (WHS) Model Regulations and Codes of Practice Consultation Regulation Impact Statement.

The WA Government has undertaken an assessment of the benefits and costs of the model WHS Regulations & Codes from 17 Aug to 12 Oct 2012. Marsden Jacob Associates have asked for information on the impact of the proposed changes.

• Information and Issues Paper

<http://www.marsdenjacob.com.au/cms/images/stories/MJA/whs-information-issues-paper.pdf>

Editor: My main concern again is (as occurred in Victoria in May 2012), they did not survey the cost to small business to NOT implement the WHS Regs and Codes, in particular the Hazardous Chemicals parts, where this will mean added costs when dealing with businesses from other parts of Australia and also Internationally.

From: www.commerce.wa.gov.au/Corporate/Media/statements/2012/August/Public_comment_sought_on_natio.html

And: www.marsdenjacob.com.au/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=182

• ECHA Substance Consultation Recommendations

4th Draft Recommendation of Priority Substances to be Included in Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation ([List of Substances Subject to Authorisation](#))

The submission period closed on the 19 Sept 2012. I have included this list to alert persons with these chemicals (which are either Carcinogenic or Toxic for Reproduction) and provide direct access to the details in the hyperlinks below.

[Bis\(2-Methoxyethyl\) Ether](#) (Diglyme) CAS 111-96-6; [Dichromium tris\(Chromate\)](#) CAS 24613-89-6; [Pentazine Chromate Octahydroxide](#) CAS 49663-84-5; [Strontium Chromate](#) CAS 7789-06-2; [Arsenic Acid](#) CAS 7778-39-4; [Potassium Hydroxy Octaoxidizincate Dichromate](#) CAS 11103-86-9; [Formaldehyde, Oligomeric Reaction Products with Aniline \(technical MDA\)](#) CAS 25214-70-4; [N,N-Dimethylacetamide](#) (DMAC) CAS 127-19-5; [1,2-Dichloroethane](#) (EDC) CAS 107-06-2; [2,2'-Dichloro-4,4'-Methylenedianiline](#) (MOCA) CAS 101-14-4.

The details for each chemical are hyperlinked or can also be accessed via the website below.

From: <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/recommendation-for-inclusion-in-the-authorisation-list/consultation-on-the-draft-of-20-june-2012-of-echas-4th-recommendation>

The overall [Candidate List Table](#) now contains 84 Substances identified as needing to go through the Authorisation process as they may have serious effects on human health or the environment and, therefore, the risks resulting from their use must be properly controlled and the substances progressively replaced when possible.

From: <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/reach/authorisation/the-candidate-list>

Editor: There are a few substances on this list that have been very common: Boric Acid, Phenolphthalein, Trichloroethylene; so it is worth reviewing the others if you may have them in your business.

• International Conference on Chemicals Mgmt

The Third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3), was held in Nairobi 17-21 Sept 2012

The UNEP SAICM ICCM3 Meeting Documents are at: www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=89:iccm-3-meeting-documents&catid=90:iccm-3&Itemid=600

Some of the Meeting Documents that caught my attention:

[Proposed additions](#) to the Global Plan of Action of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Nanotechnologies and Manufactured Nanomaterials; Hazardous Substances within the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Products.

[Progress on emerging policy issues](#) (e.g. Lead in Paint, Chemicals in Products) and managing Perfluorinated Chemicals and the transition to safer alternatives.

Progress report on [hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products](#).

Progress report on [nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials](#).

Progress on managing [Perfluorinated Chemicals](#) and the transition to safer alternatives.

[New nominations of emerging policy issues](#). Which included: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, and Environmentally Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants.

From: www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=96&Itemid=596

• NZ: Creating Safer Workplaces Consultation

The New Zealand Dept of Labour is currently undertaking a Strategic Review of the NZ Workplace Health & Safety System.

The NZ SAFER WORKPLACES Consultation Document is available at: www.hstaskforce.govt.nz/documents/Consultation_document.pdf.

I have scanned through the consultation document & found:

Health and Hazardous Substances (p57-60)

Point 258: Occupational disease and ill-health is a major contributor to the harm that occurs in New Zealand workplaces. Its management has tended to be overshadowed by the more immediate and visible hazards that result in injuries. Both the management and measurement of occupational health is complicated by the difficulties in attributing causation to work-related factors and the latency that often occurs between exposure and the diagnosis of disease. However the hazards that lead to disease still can and should be identified and controlled in workplaces.

Q21. What are the most significant challenges to managing occupational health risks and exposure to hazardous substances?

Q22. What changes could be made to the existing workplace health and safety framework to reduce the harm caused by occupational disease and ill-health?

There is an on-line questionnaire, and a submission template for emails. Submissions Close: 16 Nov 2012.

Email submissions to: secretariat@hstaskforce.govt.nz

From: www.hstaskforce.govt.nz/index.asp and www.hstaskforce.govt.nz/consultation.asp

• Preparing for a Chemical Emergency (in NZ)

Responsible Care New Zealand released an updated version of their HSNO Approved Code of Practice in Feb 2012.

The NZ Code integrates the mandatory emergency preparation requirements of several pieces of NZ legislation, including the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act, the Health and Safety in Employment Act, the Building Act and the Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations, into a user-friendly explanation of WHAT to do and HOW to do it.

Cost to non-members (not including GST) NZ\$120.

Email: info@responsiblecarenz.com, Ph: 63-04-499-4311.

From: www.responsiblecarenz.com/Article.aspx?ID=940

• NZ Cosmetic Products Regulations Updated

The amendments to the New Zealand Cosmetic Products Group Standard, includes aligning the definitions of some cosmetic products with EU legislation and requiring manufacturers to provide batch and source code information on cosmetic labels, helpful for identifying products subject to a recall.

In addition, the substance o-Aminophenol has been prohibited in hair dyes, based on a lack of information available to determine how safe it is. A 12-month implementation period will ensure phase out of the product.

From 1 July 2015, the presence of nanomaterials in cosmetic products available in New Zealand must be identified on labelling. Nanomaterials can occur naturally or be deliberately engineered and are insoluble or biopersistent particles that occur on the scale from 1 to 100 nanometres. The adverse effects of such small materials are uncertain.

From: www.epa.govt.nz/news/erma-media-releases/Pages/Cosmetic-Products-regulations-updated.aspx

• Chemical Security Training Awareness

An audio podcast and a separate video are now available on the Chemicals of Security Concern website.

www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/Documents/FINAL%20chemical%20security%20podcast.MP3

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICEdRUB5j4o&feature=channel_video_title

These compliment the Industry "Know your Customer Brochure" and other material on the Report Suspicious Activity webpage: www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/ReportSuspiciousActivity/Pages/default.aspx

From: www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx

• Chemicals in Consumer Products Webpage

On the new [Product Safety Australia website](http://www.productsafety.gov.au) there is a Chemicals in Consumer Products webpage.

The ACCC and State and Territory consumer product safety regulators play an active role in: 1/ investigating potential chemical hazards in consumer products; 2/ developing bans and mandatory standards where evidence shows a consumer product has or could cause injury, illness or death.

Regulators of specific products are listed here with contact details. Several product Issues and Alerts are also identified.

From: www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/980990

• European Commission: Nanomaterials Approach

3 Oct 2012: **Case by Case Safety Approach for Breakthrough Technology.**

The European Commission adopted a Communication on the Second Regulatory Review on Nanomaterials, which also includes the Commission's plans to improve EU law to ensure the safe use of nanomaterials.

In the light of current knowledge and opinions of the EU Scientific and Advisory Committees and independent risk assessors, nanomaterials are similar to normal chemicals/substances in that some may be toxic and some may not. Possible risks are related to specific nanomaterials and specific uses. Therefore, nanomaterials require a risk assessment, which should be performed on a case-by-case basis, using pertinent information. Current risk assessment methods are applicable, even if work on particular aspects of risk assessment is still required.

Europa website on nanotechnology:

http://ec.europa.eu/nanotechnology/index_en.html

From: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1050_en.htm?locale=en

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

• New Director of NICNAS Appointed

Dr Brian Richards had been appointed for a five-year term from 27 September 2012 as the new Director of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

Dr Richards, who is at present the Principal Medical Adviser supporting the Chief Medical Officer, has had an extensive career in public, private and not-for-profit organisations.

He has significant experience in developing, implementing, regulating and evaluating healthcare standards, and was previously acting National Manager of the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Dr Richards, a registered medical practitioner, also holds an honours degree in medical science, majoring in biochemistry.

From the Honourable Catherine King, Parliamentary Secretary for Health & Ageing, Media Release 13 Sept 2012: www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr12-ck-ck047.htm

• PEC 35: Diisononyl Phthalate Report & Info Sheet

Priority Existing Chemical (PEC) Assessment Report 35 for Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) was published in Sept 2012.

PEC 35 Overview Conclusion: The current Priority Existing Chemical (PEC) assessment has evaluated the human health risk from the uses of DINP in children's toys and child-care articles. Current risk estimates do not indicate a health concern from exposure of children to DINP in toys and child-care articles even at the highest (reasonable worst case) exposure scenario considered.

The risks from cumulative exposure of children to DINP in toys and child-care articles with or without DEHP at maximum 1% together with co-exposure to DEP in cosmetics at maximum 0.5% in body lotions, have been considered and found to be acceptable based on current public health risk management measures.

No additional recommendations to the existing controls in place for the public health risk management for the use of DINP in toys and child-care articles are required based on the findings of this assessment.

DINP Info Sheet: Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP – CAS No 68515-48-0 & 28553-12-0) is a member of the group of Esters commonly known as Phthalates, used as solvents and plasticisers worldwide.

DINP has low acute toxicity, low skin and eye irritation and skin sensitising potential, so the risk of adverse acute effects for children arising from handling toys is low. NICNAS estimated health risks for children, for both systemic (liver and kidney) toxicity and fertility/developmental-related effects – all of which are potentially associated with repeated handling and mouthing of toys containing DINP, as low concern at the current reported levels of DINP in toys and child care articles.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/PEC35.asp

And: www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Information_Sheets/Existing_Chemical_Information_Sheets/ECIS_DINP_PDF.pdf

• Seven more Cosmetic Ingredients now on the AICS

The chemicals listed in NICNAS Chemical Gazette Sept 2012 Table 1 on page 10 will be regarded as existing chemicals within the context of the conditions of use. As such, these chemicals are now no longer subject to new chemical annual reporting requirements when used in cosmetics within the conditions of use.

Note: Introduction of the chemicals listed in Table 1 for uses other than those specified (for example, for a non-cosmetic use, or for use in cosmetics but at a higher concentration than that specified) results in the chemical being considered a new chemical.

INCI name / CAS No.

Octyldodecyl Neopentanoate, CAS: 158567-66-9; Cholesteryl/Behenyl/Octyldodecyl Lauroyl Glutamate, CAS: 244023-78-7; Ethylbisiminomethyl Guaiacol Manganese Chloride, CAS: 81065-76-1; Micrococcus Luteus Lysate, CAS: 158765-79-8; Palmitoyl Hydroxypropyltrimonium Amylopectin/Glycerine Crosspolymer, CAS: 528855-60-9; Phospholipids, CAS: 123465-35-0; Polyquaternium-51, CAS: 125275-25-4

From: www.nicnas.gov.au Chemical Gazette, Sept 2012

Scheduled Medicines & Poisons

• Uniform Controls of S5, S6 & S7 Poisons Project

17 Aug 2012: Feedback from stakeholders was sought for the Australian Standing Council on Health (SCOH), on options for reform in the areas of regulation relating to controls of chemicals in Schedules 5, 6 and 7 of the SUSMP, and a selection of Appendices in the SUSMP. The following controls have been analysed: storage, disposal, labelling, packaging, record keeping, advertising and hawking / supply of product samples. Options to create national consistency for Appendix C, Appendix I and Appendix J have also been outlined. Submissions closed 17 Sept 2012.

The Regulatory Impact Statement Consultation Paper is available at: www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/ehu/ris-consult-paper.pdf

From: www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/ehu/drugs_poisons.asp

Editor's Comment: I made a submission with: a/ There were some misleading errors in the Paper where Schedule

5 & 6 Poisons had been incorrectly grouped with Schedule 7. b/ I supported the preferred options in the Consultation document as they will start the process of having uniform Schedule Poisons Regulations across Australia.

c/ I raised two key issues that had been missed (in my opinion). 1/ Which companies should hold a Poisons Licence (as this varies from State to State and should be the same); 2/ That Poisons Control Plans that are required in both NSW and Victoria should be using the same template and same requirements (and I question whether we really need these Plans?) Both these issues, 1/ & 2/, can cause significant wasted time to manage.

• Hydrogen Peroxide & Carbamide Peroxide

Proposed amendments referred by the delegate for Scheduling advice for consideration by the joint meeting of the ACCS and ACMS. These amendments will be considered at the 23 October 2012 meeting.

Scheduling Proposal: Proposal to exempt teeth whitening products containing 3% or less of Hydrogen Peroxide and 9% or less of Carbamide Peroxide from Scheduling.

Proposal for teeth whitening products containing between 3% - 6% of Hydrogen Peroxide and between 9% - 18% of Carbamide Peroxide to be only legally accessible from a registered health practitioner. Patients to be permitted to use these products 'at home' only after consultation with their registered health practitioner.

Proposal for teeth whitening products containing more than 6% Hydrogen Peroxide and more than 18% Carbamide Peroxide be legally accessed by registered health practitioners.

From: www.tga.gov.au/newsroom/consult-scheduling-acmcs-1210.htm

Food Chemical Issues

• A1068: Hydrogen Peroxide as a Processing Aid for Fermented Dairy Ingredients & Products

FSANZ determined that Hydrogen Peroxide fulfils its intended technological function i.e. it is effective as a processing aid for controlling the population of Lactic Acid producing microorganisms during the production of dairy products. No public health and safety concerns were identified with the use of Hydrogen Peroxide and an MPL of 5 mg/kg is proposed.

FSANZ has approved the variation to Standard 1.3.3 to permit the use of Hydrogen Peroxide as a processing aid in the manufacture of: a/ fermented milk; b/ fermented milk products; c/ cheese made using Lactic Acid producing microorganisms; d/ cheese products made using lactic acid producing microorganisms.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/applications/application1068hydr5375.cfm

And the Approval Report – Application A1068: 26 Sept 2012 www.foodstandards.gov.au/srcfiles/A1068%20Hydrogen%20Peroxide%20as%20a%20PA%20AppR%20FINAL.pdf

• A1069 – Irradiation of Tomatoes & Capsicums

The purpose of this Call for Submissions – Application A1069 report is to provide permission to irradiate fresh tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) and fresh capsicum (*Capsicum annuum*) for a phytosanitary (quarantine) purpose.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) received an Application from the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) in association with the New Zealand Fresh Produce Importers Association (NZFPIA) to permit the irradiation of tomatoes and capsicums as a phytosanitary measure. In the past, phytosanitary measures for tomatoes and capsicums have primarily involved the use of the chemical Dimethoate. However, since the use of Dimethoate for this purpose has now been restricted, other options such as irradiation need to be considered.

The FSANZ safety assessment concluded that irradiation of tomatoes and capsicums, as proposed, is unlikely to generate significant levels of radiolytic compounds. Furan was not detected following irradiation of tomatoes and capsicums at 5 kGy while 2-AlkylCycloButanones (2-ACBs) are not expected to be of concern because of the low lipid content of tomatoes and capsicums. Available data shows that irradiation at doses of up to 1 kGy does not affect carbohydrate, fat, protein and mineral content. Data submitted by the Applicant showed no discernible effect on levels of the measured vitamins at doses up to 1 kGy.

Permitting the irradiation of tomatoes and capsicums will allow increased domestic and international trade in tomatoes and capsicums as there are rigorous requirements in place for an appropriate and effective treatment for fruit fly for quarantine purposes.

FSANZ has prepared a draft variation to the Code to permit the irradiation of tomatoes and capsicums by adding tomatoes and capsicums to the Table to clause 4 in Standard 1.5.3 with a minimum dose of 150 Gray (Gy) and a maximum dose of 1 kGy.

Send by 7 Nov 12 to: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/srcfiles/A1069%20Irradiation%20of%20Tomatoes%20&%20Capsicums%20CFS.pdf (15 pages)

And: www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/applications/application1069irra5511.cfm

• Safety of Food from Japan: Radionuclides Tests

Australia (the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)) has been testing food from Japan for Radionuclides since just after the nuclear accident in Japan that followed an earthquake in March 2011.

Out of hundreds of foods sampled since March 2011, there have been only a few detections of Radionuclides and the levels were well below internationally accepted limits.

While the risk to human health posed by Radionuclides in food from Japan remains negligible, there is still potential for contaminated food to be imported into Australia. Therefore, the Australian food monitoring program has been refocused.

Only food commonly imported into Australia that has previously tested positive for Radioactive Caesium by Australian or Japanese authorities will be monitored.

These foods include: a/ tea (fresh and dried); b/ dried mushrooms; c/ fish (fresh, frozen and dried).

This monitoring program applies to foods that are from the following prefectures in Japan: Chiba, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Saitama, Tochigi, Tokyo and Yamagata.

Australia's approach is consistent with other countries that have taken similar steps to refocus their monitoring programs.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/scienceandeducation/factsheets/factsheets/safetyoffoodfromjapa5110.cfm

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

• Better Regulation Reforms – Ag & Vet Chemicals

The proposed legislative reforms will change the way the APVMA operates, introducing new regulatory functions and impacting the way we assess and approve chemical registrations, undertake reconsiderations (chemical review) and apply post market controls.

The DAFF consultation on the [revised draft Bill](#) closes 22 October 2012.

Revisions made to the Exposure Draft Bill (Sept 2012):
www.daff.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/2202424/revisions_made_to_exposure_draft_bill-final2.pdf (14 pages).

This document details what is new in the revised Bill and what has been retained from the initial exposure draft Bill.

The revisions all make good sense to me (as a bit of an outsider to the processes). Some points that caught my particular interest are:

1/ The revised draft Bill retains "Specifying that the safety related matters the APVMA must have regard to include human health and safety, unintended harm to animals, plants and the environment, chemical toxicity and product formulation." (page 7).

2/ "Simplified application requirements for all applications for approval, registration, variation, renewals and permits."

3/ "A new process whereby all 'negative' decisions by the APVMA in relation to applications are the subject of a draft decision process, where the input of the applicant is sought prior to the APVMA making a final decision on the application."

4/ The revised draft Bill retains "Ensure no impediment to the appropriate use of overseas data, assessments and decisions, including, where appropriate, specific reliance on decisions made by specified overseas regulators." (page 8).

5/ "The Bill includes an automatic trigger for the APVMA to vary the end date for an approval and registration (to subject the active constituent and/or chemical product to the re-approval and re-registration scheme with the next cohort) if two or more overseas regulators make a decision to prohibit the use of the chemical on grounds related to the safety criteria (section 47A)." (page 10).

6/ The revised draft Bill retains the introduction of "a mandatory re-approval and re-registration scheme to periodically ensure (every 7-15 years) that active constituents and products do not pose unacceptable risks to human or environmental health and safety." (page 10).

7/ "Extending data protection for new active constituents and chemical products with new active constituents to 10 years from the existing 8 years." (page 12).

8/ "Partially address 'springboarding' by preventing the APVMA from using protected information when assessing a later application as well as making a decision on the later application." (page 12).

Comments on the revised draft Bill should be provided by 22 October 2012. Comments on the details of proposed regulations can be provided at any time up until 21 December 2012.

Send via: www.daff.gov.au/feedback?query=agvetreform
or post to: Agvet Chemicals (Better Regulation Reforms)
Agricultural Productivity Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601

From: www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/ag-vet-chemicals/better-regulation-of-ag-vet-chemicals and

From: www.apvma.gov.au/news_media/newsletters/reg_update/2012/reg_update_158.php

• Review of Science on Pesticides & Bee Health

22 August 2012: In Europe and the USA there have been concerns for some time about the potential for insecticides to impact on the health of honey bees and other insect pollinators. Of particular interest to the APVMA is whether a particular class of insecticides, the Neonicotinoids, might have sub-lethal effects on bees, which may reduce their ability to pollinate plants and produce honey. Many of the Neonicotinoids used overseas are also used here.

The APVMA has commenced an investigation of the scientific literature to determine whether:

- use of Neonicotinoids in Australia presents any more of a risk to honey bee health than other pesticides that have been in use for many years
- current APVMA data requirements for testing of insecticides are adequate to address any potential effects of Neonicotinoids on bees.

The outcomes of the APVMA investigation will be published by early 2013.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/news_media/news/2012/2012-08-22_science_pesticides_bee_health.php

• Paraquat and Parkinson's Disease Link?

Recently there has been media coverage suggesting a link between the herbicide Paraquat and Parkinson's Disease (PD). Parkinson's Disease is a degenerative disease of the central nervous system that is more common in the elderly.

According to national support group Parkinson's Australia, age is, in fact, almost the only definite risk factor currently known with no firm evidence of other environmental or genetic risk factors playing a role.

While this remains the orthodox view, there is a hypothesis that exposure to farm chemicals may be a factor in promoting Parkinson's Disease in some people.

Support for this hypothesis comes from a variety of different strands of research. Some epidemiological studies suggest an association. [Research by the National Institutes of Health \(external site\)](#) in the United States of America, for example, indicated a statistically significant association between Parkinson's Disease and the use of two pesticides, rotenone and Paraquat. People who used either pesticide appeared likely to develop Parkinson's Disease approximately 2.5 times more often than non-users. But, underlining the challenges epidemiological studies present, other analyses find no such relationship.

Research using animal models has also suggested a possible link. This research has proposed that laboratory animals exposed to Paraquat develop brain changes somewhat similar to Parkinson's Disease. But this research too has not gone unchallenged, with critics arguing that unrealistic doses of Paraquat were often required to promote a response.

Given the status of current research and the tight controls that already exist on the use of Paraquat in Australia, there is no current trigger which would justify the APVMA imposing any additional regulatory controls. Paraquat, however, remains under close watch by the APVMA & is under detailed review.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/news_media/community/2012-03_paraquat_parkinsons.php

• Parkinson's Disease & Deep Brain Stimulation

Editor: This Radio National "Ockham's Razor" program was very interesting. It raised issue of contact with pesticide and fungicide used on farms and its possible link with the Parkinson's Disease of Geoff (the subject of this program).

It also talked about the benefit of Deep Brain Stimulation to help manage Parkinson's Disease for Geoff.

From: www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/parkinson27s-disease-and-deep-brain-stimulation/4293028

• Carbendazim and Carbaryl Reviews: 15 Aug 12 Further APVMA Restrictions for both Chemicals

The APVMA has finalised the reviews of two agricultural pesticides—an insecticide Carbaryl and a fungicide Carbendazim — and further restricted the uses of these chemicals.

Carbendazim: Newly discontinued commercial uses include roses, strawberries, pasture, clover, ginger seed pieces, sugar cane setts and post-harvest treatment of bananas. The new Carbendazim labels still allow use on chickpeas, faba beans, lentils, vetch and macadamia nuts.

Carbaryl: is used to control insect pests in a broad range of agricultural situations, including on fruit and vegetables, stored grain, ornamentals, lawns and around buildings. It was also used to control insects on domestic animals.

Some uses of Carbaryl products in agricultural situations have now also been discontinued, restrictions added to others and some uses retained.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/news_media/media_releases/2012/mr2012-07.php and

www.apvma.gov.au/products/review/completed/Carbaryl.php

www.apvma.gov.au/products/review/completed/Carbendazim.php

• New Agricultural Active Constituents (3)

APVMA, Chemistry Manager, Pesticide Program, ph: 02-6210-4936, email: Chemistry@apvma.gov.au.

Penthiopyrad

Penthiopyrad is a fungicide which shows broad antifungal activity on a wide range of crops. It inhibits mitochondrial function by disrupting Complex II (Succinate Dehydrogenase) in the respiratory electron transport chain. Penthiopyrad is used to control a range of pathogens in many crops.

Chemical Name: *N*-[2-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-3-Thienyl]-1-Methyl-3-(Trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-Pyrazole-4-Carboxamide; CAS Number: 183675-82-3; Minimum Purity: 976 g/kg; Formula: C₁₆H₂₀F₃N₃OS; MW: 359.4; Chemical Family: Pyrazol Carboxamide; Mode of Action: Fungicide.

Included in Schedule 5 of the SUSMP with a 20% cut-off exemption from Poisons Scheduling.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/publications/gazette/2012/17/gazette_20120828.pdf p23-25.

Sedaxane

Sedaxane is a Carboxamide fungicide belonging to the subclass of the Pyrazole-Carboxamides, which is a racemic mixture of two diastereomers (*trans* and *cis* isomers) with the typical *trans:cis* ratio is 6:1, the *trans* isomer is an active isomer while the *cis* isomer is a non-active isomer.

The toxophore of Sedaxane is not fully elucidated but the activity of the compound depends on the Amide (O=C-NH) Heterocycle configuration. Sedaxane is a highly potent Succinate Dehydrogenase Inhibitor of fungal pathogens in various crops.

Chemical Name: 1*H*-pyrazole-4-carboxamide, *N*-{2-[1,1'-bi(cyclopropyl)-2-yl]phenyl}-3-(difluoromethyl)-1-methyl-;

CAS Number: 874967-67-6 (for the mixture); 599197-38-3 (for the *trans* isomer); 599194-51-1 (for the *cis* isomer); typical *trans*:*cis* ratio is 85:15; Minimum Purity: 950 g/kg; Formula: C₁₈H₁₉F₂N₃O; MW: 331.4; Chemical Family: Pyrazol Carboxamide; Mode of Action: Fungicide.

Included in Schedule 5 of the SUSMP.

http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/gazette/2012/19/gazette_20120925.pdf p16-18

Ametoctradin

Ametoctradin is a new fungicidal active ingredient, belonging to the Triazolopyrimidylamine class of compounds. Amectoctradin is a strong inhibitor of mitochondrial respiration in Complex III (Cytochrome bc1) of fungi belonging to the class Oomycetes and has a new unique mode of action.

Chemical Name: 5-Ethyl-6-Octyl[1,2,4]Triazolo[1,5-A]Pyrimidin-7-Amine; CAS Number: 865318-97-4; Minimum Purity: 980 g/kg; Formula: C₁₅H₂₅N₅; MW: 275.4; Chemical Family: Triazolopyrimidylamine; Mode of Action: Fungicide.

Included as an Appendix B entry (Substances not considered to require control by Scheduling) of the SUSMP in May 2012.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/publications/gazette/2012/20/gazette_20121009.pdf

Dangerous Goods

• Dangerous Goods Transport Framework Review

The Strategic Framework Review of the Regulation of Land Transport of Dangerous Goods: Options Paper.

20 Submissions have been received by the NTC on the possible approaches that NTC might take to keep our ADG Code up to date and consistent with the IMDG Code.

Paper: <http://ntc.gov.au/DocView.aspx?DocumentId=2316>

The 20 submissions are at:

<http://ntc.gov.au/RFCCommentsView.aspx?DocumentId=2316>

• Transport of Dangerous Goods: SafeWork SA

Guidance in consigning, loading and transporting by land, Dangerous Goods in a placard load, retail distribution load or in small quantities.

www.safework.sa.gov.au/uploaded_files/transport_dg_road.pdf (Feb 2012 14 pages)

From: www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=111703

• Victorian Dangerous Goods (S&H) Regs Update

The draft and RIS came out for public comment in September until 11 Oct 2012. The draft tidies up some loose ends and does not introduce Part 7 of the Model Workplace Health & Safety Regulations.

The key changes on pages 83-84 of the RIS are:

a/ Removal of the requirement to undertake a formal risk assessment; **b/** Allowing greater flexibility for the classification and labelling of dangerous goods and preparation of SDSs/MSDSs; **c/** Removing the explicit requirement for the notification of the emergency services; **d/** Change from two to five year interval for manifest notification; **e/** Introduction of a tailored approach to placarding for petrol stations; **f/** Removal of the requirement to keep records of induction and training activities; **g/** Insertion of 'reasonably practicable' into the consultation provision; and **h/** Definition of C1 Combustible Liquid changed to become >60-≤93°C closed cup flash point & Fire Point < the Boiling Point.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/health-and-safety-topics/dangerous-goods

And RIS: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/24799/DG-Storage-and-Handling-RIS-20120911-Final.pdf

Editor's Comment: The two main changes I put comment in on are: the redefinition in the Regulations of "C1" Combustible Liquids, and that MSDSs are not required for these "C1" Combustible Liquids.

1/ As the term C1 Combustible Liquid has long been defined by AS1940 as >60-150°C, I don't regard that the Vic regs can alter this definition without causing significant problems. To overcome this clash in definitions I regard the most sensible way around is to explicitly call the "C1" Combustible Liquids in the Victorian DG(S&H) Regs "**GHS Combustible Liquids**".

2/ Division 2 - MSDSs Reg 18 - This Division does not apply to "C1" Combustible Liquids.

Regulation 18 is not aligned with NSW, Qld, NT & C'wealth Agencies where SDSs ARE required for GHS Combustible Liquids (which are Hazardous Chemicals).

If not changed, Reg 18 creates a problem for Victorian Companies who supply "GHS Combustible Liquids" to NSW, Qld, NT & C'wealth Agencies and as they are required to supply SDSs for these Hazardous Chemicals.

Also, as the scope of the Vic Regs is now just for the lower flash point range >60-93°C (more likely to be a hazard) part of AS1940 C1 Combustible Liquids, I regard it is relevant for Victorian customers to have MSDSs for these GHS Combustible Liquids too.

I recommended deleting Regulation 18 so that MSDS are required for "GHS Combustible Liquids".

The Dangerous Advisory Group Oct 2012 Meeting discussed the draft regulations. Richard Greenwood has suggested calling these 60-93°C Combustible Liquids "Scheduled Combustible Liquids" so as not to use the GHS acronym.

In Schedule 2, Richard was pleased that the draft regulations had retained Dangerous Goods Classification rather than converting Schedule 2 into the GHS Classification, which has led to unintended effects in the Model WHS legislation.

• Unsafe Disposal of Dangerous Goods Drums

From Dangerous Goods Safety Bulletin No. 0111 (WA Dept of Mines & Petroleum) 29 August 2011

Two people have died recently in Western Australia and another was seriously injured when using angle grinders to cut up 205-Litre drums previously used to store Dangerous Goods. In each incident, sparks from the angle grinder had ignited residual Flammable Liquid inside the drum, causing an explosion.

The two work-related incidents are described in *WorkSafe Safety Alert 2/2011 Cutting metal drums with an angle grinder*, available at www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

WA Reqs: It is an offence to dispose of a Dangerous Goods container unless it has been thoroughly cleaned and made free from Dangerous Goods. And also an offence to supply Dangerous Goods in a container that is not properly labelled.

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Bulletins/DG_SB_0111.pdf

• Safe Use of Flammable Refrigerants (WA)

1 Aug 2012: The hazard profile of an operation may change if the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) supplied refrigerant is replaced with a hydrocarbon refrigerant in

mobile equipment air-conditioners or other refrigeration systems.

A hydrocarbon refrigerant may reduce some hazards (e.g. toxicity, environmental damage), but other hazards may be increased (e.g. fire).

Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 177, issued on 18 April 2012, described an incident where an employee received burns following an incident involving the ignition of hydrocarbon gas that had leaked from the vehicle's air-conditioning system.

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Bulletins/MSH_SB_100.pdf

• Theatrical Fireworks Code of Practice (WA)

This Code applies to the control of all theatrical fireworks intended for entertainment or recreational purposes in Western Australia, and describes the measures people must take to minimise risk under section 8 of the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*. Theatrical fireworks are designed and manufactured for indoor use with minimal separation to spectators. They can only be electrically initiated and have consistent effects with a high degree of reliability. (28 pages)

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Code_of_Practice/DGS_COP_TheatricalFireworks.pdf

From *What's New*: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/12367.aspx#12383

• Decanting LPG into Cylinders: NSW Safety Alert

Recently, fires broke out at two service stations in Sydney as a result of unsafe practices when decanting Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) into smaller cylinders, such as those used in barbeques. Although no injuries were sustained, significant damage was caused to both properties and a serious threat was posed to workers, members of the public, and surrounding residential and commercial premises.

These incidents highlight the potential danger associated with filling cylinders by decanting. In particular, the risk of fire and explosion when LPG cylinders are over-filled or potential ignition sources, such as static electricity, are not controlled.

A hazardous area surrounds an LPG cylinder that is used to decant into smaller cylinders. Potential ignition sources include static electricity and electrical equipment such as ice freezers.

Alert: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/decanting-liquefied-petroleum-gas-safety-alert-3868.pdf (2pages)

From: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/Safety-alert-decanting-LPG-3868.aspx

• Firework and Explosive Devices: 1.5t seized

17 Aug 2012: WorkCover NSW inspectors working with NSW Police have today seized more than 1.5 tonnes of illegal fireworks from a property at Wilton in the Southern Highlands, NSW.

Inspectors uncovered about one and half tonnes of pyrotechnics and a quantity of explosives and detonator cord. The haul also included large mortars, sky rockets and bungers which have been illegal in NSW for decades.

In recent years there has been a significant reduction in the risk of death, injury and anti-social behaviour by preventing tonnes of illegal fireworks from being let-off in suburban backyards, car parks and other public areas.

Illegal fireworks have resulted in many injuries over the years such as severe burns and amputations and these life altering injuries have often involved children.

Anyone caught buying, selling or using fireworks without a WorkCover licence faced heavy fines & even imprisonment.

Persons with information on the illegal use or sale of fireworks in NSW should call Crime Stoppers ph: 1800 333 000.

For information on approved fireworks displays phone WorkCover on 13 10 50 or via their website at:

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/licensing/explosivesfireworks

From: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/newsroom/Pages/15tonnesoffireworkandexplosivedevicessetized.aspx

• NSW Dangerous Goods Heavy Vehicle Campaign

18 July 2012: More than 70 heavy vehicles were inspected by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) this week as part of a one-day roadside blitz targeting the transport of dangerous goods. The NSW EPA team was checking to ensure that Dangerous Goods loads were stowed, restrained and placarded correctly, and relevant safety measures are in place, and that vehicles were carrying required transport documents that accurately described the load.

No fines were issued, a number of official cautions and one Improvement Notice were handed out. Overall the vehicles inspected at Mt White were generally compliant.

This is the sixth Dangerous Goods Campaign undertaken by the NSW EPA in the last 12 months. While compliance levels have been generally satisfactory some poor performers were identified resulting in 24 penalty notices & 27 official cautions.

Media Release: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/epamedia/EPAMedia12071801.htm

• IMDG Code (incl. Amdt 36-12): 12 Sept 2012

The IMDG Code, 2012 Edition will come into force on 1 Jan 2014 for two years and may be applied voluntarily as from 1 Jan 2013. To obtain a hardcopy for £110 (due in Nov 2012) register your email address against Code I1200E at: <http://www.imo.org/publications/pages/futuretitles.aspx>

Order form for the IMDG Code for Windows: [www.imo.org/Publications/Documents/IMDG%20Code/IMDG%20Code%20\(inc%20Amdt%2036-12\)/IMDG%20Code%20V11.doc](http://www.imo.org/Publications/Documents/IMDG%20Code/IMDG%20Code%20(inc%20Amdt%2036-12)/IMDG%20Code%20V11.doc) 1 user £205, 2 users £340, etc

What's New in the IMDG Code Amendment 36-12: www.imo.org/Publications/Documents/Attachments/IMDG%20Amdt%2036-12.pdf. I've abbreviated some points:

Stowage and Segregation: Part 7 has been completely reorganised according to job function.

Sources of Heat: The various requirements for 'away' from all or any sources of heat, shaded from radiant heat or direct sunlight, sparks and flame, etc, are replaced by a general "Protected from sources of heat", the meaning of which is given in 7.1.2. Depending on the substance and the planned voyage, it may be necessary to reduce an on-deck CTU's exposure to direct sunlight.

Foodstuffs: Segregation from foodstuffs (which is now defined in 1.2.1) has changed. 'Away from' foodstuffs and 'Separated from' foodstuffs are no longer mentioned.

Generally, a class or subrisk of 2.3, 6.1, 6.2, 7 and 8, plus a few specific entries in the DGL, shall not be in the same CTU as foodstuffs, with a few specific DGL entries allowed in the same CTU as food, provided they are at least 3 m apart, without needing competent authority approval.

Limited Quantities: When in limited quantities, class 8 packing group II liquids in glass or similar inners also need rigid intermediate packaging. *Other substances* in LQ in

fragile inners will need suitable intermediate packaging when in shrink- or stretch-wrapped trays. Three UN Numbers of class 1.4S explosives may be consigned as limited quantities, but are still subject to the rules of section 4.1.5.

From: www.imo.org/Publications/IMDGCode/Pages/Default.aspx

• Purchasing the IATA Regulations 2013 Edition

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations 2013, to be used from the 1st of Jan 2013, will be available in Australia from: Marair

Freight, www.marair.com.au, email:

Admin@marair.com.au

Melbourne ph: 1800-677-721 or 03-9335-2699.

The IATA DG Regs 2013 can also be ordered direct from:

www.iata.org/ps/publications/dgr/pages/manuals.aspx

• Changes in the IATA DGR 54th edition

1.7 — Incident & Accident Reporting: A new paragraph has been added recommending that entities other than operators, report Dangerous Goods incidents or accidents and undeclared or mis-declared Dangerous Goods identified while in their possession.

2.3 — Dangerous Goods Carried by Passengers or Crew: There have been extensive changes and additions to the provisions for Dangerous Goods permitted in passenger and crew member baggage.

2.4 — Transport of Dangerous Goods by Post: The types of dangerous goods permitted in international air mail have been expanded to permit small lithium batteries when contained in equipment. The ability of a postal operator to accept lithium batteries in the mail is subject to specific approval by the civil aviation authority.

2.5 — Dangerous Goods in Operator's Property: The allowances for consumer goods have been revised to delete safety matches and add in allowance for portable electronic devices containing lithium batteries.

2.6.10 — De Minimis Quantities: New provisions have been added to address transport of very small quantities of certain dangerous goods.

4.2 — List of Dangerous Goods: Amendments to the List of Dangerous Goods include: e.g. a/ addition of a new entry for electric double-layer capacitors, UN 3499; b/ six new entries have been added for chemicals under pressure, UN 3500—UN 3505 in Division 2.1 and Division 2.2; 3c all Chlorosilanes with a Class 8 subsidiary risk are now restricted to Cargo Aircraft Only; d/ UN 2809, Mercury has been assigned a toxic subsidiary risk. Associated with this change, Mercury in manufactured articles has been assigned to UN 3506.

7 — Marking & Labelling 7.1.5.1: Reference has been included in 7.1.5.1(a) to identify the minimum size of the marking of the UN number on packages as specified in 7.1.5.5; **7.1.5.5** Has been revised to identify that from 2013 the marking of the UN number on packages should be of a minimum size. This minimum size will become mandatory with effect 1 January 2014.

9 — Handling 9.6.4: New reporting requirements have been added for Dangerous Goods occurrences.

From: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/Documents/DGR54-Significant-Changes.pdf (4 pages)

From: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/Pages/index.aspx

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

• Industries Posing High Risk of Environmental Harm

On 12 September 2011 the NSW Government commenced a major program of regulatory initiatives in response to the Orica incident in Koorangang Island. As part of this program the NSW EPA conducted an audit program targeting industries across NSW that pose a high risk of environmental harm.

The NSW EPA audited 40 premises posing a high environmental risk including facilities that store toxic, hazardous or dangerous substances in large quantities or volumes; e.g. oil refineries, chemical processing plants, large chemical & gas storage depots, & large chemical warehouses.

The audit program focused on the management of potential risks to human health and the environment by these premises, and the adequacy of emergency response procedures for managing major environmental incidents, to make sure that controls are in place manage these and ensure proper reporting procedures if these controls fail.

The 40 premises were audited by the NSW EPA are listed in the NSW EPA website below, along with a pdf copy of the Compliance Audit Report for each premises audited.

The April 2012 Summary Report is available at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/complianceaudits/120283MgmtEnvRiskCAP.pdf

From: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licensing/audit.htm

• NSW EPA launches Prosecution against Orica for Mercury Vapour Emissions

24 Sept 2012: The Chief Environmental Regulator for the NSW EPA, Mr Mark Gifford, said that the charge relates to the emission of Mercury vapour near a residential Botany area in the early morning of 27 Sept 2011.

“The elevated levels of mercury were allegedly caused by a failure by Orica to operate emission control equipment in a proper manner.”

“Following an assessment of this information and the completion of our own investigation, the EPA believes that Orica’s failure to operate in a proper and efficient manner is serious enough to warrant prosecution, especially given the proximity of the premises to local residents.”

Mr Gifford said that the incident did not result in any reported environmental harm or harm to human health, but that it did represent Orica’s failure to operate the site in accordance with best environmental practice.

Industry need to be aware of their responsibilities under their operating licences and be hyper-vigilant at all times to prevent potential adverse impacts to neighbours or the environment.

Media Release: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/epamedia/EPAMedia12092401.htm

• Vic EPA: Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories: New Policy

A new Vic EPA [Waste Management Policy \(Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories\)](#) came into effect on 26 July 2012.

The new policy replaces the Industrial Waste Management Policy (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) and incorporates minor variations to the National Environment Protection Measure for the Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories.

Core elements of the Waste Management Policy are the implementation of compatible tracking and notification systems, consultation between interested parties and mutual recognition of licences and permits for transporters.

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation-and-policy/waste-legislation-regulations-and-policies/waste-management-policies

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2012/august/17/new-waste-management-policy-movement-of-controlled-waste-between-states-and-territories

Standards & Codes

• Standards – www.saiglobal.com/shop

AS/NZS 4745:2012: Code of Practice for Handling Combustible Dusts. This Code of Practice is intended to apply whenever combustible dusts are encountered in quantities sufficient to give rise to a fire and/or explosion. ISBN: 978-1-74342-248. Published 10 Oct 2012. 74 pages \$163.75 pdf, \$181.96 hardcopy.

BSI PD ISO/TR 14047:2012: Environmental Management. Life Cycle Assessment. Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14044 to impact assessment situations. ISBN: 978-0-580-72525-8. Published 31 Aug 2012. 94 pages \$335.18 hardcopy.

BS EN 14491:2012: Dust Explosion Venting Protective Systems. ISBN: 978-0-580-64622-5. Published 31 Aug 2012. 46 pages \$292.46 hardcopy.

BS EN 1839:2012: Determination of Explosion Limits of Gases and Vapours. ISBN: 978-0-580-64619-5. Published 30 Sept 2012. 38 pages \$256.31 hardcopy.

BS EN 16214-1:2012: Sustainability Criteria for the Production of Biofuels and Bioliqids for Energy Applications. Principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers. Terminology. ISBN: 978-0-580-73144-5. Published 30 Sept 2012. 32 pages \$223.45 hardcopy.

• Drafts – www.saiglobal.com/shop

Note: The method for submission of comment on draft documents is to register & fill in an online form via Standards Hub Website. Instructions and examples of comment submission are available on the website. Use the link

<https://www.hub.standards.org.au/hub/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action>

Note: Comment must be via Hub, any emails or forms sent to Standards Australia by fax or mail will not be considered by the Committee when it reviews the Public Comment received.

BS EN ISO 16000-32: Indoor Air. Investigation of Buildings for Pollutants and other Injurious Factors. Inspections. Draft published 10 Aug 2012. 27 pages, \$32.86 hardcopy.

Seminars, Conferences

• ACTRA 5th Annual Scientific Meeting, 25-26 Oct 12

Adelaide – Themes for 2012: 1/ Food and consumer products toxicology and risk assessment; 2/ Chemical Regulation; 3/ Hydrocarbons in the Environment; 4/ Original Research and Case Studies in Toxicology and Risk Assessment

Email: secretariat@actra.org.au, Ph: 02-9401-5490.

From: www.actra.org.au/news.html

• Advances in Functional Nanomaterials, 15-16 Nov, Syd

Energy - Nanomaterials for Energy Generation and Storage Photoelectrochemical conversion, Solar Cells, Solar Thermal, Catalysis, Battery and Supercapacitor, H₂ generation and Storage Environment and Water- Functional Nanomaterials Sensing, Capture and Treatment Detection, Photocatalysis, Membrane, and other Processes.

Plenary & Invited Speakers webpage:

www.arccfn.org.au/ARCCFNConf/speakers.html

Cost: \$330 (\$450 incl. dinner),

After 15 Sept 2012 \$385 (\$550 incl. dinner)

From: www.arccfn.org.au/ARCCFNConf/

• Lab Managers Conference 20-21 Nov 12, Melb

Topics include updated regulatory information, management issues relating to technical staff and running your facility under difficult conditions.

Brochure and Registration: <http://labmanagers.squarespace.com/storage/lmc12/LMC2012brochurev2.pdf>. Program from: <http://labmanagers.squarespace.com/storage/Programv1.pdf>.

Non-members Conference cost \$1395, Workshops 19 Nov cost \$850. Early Bird by 19 Oct saves 15%.

From: www.labmanagers.org.au/

• AIOH 2011 Conference, 3-5 Dec 2012, Adelaide

Meeting Global Challenges in Occupational Hygiene:

Global Challenges & Perspectives including such topics as nanotechnology, dermal and inhalation exposure and the effect of genetic differences, respiratory health and occupational hygiene issues across a range of countries.

Applied Science including occupational hygiene challenges and issues in sectors including mining, general industry and the military as well as specific applied research by our educational institutions.

National & International Strategies to control health affecting agents including perspectives from Europe, the UK and Australia. Specific technical challenges in exposure assessment and standard setting will also be covered.

From: www.cvent.com/events/30th-annual-conference-exhibition-of-the-australian-institute-of-occupational-hygienists/event-summary-c9c980217189437ebc88ef002d7930d8.aspx

• ChemCon – The Americas 2012: 4-6 Dec, USA

A key chemical regulations & trade conference. Cost €1950. Presentations focus in the field of international chemical legislation ALL over the world, like REACH, GHS and country specific information on inventories, labelling requirements, etc.

From: www.chemcon.net/upcoming_conferences.html

• HazMat 2013, 1-2 May 2013, Sydney

HazMat 2013 Conference & Exhibition will be held in Sydney on 1st & 2nd May 2013. The HazMat 2013 Conference Exhibition Booth & Sponsorship brochure is available at: www.fpaa.com.au/events/?events=hazmat.

The HazMat Program will be available by late January 2013.

Please contact Events Department, FPAA, ph: 03-9890-1544 Email: Events@fpaa.com.au.

Haztech Environmental: Chemical Hazard Classifications done & reviewed. MSDSs prepared & reviewed. Labels prepared & reviewed. Chemical Control & Safety Regulatory Compliance: checked for NICNAS, TGA, FSANZ, TGA; prepared & reviewed for Dangerous Goods & Combustible Liquids, Workplace Hazardous Substances, Environmentally Hazardous Substances, Scheduled Poisons, and other Chemical and Physical Hazards.

I can come and work in your office, which provides better access to data with improved security, plus good technical contact with relevant personnel. This allows the work to be done more quickly and comprehensively. *I also work from my home office*, in Ashburton, Victoria, where I maintain an extensive reference library, developed over 22 years whilst preparing these Notes.

Contact: Jeff Simpson, Hazardous Materials & Regulatory Affairs Consultant, Haztech Environmental, 18 Laurel St, Ashburton 3147, Australia, 61-(0)3-9885-1269, 61-(0)403-072-092, Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au

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