Hazmat & Environment Notes Oct - Dec 2008

• Australian Dangerous Goods Code 7th Edition

From the 1st of Jan 2009 we will be finally working to the 7th Edition with a 12 months transition to the 31st Dec 2009.

The WA, SA, Qld Regulations giving effect to ADG7 are now in place. The WA, SA & Qld Regs are downloadable from: www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_2769_homepage.html, www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2008/december/2008_073.pdf, & www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/SLS/2008/08SL426.pdf. The Victorian Regulations were signed of on the 15th Dec 08. The NSW Regs will be in place by 1st Jan 09.

Some discrepancies exist such as the WA regulation requiring "Approved Responders" which I have previously discussed.

By the 1st January 2009 you will be able to download a free electronic version of the ADG Code 7th Edition from www.ntc.gov.au/ by selecting under the Safety and Compliance tab the Australian Dangerous Goods Code entry.

A free pdf version of the ADG Code 6th Edition 1998 is at:
Australian Dangerous Goods Code (6th Edition) Vol. 1
Australian Dangerous Goods Code (6th Edition) Vol. 2

Obtain the Summary of Key Changes to ADG7 - September 2008 and select access to the ADG7 Class Labels. The names of the individual label files reflect the label 'Model Numbers' by which they will be known in ADG7.

You can access the ADG 7 Model Legislation — Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road or Rail) Regulations 2007 & ADG 7 Model Subordinate Law on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road or Rail 2007.

When you want to make a submission access Competent Authorities (CA) where you can obtain the Competent Authorities Panel Rules - August 2008 *Editor's Comment:* A significant improvement over the ADG 6 CAP is that "A Competent Authority may refer a matter to the Panel at any time for advice".

A list is included of State CA contact points for **all queries** on licensing, classification, & day-to-day operational issues relating to the transportation of hazardous substances.

Another website covering Dangerous Goods is: www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/australia/dangerous/index.aspx. Here you can access the **CAP Submission Proforma** and obtain the **ADG 6 CAP Decisions Register.**

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

- **Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern**

Under REACH companies need to be aware of the ECHA Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). ECHA states that 'these substances may have very serious and often irreversible effects on humans and the environment. Substances on the Candidate List may subsequently become subject to authorisation by decision of the European Commission'.

15 substances are currently listed on the Candidate List and companies may have legal obligations within the EU resulting from the inclusion of substances on this list. ECHA has indicated that the Candidate List will be updated regularly as information accumulates under the REACH registration process.

The Candidate List is available on the ECHA website: http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/candidate_list_en.asp.

The reasons for inclusion (as at 12th Dec 2008) is one or more VH Concern effect: Carcinogenic, Mutagenic, Toxic for reproduction, PBT and vPvB. The 15 substances are:

Substance Name	**EC No. * & (CAS No.)**
Triethyl Arsenate	427-700-2 (15606-95-8 #)
Anthracene	204-371-1 (120-12-7 #)
4,4'- Diaminodiphenylmethane (MDA)	202-974-4 (101-77-9 #)
Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP)	201-557-4 (84-74-2 #)
Cobalt Dichloride	231-589-4 (7646-79-9 #)
Diarsenic Pentaoxide	215-116-9 (1303-28-2 #)
Diarsenic Trioxide	215-481-4 (1327-53-3 #)
Sodium Dichromate	234-190-3 (7789-12-0 & 10588-01-9)
5-Tert-Butyl-2,4,6-Trinitro-M-Xylene (Musk Xylene)	201-329-4 (81-15-2 #)
Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)Phthalate (DEHP)	204-211-0 (117-81-7 #)
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) & all Major Diastereoisomers Identified: Alpha-Hexabromocyclododecane Beta-Hexabromocyclododecane Gamma-Hexabromocyclododecane	247-148-4 (25637-99-4 #) & 221-695-9 (3194-55-6 #) (134237-50-6) (134237-51-7) (134237-52-8)
Alkanes, C10-13, Chloro (Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins)	287-476-5 (85535-84-8 #)
Bis(Tributyltin)Oxide (TBTO)	200-268-0 (56-35-9 #)
Lead Hydrogen Arsenate	232-064-2 (7784-40-9 #)
Benzyl Butyl Phthalate (BBP)	201-622-7 (85-68-7 #)

Immediate legal obligations in the EU on SVHC are not linked only to the listed substances on their own or in preparations, but also to their **presence in articles at >0.1%**. From:http://echa.europa.eu/doc/candidate_list/candidate_list_obligations.pdf.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_December_2008.asp Page 7.

Editor's Comment: Companies who sell articles to the EU are wanting to be certain that no SVHC ingredients that they use to manufacture them are in their final product. This will mean signing off on products supplied to them that they do not contain SVHC substances.

* EC No.s can be accessed on: http://ecb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esis/ and I have provided left out CAS No.s (denoted with a #).

- **Substitute It Now (SIN) List from ChemSec**

"A Tool for Phasing out Chemicals of High Concern" prepared by ChemSec (a Non Government Organisation).

"In order to ensure an early start and proper execution of this vital process, ChemSec in collaboration with leading Non Govt Organisations (NGOs) in the EU and beyond has developed the REACH SIN List. The aim of this project is to ensure that Authorisation is an effective tool to fast-track urgent Substances of Very High Concern for substitution, and to facilitate toxic use reduction by businesses."

"The REACH SIN List identifies a set of chemicals through the combined efforts of public interest groups, scientists and technical experts. The list is based on credible, publicly available substance information from existing data bases, scientific studies and new research."

"The first SIN List (version1.0) was released at the ChemSec Substitution Conference on 17 Sept 2008 in Brussels, Belgium. The SIN List version 1.0 contains 267 high concern substances, all fulfilling the criteria for SVHS in accordance with REACH."

"These substances can be broadly divided into three groups, according to their inherent properties: CMRs, PBTs (and vPvBs) and Equivalent Concern. This grouping is in accordance with the REACH Regulation of the European Union: Article 57 of REACH."

CMR - Carcinogenic, Mutagenic, and toxic to Reproduction.
PBT - Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic.
vPvB - very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative.

On the SIN List 1.0, there are 220 CMRs, 17 PBTs, and 30 Equivalent Concern substances.

For information on the SIN project and SIN chemicals, go to www.sinlist.org, or at www.chemsec.org/list/. For ChemSec, go to www.chemsec.org.

From:www.chemsec.org/documents/081021_what_is_the_sin_list.pdf
andfromwww.chemsec.org/documents/081021_what_is_on_the_sin_list.pdf

Discussion on how "How Europe's New Chemical Rules Affect U.S." can be found on the Environmental Defence Fund (an NGO) website: www.edf.org/article.cfm?contentID=8456.

Editor's Comment: This is an opportunity for industry to see what other chemicals industry uses fall into the ChemSec SVHC scope and which may eventually be listed on the EU REACH Candidate List of SVHCs.

- **OECD SIDS Initial Assessments of HV Chemicals**

The final Screening Information Dataset (SIDS) for high volume chemicals, initial assessments can be found for some substances currently being processed by UNEP chemicals for their official publication. Once they are published by UNEP Chemicals, they will be found on its internet site (see below). The reports will then be removed from the present site.

www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2649_34379_1897983_1_1_1_1,00.html

OECD SIDS documents published by UNEP Chemicals in response to its mandate to facilitate the access to information needed for health and environmental risk assessment of chemicals. The documents contain the information gathered and an Initial Assessment performed under the framework of the OECD HPV Chemicals Program.

From:www.chem.unep.ch/irptc/sids/OECDSIDS/sidspub.html

NICNAS attended the 27th OECD SIAM (in October 2008) and lead Australia's input. Fifty-five participants from member countries and industry representatives attended the meeting. The meeting discussed 35 chemicals, comprised of nine individual assessments and six category assessments. NICNAS reviewed and provided pre-meeting comments on nine chemicals. These are n-Propyl Acetate, Sodium *p*-Toluenesulfonate, Diantimony Trioxide, Resorcinol and the category assessment of Nickel focusing on the environmental effects. The Nickel Institute and Denmark jointly presented the environmental assessment of the relevant nickel compounds at SIAM 27.

The SIDS Initial Assessment Profiles (SIAPs) of all 35 chemicals were agreed at the meeting.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Matters/NICNAS_Matters_DEC08_PDF.pdf

Chemical Management

- **EU REACH: The ECHA Website**

The ECHA website is a single point of entry for all information on REACH. It provides access to technical guidance, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), software tools and helpdesks. You will also find the latest updates on guidance, tools, data on chemicals and the Regulation.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (currently 49 pages) can be downloaded as a regularly updated pdf at http://echa.europa.eu/doc/reach/reach_faq.pdf.

From: http://echa.europa.eu/reach_en.asp

- **EU REACH: Over 2 Million Pre-Registrations**

Companies submitted over 2 million pre-registrations by the deadline, 1 Dec 2008 at midnight. When the six-month REACH pre-registration period closed EU/EEA-based companies had submitted well over two million pre-registrations covering more than 100 000 substances.

ECHA is currently processing and verifying the validity of the remaining unprocessed files. The list of pre-registered substances will be published on the ECHA website by 1 January 2009.
Editor's Note: with manual entries delayed a little.

Companies that have failed to preregister cannot continue manufacturing or importing their substance until they have submitted a full registration dossier.

From: http://echa.europa.eu/home_en.asp News 2 Dec 2008

- **EU REACH: What Next – NICNAS Chem Gazette**

The period for pre-registering of chemical substances under the EU REACH ended on 1 December 2008.

Companies which have pre-registered substances with European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), and companies whose EU importers have pre-registered substances, should now consider which extended registration deadline may now apply to their substance(s). Companies which pre-registered their chemical substance(s) between **1 June to 1 December 2008** should now be able to take advantage of extended registration timeframes to complete the registration procedure.

Companies which have not pre-registered their chemical substance(s), and companies whose EU importers have not pre-registered, may now need to consider the full REACH registration process if they wish to continue the sale of their chemical substance(s) in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.

The immediate **registration** procedure involves submitting a technical dossier containing information on the substance and guidance on how to handle it safely. For quantities of ten tonnes and more, companies need also to submit a Chemical Safety report to document a safety assessment of the substance demonstrating safe handling for identified uses and manufacturing.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_December_2008.asp Page 6.

- **Qld Workplace Health and Safety Regul'n 2008**

On 1 September 2008, the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997* was repealed and replaced by the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008* (1.4 Mb, 433p).

e.g. Chemical issues covered by the regulation include: How to safely manage: hazardous substances; asbestos materials and asbestos removal; lead materials plus atmospheric contaminants.

From:www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/law/legislation/regulation/index.htm

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

- **Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals Reforms**

Amendments to the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment Regulations 1990* that give effect to the outstanding LRCC recommendations commenced 4 December 2008. Amendment of the regulations allows:

- Increase in volume for low hazardous chemicals introduced under the Low Volume Chemical (LVC) Permit system
- Introduction of highly controlled low risk chemicals under the Controlled Use Permit (CUP) system
- Extension of the Early Introduction Permit (EIP) system to low hazardous and controlled use chemicals
- Modular assessment of chemicals for which another assessment is available, e.g. assessed by another assessment authority or introduction of an analogue of a chemical previously assessed by NICNAS, and
- Free EIP for non-hazardous chemicals and polymers and polymers of low concern.

If you would like to utilise these changes to the permit categories prior to the publication of the relevant documents on the NICNAS website, please contact Louise Stedman (Notification & Assessment) ph: 02-8577-8830, email: Louise.Stedman@nicnas.gov.au.

Low Volume Chemical (LVC) permit notifications are for small volume chemicals introduced into Australia. A permit is issued for a maximum of three years, but may be renewed.

Previously the volume limit for LVC permits was 100 kg. However, changes to the LVC permit system will allow a chemical to be introduced at a maximum quantity of 1000 kg where the low-hazardous criteria (as in the December 2008 Chemical Gazette) are met (otherwise the limit is 100 kg).

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Matters/NICNAS_Matters_DEC08_PDF.pdf

Also:www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/New_Chemicals/Changes_To_Permit_Categories.asp

Editor's Comment: Not all substances in the current <100kg "No Unreasonable Risk" industrial chemicals category will qualify if you want to import more than 100kg per NICNAS year.

- **Notifications: Approved Foreign Scheme (Canada)**

The approved foreign scheme provisions (Canada) commenced in November 2007 for Standard (STD) and Limited (LTD) notifications, and these have now been extended to the Polymer of Low Concern (PLC) category, as of 2 December 2008.

A key requirement is that the notifier must be able to arrange for release of the Canadian assessment reports to NICNAS.

'Entry Fees' for 2008-2009:
Foreign scheme Standard notification $9332*.
Foreign scheme Limited notification $7816*.
Foreign scheme Polymer of Low Concern notification $2633*.
*Additional fees may be payable following screening.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_December_2008.asp

Also:www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/New_Chemicals/Foreign_Scheme_Notifications.asp

- **Hard Surface Disinfectants - Business Impact Data**

NICNAS and the TGA have prepared a survey to obtain data on the impact on business of proposed changes to the regulatory regime for hard surface disinfectants, which was circulated on 10 November 2008 to those industry stakeholders identified by NICNAS.

Completion of the survey is welcomed from any person who wishes to provide comments on possible impacts on business, not just those to whom the survey has been sent. ***Note:*** *Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary.*

Obtain the Survey & the Consultants Regulatory Options from: *www.nicnas.gov.au/Current_Issues/Disinfectants.asp*.

The four regulatory options identified by the consultant are:

1/ – Compliance with (revised) "hospital grade" definition is the point of demarcation.

2/ – presence of 'specific claims' on product is the point of demarcation irrespective of "hospital grade" status .

3/ - use situation, (i.e. clinical setting) is the point of demarcation.

4/ – compliance with "hospital grade" definition and/or presence of 'specific claims' on label provide point of demarcation.

There are 11 questions that NICNAS and the TGA would like feedback on, asking about the likely impacts of these 4 options. Please complete the survey as soon as possible.

For details contact: NICNAS: Mr Stephen Zaluzny ph: 02-8577-8883, e-mail: stephen.zaluzny@nicnas.gov.au, or the TGA: Ms Siepie Larkin ph: 02-6232-8721, email: siepie.larkin@health.gov.au.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_December_2008.asp

Also: www.nicnas.gov.au/Current_Issues/Disinfectants.asp.

- **Triclosan: Decisions on Requests to vary the Draft PEC**

This 19 page decisions report covers the 5 organisations who requested variations to the Triclosan draft PEC. The report covers 14 requests to alter the draft.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/Drafts/Triclosan/Triclosan_Final_Variations_Decisions_PDF.pdf

Editor's Comment: My Haztech Environmental requests for variation were treated as "Comments noted. No specific variation requested". As I did not have time nor capacity to provide specific details of the variations needed, my comments were intended to alert NICNAS, so they could act for all of us. Please look at all the issues raised, and consider how this Triclosan PEC report will affect industry and the community.

- **GTL Kerosine – NICNAS STD/1273**

In the NICNAS Dec 2008 Chemical Gazette, a Standard Notification for Gas to Liquid Kerosine is listed on page 28.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_December_2008.asp

Editor's Comment: Since we already have a Kerosine, Petroleum CAS No. 8008-20-6 on the NICNAS Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS), and the various hydrocarbon constituents in the GTL Kerosine hydrocarbon mixture are all highly likely to also be individually on the NICNAS AICS, I was wondering why a NICNAS Standard Notification was needed? Surely where we have a new hydrocarbon mixture where it is covered by an existing entry or where each ingredient in it is already on the AICS then a Standard Notification should not be needed, and the new chemical mixture and its CAS No. should be allowed to be added to the AICS.

My only explanation is that it is not a petroleum fraction created kerosene. Though it is sourced from petroleum gas, the gas is then synthesized into the GTL Kerosine, which makes it a synthesized Kerosine. However I would still expect all its ingredients to be on the NICNAS AICS.

I would appreciate understanding why this situation has occurred, as it seems this may mean other mixtures of existing substances with all their CAS No.s already on AICS, may also need to gain a permit or be notified.

- **NICNAS 2008-09 Auditing Program**

NICNAS uses 'compliance auditing' as a tool not only to identify specific instances of non-compliance but to monitor the overall levels of compliance by different industries. This year the NICNAS audit program will focus on NICNAS registration requirements and reporting requirements for new chemicals. Compliance Auditing is a process of engaging industry using a spectrum of activities that can include a request for records held by an introducer through to an unannounced visit to view the manufacturing process and check that permit condition are being adhered to.

The Compliance and Reporting Team leader, Mr Nick Walton advises companies to be proactive in their approach to compliance by undertaking regular internal audits and discussing any potential breaches before they are discovered by inspectors.

This year NICNAS Inspectors will be auditing companies that have not renewed their registration to ensure that they are not introducing any industrial chemicals, and will be looking at a broad range of certificate and permit holders to ensure that they are complying with the conditions of their certificates and permits.

NICNAS Inspectors generally only pre-arrange their visit to an introducer if they are confident that an announced visit will not jeopardise the intention of the visit.

From:www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Matters/NICNAS_Matters_DEC08_PDF.pdf

Also: www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/Compliance.asp

Scheduled Poisons

- **SUSDP Electronic Version via TGA NDPSC website**

The SUSDP is now available in electronic form on the ComLaw website at the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI). Please note that the naming conventions used on the FRLI are slightly different to common usage naming for the SUSDP. The TGA NDPSC SUSDP website now has direct links.

The SUSDP 23 and SUSDP 23 Amendment No. 1 are at:

SUSDP23at:www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/7805D97A4580CDAFCA2574A5001B7144?OpenDocument

SUSDP23AmendmentNo.1at:www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/FF17CE1998BCD1EECA2574B3001DDFA0?OpenDocument

From: *www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/susdp.htm*

- **New Entries for the SUSDP**

From 1 Jan 2009:

Schedule 7 CYANOGEN
(also known as Ethanedinitrile N≡C-C≡N CAS 460-19-5)

Schedule 6 † METHYLDIBROMO GLUTARONITRILE except in preparations intended to be in contact with the skin, including cosmetic use.

Appendix C (Prohibition on Sale, Supply and Use):

METHYL DIBROMO GLUTARONITRILE in preparations intended to be in contact with the skin, including cosmetic use.

1,4-BUTANEDIOL (excluding its derivatives) in non-polymerised form in preparations for domestic use.

DIETHYLENE GLYCOL for use in toothpastes or mouthwashes **except** in preparations containing 0.25 per cent or less of Diethylene Glycol.

From 1 May 2009:

Appendix C (Prohibition on Sale, Supply and Use):

LEAD COMPOUNDS – Amend entry to read:

LEAD COMPOUNDS in paints, tinters, inks or ink additives **except** preparations containing 0.1 per cent or less of lead calculated on the non-volatile content of the paint, tinter, ink or ink additive *(instead of just "inks or ink additives" from 1 Sept 08 Amendment).*

From: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/gazette/g0810pos.pdf and www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/gazette/g0806pos.pdf

- **Interpretation of Aerosol Concentration in the SUSDP**

The implementation date for part of the June 2007 Decision (to Part 2 Paragraph 8(2)), regarding a specific labelling requirement for aerosols to express concentration as mass of the poison per stated mass of the preparation, is 1 Jan 09.

From: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/record/rr200810.htm

- **Leaching of Poisons from Articles: Appendix A**

There is an interesting article on the October 2008 Record of Reasons (on pages 45-53), about leaching of poisons such as Lead and Cadmium from tableware type products that would come into contact with food – e.g. ceramics, glass (including crystal ware), glazed pottery, porcelain and vitreous enamels.

"The National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee decided that the current general exemptions in Appendix A for ceramics, glass (including crystal ware), glazed pottery, porcelain and vitreous enamels remained appropriate.

The Committee further agreed to refer the problem of Lead / Cadmium leaching (in products likely to come into contact with food) from ceramics, glass (including crystal ware), glazed pottery, porcelain and vitreous enamels to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission."

From: *www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/record/rr200810.htm*.

Editor's Comment: Considering the poor quality of some articles that have released hazardous substance which been supplied into Australia in recent years, consumers need to be assured by importers that the quality of their articles meets our non-hazardous expectations.

- **Retail Storage of Schedule 5 & 6 Products Update**
  Draft Code of Practice (Nov 2008)

Note: 26 Nov 2008: Changes from the Nov 2007 version of this document are marked with strikethrough for text that has been deleted and with a grey shaded background for text that has been added.

Chemicals are not just classified on the basis of a universal scale of toxicity or hazard. Scheduling decisions also take into account many other criteria such as the purpose of use, safety in use and labelling and packaging mechanisms to mitigate any safety concerns.

The objective of this document is to provide guidance to manufacturers and retailers on achieving a consistent safety standard for the storage of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 products in a retail setting (in packs of 5 litre and/or 5 kg or less), that is commensurate with the risk of accidental ingestion by a child.

This Code of Practice is to provide for an equivalent safety outcome as intended by State and Territory regulations whilst allowing for national consistency in retail storage that meets the expectations of consumers, regulators and other stakeholders, and is commercially feasible.

A retailer, when displaying Schedule 5 and/or Schedule 6 products for sale, ~~where the public has access~~, should ensure that:

- the area is directly supervised or within the direct line of sight of a manned service counter; or
- products are stored at least 1.2 metres above the floor; or
- the product is presented with a child resistant closure and/or packaging; or
- the product packaging/presentation limits or delays access.

Examples of presentation and/or barrier packaging features to achieve this are set out on the web page.

From:http://www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/drs5s6cop.htm

The issues around this Code are discussed in the October 2008 Record of Reasons on pages 42 to 45.

"At the June 2008 NDPSC Meeting, the Committee noted that large industry organisations had not responded to the public consultation process for the draft code, and hence there was a need to re-contact these key stakeholders."

"A Member noted that the issue of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 storage initially arose from industry concerns but, given the lack of engagement in the recent consultation on the draft Code, industry appeared to no longer be interested. In response, other Members noted that industry had been patient and cooperative and had played its part and that it was now up to the jurisdictions to progress this matter."

From: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/record/rr200810.htm

Editor's Comment: I think they would like some comment, as soon as possible, on their draft Code even though they haven't asked for comment. There is no closing date given.

Food Chemical Issues

- **Hydrocyanic Acid In Ready-To-Eat Cassava Chips**
  Proposal P1002 Approval Report

Decision: Approve the variations to Standard 1.4.1 – Contaminants and Natural Toxicants of the Code to include a maximum level of 10 mg/kg for 'Hydrocyanic Acid, Total' in 'ready-to-eat cassava chips' and to facilitate compliance monitoring, a definition of 'Hydrocyanic Acid, total' for 'ready-to-eat cassava chips'.

Some Background from the 141 page Approval Report:

Cassava naturally contains compounds called Cyanogenic Glycosides which release Hydrocyanic Acid (Hydrogen Cyanide) as a result of enzymatic hydrolysis during processing of the plant tissue. Safe traditional human consumption of cassava is dependent on adequate processing to minimise the Cyanogenic Glycoside content. If cassava is eaten either raw or after inadequate processing then toxicity in humans may be observed, sometimes resulting in death.

FSANZ has been notified of total Hydrocyanic Acid levels in ready-to-eat cassava chips manufactured in Australia. These results ranged from less than 10 mg/kg up to 145 mg/kg. The reported levels are much higher than would be expected in cassava based foods which have been adequately processed.

As tragic and irreversible results could potentially, and rapidly, arise from a single instance of a young child consuming a moderate quantity (50 - 100 g) of cassava chips containing a somewhat, but indeterminably, higher level of HCN in a short space of time (a few minutes) without intake-limiting warning symptoms, a degree of conservatism is warranted and has been built into the risk assessment underpinning the proposed maximum level for total HCN.

The primary toxicological endpoint of concern for Hydrocyanic Acid (HCN) is inhibition of mitochondrial oxidation, which if the level of exposure to HCN exceeds the capacity of normal physiological detoxification mechanisms, may rapidly lead to death. Clinical manifestations of acute cyanide poisoning, especially non-lethal doses, are often nonspecific and mainly reflect those of oxygen deprivation of the heart and brain. Typically these effects include headaches, dizziness, stomach pain, or mental confusion.

As these symptoms closely resemble that of over indulgence or mild gastro-intestinal tract disturbance, the dose response curve is steep, and symptoms would not occur until some hours after ingestion of cassava chips, individuals exposed to dangerous levels of HCN may not recognise warning symptoms before consuming a lethal dose.

From:www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/proposals/proposalp1002hydrocy3848.cfm

- **International Opinion on Aluminium in Food**

Direct human exposure to Aluminium primarily occurs through food, with contributions from water considered to be minor. Aluminium is readily present in a wide variety of staple foods such as breads, cereals and vegetables. Aluminium containing food additives such as Sodium Aluminium Phosphate, primarily used in baked products, are another potential source of dietary exposure to Aluminium. In addition, the migration of Aluminium from packaging materials such as Aluminium foil and cookware may also contribute to the Aluminium concentration in food and subsequently add to the dietary exposure.

In light of the revised Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake (PTWI) set by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) (based on its June 2006 meeting where the safety of aluminium was re-evaluated incorporating a number of new safety studies showing potential reproductive and nervous system effects in animals at lower doses than previously found), the European Commission called upon the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to provide their opinion on the safety of Aluminium in food. The EFSA's scientific panel of experts established a tolerable weekly intake (TWI) of 1 mg/kg bw, a similar conclusion to JECFA (EFSA, 2008). The previous PTWI of 7 mg/kg bw was set in 1988.

The EFSA noted that a significant proportion of the European population are likely to exceed the TWI based on current mean dietary exposure estimates, and therefore the need for more recent robust data on the sources of Aluminium in the food supply and manufacturer use was warranted (EFSA, 2008). Health Canada's Bureau of Chemical Safety has also commenced a review of exposure to aluminium in foods, with particular focus on Aluminium salts used as food additives (Health Canada, 2008).

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has continued to monitor international developments concerning Aluminium, in particular the outcomes of the JECFA and the EFSA evaluations. FSANZ supports the need to acquire robust data on the levels of Aluminium in the food supply and has included Aluminium in the assessment of metals in the 23rd Australian Total Diet Study (ATDS), which is currently underway.

From:www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/foodsurveillancenewsletter/spring2008/index.cfm

- **Steviol Glycosides as Intense Sweeteners: Final FSANZ Application, A540**

Decision 6 Aug 2008: Approve the draft variation. This means that FSANZ has decided to vary Standards 1.2.4 and 1.3.1 to permit the use of Steviol Glycosides in specified food at specified levels.

Some Background from the 100 page Assessment Report:

Steviol Glycosides are high intensity sweeteners, extracted from *S. rebaudiana*. They are 250-300 times sweeter than sucrose and have been approved for use for several years in a number of countries as sweeteners for a range of food products. In particular, Japan has used Stevia as its main non-sucrose sweetener source for more than 30 years. Other countries which allow the use of Steviol Glycosides include China, Russia, Korea, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Indonesia and Israel.

A dietary exposure assessment estimated that, for the majority of consumers, the ADI is not exceeded when steviol glycosides were added to the range of foods requested in the Application. Two scenarios were modelled: a full sugar replace scenario; and a 30% market share uptake scenario. Based on the full sugar replacement scenario, the estimated exposure for high consumers (children aged 2-6 years) at the 90th percentile was at the ADI. When a dietary exposure estimate was undertaken with concentrations of steviol glycosides that reflect a more realistic level of use (a 30% market share uptake scenario), it was estimated that dietary exposure for high consumers (children aged 2-6 years) at the 90th percentile was only 55% of the ADI.

From:www.foodstandards.gov.au/_srcfiles/FAR_A540_Steviol_glycosides.pdf

Editor's Comment: I have followed this Steviol Glycoside Application since 2005 as it interested me as it wasn't approved, but Stevia sweetener could be bought through health food shops in 2004. I have included Notes on Steviol Glycoside in my Nov 2005 and May 2007 newsletters.

- **Voluntary Addition of Fluoride to Packaged Water**
  - Draft Assessment Report Application A588

FSANZ Preferred Approach: The preferred regulatory option is to amend Standard 2.6.2 – Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Brewed Soft Drinks to permit the addition of fluoride to non-carbonated packaged water to between 0.6 and 1 mg/L (total of naturally occurring and added fluoride) and to require mandatory labelling to indicate that fluoride has been added. In addition, to make consequential amendments to Standard 1.3.3 and Standard 2.6.2 for clarification of permission for the addition of fluoride to packaged water.

Submissions to FSANZ by 6pm (Canberra time) 23 December 2008. Australia ph: 02-6271-2222, www.foodstandards.gov.au or New Zealand ph: 04-473-9942 www.foodstandards.govt.nz.

Some Background from the 115 page Draft Assessment:

Since Initial Assessment, the Applicant has amended their request to seek permission to voluntarily add fluoride to packaged water within a narrower range of 0.6-1 mg/L (total of naturally occurring and added fluoride). Additionally, for product identification purposes, the Applicant is seeking permission to label packaged water as containing added fluoride.

Currently, the Code does not permit the voluntary addition of fluoride to packaged water. The Applicant advises that permission to voluntarily add fluoride to packaged water would enable bottlers to offer fluoridated packaged water to consumers as an alternative to fluoridated reticulated water, or as a source of fluoride for those who do not have access to fluoridated reticulated water.

Nutritional Role of Fluoride: Fluoride is a natural constituent of the body involved in the mineralisation of teeth and bones. Approximately 99% of the Fluoride in the human body is bound to calcified tissues, especially in bone and teeth. Fluoride intake is a significant factor in the maintenance of dental health, as it not only maintains tooth integrity but prevents tooth deterioration. Because of its role in dental health, Fluoride is considered an essential nutrient by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the New Zealand Ministry of Health (NZMoH) (2006). In its review of chronic disease and diet, the World Health Organization states that there is convincing evidence that both locally applied (i.e. direct contact with teeth) and systemic fluoride (from Fluoride that has been ingested) are preventive for dental caries.

From the 115 page Draft Assessment Report 11 Nov 2008 at:
www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/applications/applicationa588volun3872.cfm

- **Melamine Contamination Highlights Food Risks**

Reuters: Melamine contamination highlights human food chain risks. 2nd Nov 2008.

"The discovery of melamine in eggs as well as in baby formula, milk products, biscuits, chocolates and other foodstuffs containing milk derivatives confirms what experts have long suspected; that the chemical is deeply embedded in the human food chain.

And it's not just melamine; heavy metals such as lead and mercury which can cause brain damage, as well as cadmium, a compound used in batteries, pesticides and antibiotics are all present in the human food chain.

China is a major transgressor as carcinogenic chemicals are regularly used as food colouring agents or as preservatives, experts say.

From:www.forbes.com/reuters/feeds/reuters/2008/11/02/2008-11-03T000438Z_01_T169720_RTRIDST_0_CHINA-MELAMINE-FOODCHAIN-FEATURE-PIX-GRAPHIC.html

Alerted to me by the PACIA Reg Affairs Nov 08 newsletter.

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

- **Nanotechnology: How is the APVMA responding?**

The novel properties of nanomaterials provide new opportunities for manufacturing in a wide range of industries. The APVMA expects that nanotechnology will increasingly become part of new product development in the pesticides and veterinary medicines sector.

The APVMA's activities in relation to nanotechnology focus on:

Whole of Government: The APVMA is participating in Whole of Government committees and working groups to help deliver a coordinated national approach to nanotechnology.

The regulatory environment: The APVMA is monitoring the development of nanotechnologies for pesticides and veterinary medicines and is examining the need for any changes to the legislation.

Product registration: The APVMA is assessing whether it needs to modify data requirements and the risk assessment framework for agvet chemicals and chemical products containing engineered nanomaterials.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/nanotech/nanotech.shtml

- **Apology & Retraction Published by Industry Magazine**

The APVMA regards the David Leyonhjelm Commentary article in the October 2008 edition of *Rural Business* magazine as inaccurate and irresponsibly misleading.

The APVMA sent a letter of response to Rural Business magazine. The magazine has now published a retraction of the comments and an apology to APVMA.

Read the APVMA's letter of response to *Rural Business* at www.apvma.gov.au/new/downloads/Ltr_RuralBusiness_271008.pdf.

An extract of the Rural Business retraction and apology is on the APVMA website.

From:www.apvma.gov.au/new/RuralBusiness_retraction.shtml

- **APVMA's Letter of Response to Rural Business**

Editor's Comment: I have extracted some the points in the letter that help clarify for me what is expected of industry and what has happened and is still happening in this case.

The letter was sent by Neville Matthew, APVMA Program Manager, Regulatory Strategy and Compliance on the 27th October 2008 to Mr Rex Holyoake, Rural Business Magazine.

Editor's Extracts follow:

"Providing false or misleading information to a Commonwealth agency is a very serious breach of criminal law, which should not be trivialised. The public has a right to expect chemical companies to be honest with all regulators. The APVMA regards dishonesty as undermining our efforts to protect people and the environment, and all such reports are investigated. It should be noted that the maximum penalty provisions include:

- Fines up to $33000 for a person (Agvet Code)
- Fines up to $165000 for a company (Agvet Code)
- 1 year imprisonment for each time false or misleading information is submitted to a Commonwealth entity (Commonwealth Criminal Code)
- 10 years imprisonment for possessing, or submitting, forged documents with intent to dishonesty induce a Commonwealth entity (Commonwealth Criminal Code)."

"The APVMA is a responsive and responsible regulator, and litigation is considered and managed on the merits of each case, the prospects for success and consideration of both community and industry interests – financial cost is not the primary consideration."

"Again it is important to be factual - as well as the rulings highlighted by Mr Leyonhjelm, the Federal Court was satisfied that 47 of Imtrade's 52 product variations were induced by fraud. They have been reinstated to the Register, but without the fictitious manufacturer. The Federal Court also agreed that the Administrative Appeals Tribunal did not have jurisdiction on the decision to remove the products from the Register.

There is still a current investigation underway and it is not appropriate to comment in further detail, other than to note that the APVMA manages the conduct of all investigations in accordance with the *Australian Government Investigation Standards."*

From the APVMA's letter of response to Rural Business *at www.apvma.gov.au/new/downloads/Ltr_RuralBusiness_271008.pdf.*

- **APVMA Pest Management in Schools – Aug 2008**

The APVMA has developed an advisory booklet **Pest Management in Schools** to provide guidance and information on the safe and effective use of pesticides in this environment. It is intended for managerial and teaching staff, students, parents, school councils, pest control operators, local government officers and the general public.

These guidelines provide information on integrated pest management (including non-chemical approaches), pests and their behaviour, chemicals used in pest management, and discussion on minimising the risks that chemicals present to the school community and environment.

The APVMA does not intend this publication to be used for promotion of any specific pesticide product, or to be used as a detailed pest management manual or regulatory standard. The publication is also not intended to provide detailed commentary about pesticide regulation and related legislation.

Download the booklet Pest Management in Schools - August 2008 (34 page 584kB pdf)

From: www.apvma.gov.au/users/downloads/schools.pdf

- **New Agricultural Active Constituents (4)**

Dr Paul Sethi, Chemistry Manager, Chemistry and Residues Program, APVMA, ph: 02-6210-4821, fax: 02-6210-4840, email: paul.sethi@apvma.gov.au. From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0811.shtml

***1/* Eucalyptol**

Eucalyptol is also known by a variety of synonyms: 1,8-cineole, cajeputol, 1,8-epoxy-p-menthane, 1,8-oxido-p-menthane, 1,3,3-trimethyl-2-oxabicyclo[2,2,2]octane. Eucalyptol is the dominant component of Eucalyptus oil.

Chemical Name: 1,3,3-Trimethyl-2-Oxabicyclo[2,2,2]Octane; CAS Number: 470-82-6; Minimum Purity: 980 g/kg; Formula: $C_{10}H_{18}O$; MW: 154.25

Cineole (Eucalyptol) has already been included in Schedule 6 of the SUSDP.

The following 3 active constituents are not scheduled in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP) and OCS stated that these active constituents were not referred to the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee on the basis of their low toxicity and their approved use as food additives.

2/ Alpha-Pinene

Alpha-Pinene is a Bicyclic Monoterpene. It is found in the oils of many species of many coniferous trees.

Chemical Name: 2,6,6-Trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1]Hept-2-ene; CAS Number: 80-56-8; Minimum Purity: 970 g/kg; Formula: $C_{10}H_{16}$; MW: 136.2.

3/ Anisyl Alcohol

Chemical Name: 4-Methoxybenzyl Alcohol; CAS Number: 105-13-5; Minimum Purity: 980 g/kg; Formula: $C_8H_{10}O_2$; MW: 138.17.

4/ Butyl Salicylate

Butyl salicylate is used as a flavouring agent. Chemical Name: Butyl 2-Hydroxybenzoate; CAS Number: 2052-14-4; Synonym(s): n-Butyl o-hydroxybenzoate; Minimum Purity: 980 g/kg; Formula: $C_{11}H_{14}O_3$; MW: 194.23.

The above new active constituents Cineole (Eucalyptol), d-Limonene, alpha-Pinene, Anisyl Alcohol, Butyl Salicylate, together with Phenylacetaldehyde are proposed to be used in the integrated pest management of *Helicoverpa* spp. in cotton, green beans and sweet corn. The role of the new product "Magnet Insect Attractant Technology" that has these active constituents, is that of an insect attractant mixture and feeding stimulant. An insecticide, purchased separately, is added to the spray tank to kill moths attracted to the Magnet Insect Attractant Technology mixture.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0811.shtml

Dangerous Goods

- **IMDG Code 2008 – What's New in Amdt 34-08**

Some of the changes that caught my attention are:

Some of the new UN numbers added: UN 0508 1-HYDROXYBENZOTRIAZOLE, ANHYDROUS; UN 3474 1-HYDROXYBENZOTRIAZOLE, ANHYDROUS, WETTED with not less than 20% water, by mass; UN 3475 ETHANOL AND GASOLINE MIXTURE or ETHANOL AND MOTOR SPIRIT MIXTURE or ETHANOL AND PETROL MIXTURE, with more than 10% ethanol.

UN Numbers not previously listed in IMDG but have been included in Amendment 34-08 but are not regulated under it, but are now shown with the observation "Not subject to the provisions of this Code but may be subject to provisions governing the transport of dangerous goods by other modes."

1910 CALCIUM OXIDE; 2807 MAGNETIZED MATERIAL; 2812 SODIUM ALUMINATE, SOLID; 3166 ENGINE, INTERNAL COMBUSTION or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE GAS POWERED or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE LIQUID POWERED; 3171 BATTERY-POWERED VEHICLE or BATTERY-POWERED EQUIPMENT

IMDG Code E-learning is a new training tool for shore-side staff involved in Dangerous Goods handling and transport. It is designed to support cost-effective compliance for all shore-side sectors. Go to www.imdge-learning.com/index.asp

Marine Pollutant: The concept of a severe Marine Pollutant PP is deleted; they are just designated as P. The Marine Pollutant 'bullet' symbol is also deleted, but a shipper will still need to declare any consignment as being a Marine Pollutant if it meets the criteria. There is a new section 2.9.3 describing these, and chapter 2.10 is rewritten. The new Marine Pollutant label is a dead tree and dead fish.

Excepted Quantities: There is a new column 7b in the Dangerous Goods List for excepted quantities. These are small amounts, up to 30g or 30ml per inner package, 1kg per outer package.

Radioactive materials of class 7: Chapter 2.7 is completely rewritten, and there is a new chapter 1.5, 'general provisions concerning class 7'.

From: www.imdgsupport.com/whatsnew.asp?ver=imdg34

- **IATA Dangerous Goods Regs 2009 - Changes**

The 50th edition incorporates all changes to the ICAO Technical Instructions including:

- Revisions to the list of dangerous goods based on the new numbers assigned by the UN
- Subcommittee of Experts -- included are new metrics for fuel cell cartridges and lithium ion batteries

- Significant amendments & additions to the special provisions
- New and revised packing instructions
- New specifications for DG in excepted quantities based on the UN adoption of these provisions
- eDGR available on CD-ROM and USB stick, with advanced searching, sorting and reporting functions

From: www.iata.org/ps/publications/dgr.htm

- **IATA Regulation 2009 Significant Changes**

Some of the changes that caught my attention are:

Training: There is now provision for a 3-month "window" that allows for recurrent training conducted within the final 3 months of the 24-month period to be considered to have been completed on the expiry date of the 24-month period.

Dangerous Goods in Excepted Quantities: The requirements for excepted quantities have been revised to align with the provisions in the UN Model Regulations. The current IATA Dangerous Goods in Excepted Quantities label has been replaced by a new excepted quantity marking.

Classification: The criteria for classification of environmentally hazardous substances has been aligned with the provisions of 2.9.3 of UN Model Regulations.

List of Dangerous Goods: The format of Table 4.2 has been revised to accommodate a new column for the "EQ" codes to identify maximum quantity per inner and outer packaging for dangerous goods in excepted quantities in accordance with Subsection 2.7.

Addition of new entries: 1/ for E85 and other Ethanol and Gasoline fuel mixtures, assigned to UN 3475;

2/ for Fuel cell cartridges containing water-reactive substances, UN 3476; Fuel cell cartridges containing corrosive substances, UN 3477; Fuel cell cartridges containing liquefied flammable gas, UN 3478 and Fuel cell cartridges containing hydrogen in metal hydride, UN 3479;

3/ Lithium metal batteries have revised entries for UN 3090 & UN 3091 and new entries for Lithium Ion Batteries UN 3480 and UN 3481;

4/ UN 1250, Methyltrichlorosilane and UN 1305, Vinyltrichlorosilane have been revised from Packing Group I to Packing Group II;

5/ The entries for UN 2031, Nitric Acid have been revised and now becomes "**Nitric Acid**, other than red fuming with ≥ 65%, but ≤ 70% Nitric Acid" with a Division 5.1 subsidiary risk, still in Packing Group II. Then a new entry "**Nitric Acid**, other than red fuming with > 20%, but < 65% Nitric Acid" has been added. Note: All are still UN 2031.

Special Provisions: A112 – the substances that may be assigned to ID 8000 and shipped as consumer commodities has been expanded to include UN 3077 and UN 3082, environmentally hazardous substances.

A163 – is a new special provision against UN 3269 – **Polyester resin kit** and, UN 3316 – **Chemical kit**, or **First aid kit** to identify that these UN numbers may be shipped under the provisions of dangerous goods in excepted quantities provided that the substances contained in the kits are permitted in excepted quantities.

Marking & Labelling: 7.1.6.3 – Has been added to identify the marking requirements for packages containing environmentally hazardous substances, liquid or solid (UN 3077 or UN 3082). Included with this is a new Environmentally hazardous substances mark, Figure 7.1.B.

Appendix C – The list of currently assigned Organic Peroxides shown in Table C.2 has been revised to include new Organic Peroxides.

From:www.iata.org/NR/rdonlyres/C3AF9BB6-A4F0-4114-BB4B-5544EA30838/0/DGR50thEdSignificantChanges.pdf

- **Purchasing the IMDG Code and the IATA Regs**

1/ The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code 2008 becomes available to use on the 1st of Jan 2009 and the 2006 Code can be used until the end of 2009.

The IMDG Code 2008 (Aust$325 *) and Supplement 2008 (which includes Packing Procedures, etc) (Aust$165 *) can be ordered in Australia from: Boat Books Australia Pty Ltd, www.boatbooks-aust.com.au, Sydney ph: 02- 9439-1133, Melbourne ph: 03-9525-3444, Brisbane ph: 07- 3229-6427, e: boatbooks@boatbooks-aust.com.au. * Prices are subject to change.

You can find out whether you need the Supplement or order the IMDG Code 2008 direct from the IMO at: www.imo.org/Publications/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1740

2/ The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations 2008 (Aust$330 including delivery), which takes over on the 1st of Jan 2009, are 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 2009 can also be ordered direct from: www.iata.org/ps/publications/dgr.htm.

- **Course including Emergency Planning & Response**

The **Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group** (CROIERG) Training Package "Course in Fuel Transportation, Emergency Planning and Response" has been listed on the NTIS (National Transport Information Service) Web Site as a nationally accredited course.

From: www.croierg.com.au/

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

- **Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme: Australia**

Australia's Low Pollution Future White Paper 15 Dec 08

'The paper outlines the final design of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and the medium-term, target range for reducing carbon pollution."

"Eleven of the past 12 years rank among the 12 warmest years since records began and Australia has experienced warmer–than–average mean annual temperatures for 16 of the past 18 years."

"In these uncertain times, there is a strong imperative to provide certainty to industries on future climate change policy so that investment and other business decisions can be made in the full knowledge of future policy settings."

"There will be a modest increase in the overall cost of living when the Scheme is introduced, with an increase in household electricity bills of around $4 per week if the carbon price is $25" and "the cost of living is estimated to increase by 1.1 per cent in 2010–11"

"Even if global mitigation efforts are successful, the science shows that some climate change impacts are unavoidable. Those impacts create considerable risks to assets, investments, environments, communities and regional economies. Wise action now to adapt to those unfolding challenges can reduce costs in the future."

"The Scheme will put a price on carbon in a systematic way throughout the economy. It employs a 'cap & trade' emissions trading mechanism to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Setting a limit means that the right to emit greenhouse gases becomes scarce - & scarcity entails a price."

The Full Report is available as a 435 page Vol 1 and 385 page Vol 2 from:
www.climatechange.gov.au/whitepaper/report/index.html

Targets for Reducing Australia's Carbon Pollution

"The Australian Government has a substantial commitment to reduce our carbon pollution by 60 per cent of 2000 levels by 2050.

By 2020, we have committed to reduce Australia's carbon pollution by up to 15 per cent below 2000 levels in the context of a global agreement where major economies agree to substantially restrain carbon pollution and advanced economies take on reductions comparable to Australia.

We have also committed to an unconditional 5 per cent reduction in carbon pollution below 2000 levels by 2020, which represents a significant cut of around 27 per cent on a per capita basis."

From: www.climatechange.gov.au/whitepaper/index.html

- **NChEM First Progress Report – November 2008**

The National Framework for Chemicals Environmental Management (NChEM) Working Group Progress Report to 30 June 2008 since endorsement of the NChEM Ministerial Agreement and Action Plan in June 2007.

NChEM "has delivered discrete projects such as the release of draft Environmental Risk Assessment Manuals for public comment. In addition, the groundwork has been laid for NChEM's longer term actions" including developing a process for setting priorities for environmental chemicals that will be piloted and developing specifications for a Manual of Environmental Controls.

"Engagement with the Productivity Commission on chemical environmental management matters as input to the Commission's August 2008 report on chemicals and plastics regulation.

"Improvements in communication and consultation processes and cooperation, most notably between state, territory and Commonwealth environmental agencies and the national industrial chemicals regulator. "

Under Prioritising Action: "The Group has also started drafting a position paper on the environmental component of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling* (GHS), to which environment agencies have contributed jurisdictional views."

From:www.ephc.gov.au/pdf/EPHC/NChEM_First_Progress_Report_Nov08.pdf and www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/chemicals_mgt.html

Standards & Codes

- **Standards –** www.saiglobal.com/shop

Or for committee work go to: www.standards.org.au

ISO 16111:2008: Transportable Gas Storage Devices - Hydrogen Absorbed in Reversible Metal Hydride. This defines the requirements applicable to the material, design, construction, & testing of transportable hydrogen gas storage systems, referred to as "Metal Hydride assemblies" (MH assemblies) which utilize shells not exceeding 150L int. volume.

It only applies to refillable storage MH assemblies where hydrogen is the only transferred media. Storage MH assemblies intended to be used as fixed fuel-storage onboard hydrogen fuelled vehicles are excluded. ISO 16111:2008 is intended to be used for certification purposes. **Published:** 14 Nov 2008 **Price:** $186.68 pdf.

ISO/DIS 14005: Environmental Management Systems - Guidelines for the phased implementation of an environmental management system, including the use of environmental performance evaluation. **Pages:** 64 pages **Published:** 27 Nov 08 **Price:** $88.29 pdf, $98.10 hardcopy.

AS 2809 Set—2008: Road Tank Vehicles for Dangerous Goods Set. This set of 6 standards outlines specifications for design, construction, testing, maintenance and inspection of road tank vehicles. If you only want the 2008 documents it is cheaper to buy the 3 individually.

AS 2809.1—2008 Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods—General requirements for all road tank vehicles

AS 2809.2—2008 Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods—Road tank vehicles for flammable liquids

AS 2809.3—2008 Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods—Road tank vehicles for compressed liquefied gases

AS 2809.4—2001 Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods—Tankers for toxic and corrosive cargoes

AS 2809.5—2001 Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods—Tankers for bitumen-based products

AS 2809.6—2001 Road tank vehicles for dangerous goods—Tankers for cryogenic liquids

Total pages: 166, **Price:** $311.52 pdf ,$346.13 Hardcopy.

AS 2746-2008: Working Areas for Gas-Fuelled Vehicles.
Sets out workshop safety requirements for dealing with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) fuelled engines and LNG fuel unloading methods, and requirements for CNG and LP Gas fuelled vehicles. **Published:** 21 Oct 2008, **ISBN:** 0-7337-8932-3, **Pages:** 36, **Price:** $84.15 pdf $93.50 Hardcopy

- **Drafts –** www.saiglobal.com/shop

DR 08199: Personal Eye Protection - Eye and Face Protectors for Occupational Applications. Revision Of: AS/NZS 1337:1992. **Draft Published**: 23 Sept 08, **Pages:** 99, **Price:** $35.55 pdf, $39.50 hardcopy.

ISO/DIS 17491-1: Protective Clothing - Test Methods For Clothing Providing Protection Against Chemicals - Part 1: Determination of resistance to outward leakage of gases (internal pressure test). **Published:** 3 Nov 2008 – comment open for 5 months, **Price:** $90.51 pdf. Users wishing to comment should contact Standards Australia.

ISO/DIS 17491-2: Protective Clothing - Test Methods For Clothing Providing Protection Against Chemicals - Part 2: Determination of resistance to inward leakage of aerosols and gases (inward leakage test) **Published:** 3 Nov 2008 – comment open for 5 months, **Price:** $90.51 pdf. Users wishing to comment should contact Standards Australia,

Seminars, Conferences

- **ChemCon 2009 Kuala Lumpur: 2-6 March 2009**

35 speakers from governments and industry will focus in the field of international chemical legislation all over the world, e.g. REACH, GHS and country specific information on inventories, labelling requirements, etc. Cost: Euro2050.

From: www.chemcon.net/asia_pac/chemcon2009my.html

- **Safety In Action 2009, 29 Mar – 2 Apr 2009, Melb**

Relevant streams will cover: Emergency Management; Environmental Management; Lessons from Major Accidents; Risk Management; and Transport Safety. *Contact: sia09@siaconference.com.au.*

From: http://www.siaconference.com.au/

- **Current Topics In Understanding Pesticide Risks**

30th March 2008, CSIRO Discovery Centre, Black Mountain, Canberra. The Science Fellows Symposium will be of interest to those involved in the pesticide industry, community groups, farmer group representatives and government departments. Registrations will open in mid January 2009. Proposed speakers follow:

Dr Andrew Hewitt - "The Science of Spray Drift Management".

Dr Rai Kookana - "Minimising Offsite Migration of Pesticides and Ecological Risk Reduction".

Professor Stephen Powles - "Herbicide Resistance and Its Management in Australia".

Professor Brian Priestly - "Toxicology of chemical mixtures – are we any closer to a rational risk assessment methodology?".

Professor Bernard Stewart - "Environmental Carcinogenic Risk Appraisal and Its Impact on the Community".

From: www.apvma.gov.au/new/science_news.shtml

- **Greenhouse 2009, 23 - 26 March 2009, Perth**

Climate Change and Resources will draw together national and international climate experts to discuss climate impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies for industry, government and households. Organised by the CSIRO.

From: www.greenhouse2009.com

- **Hazmat 2009, Sydney, 29-30th April 2009**

Hazmat 2009 will be held in Sydney, on 29&30th April 2009. A Hazmat 2009 Conference exhibitor's/sponsor brochure is availableatwww.fpaa.com.au/events/index.php?events=index#HMat. The program is nearly finalised and will be available electronically in late January, the hardcopy in early Feb.

Contact Chris Dayson, Events Manager, FPAA, ph: 03-9890-1544 Email: ChrisDayson@fpaa.com.au.

- **Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition, 28-30 Apr 08**

Australian Technology Park, Sydney NSW. *www.ecoforum.net.au/2009/*

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 17+ 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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Please debit my (circle one) VISA / MASTERCARD Account for: $ .....

Card Number:
..... Expiry Date: ...../.....

Cardholder's Name:
.....
(as on card)

Signed: Date: .....

Electronic Funds Transfer is also available, please email me for my bank account details at: Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au.