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• The Office of Chemical Safety (OCS)

The OCS is part of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Group of Regulators, within the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

The OCS undertakes risk assessment and provides advice on potential public health risks posed by chemicals used in the community. The Office comprises: 1/ NICNAS; 2/ Chemicals assessment for public health risk assessment for veterinary chemicals, pesticides and other environmental chemicals; 3/ Public health controls/standards setting (secretariat for poisons scheduling); 4/ Compliance and monitoring responsibilities to effect Australia's obligations under UN Treaties and the Customs Act and supports the National Drug Strategy for the legitimate end use of controlled substances.

The OCS also provides technical policy advice on national and international chemicals negotiations and treaty matters.

The OCS is based in both Canberra and Sydney. Canberra Office ph:1800-020-653 or ph:02-6289-3200 (TGA); Sydney Office ph:1800-638-528 or ph: 02 8577 8800 (NICNAS); email: info@nicnas.gov.au For further details to the OCSwebsite.

From: www.tga.gov.au/chemicals/ocs/index.htm

Hazmat & Environment Notes

are prepared by:

Jeff Simpson

Hazardous Materials Consultant
Editor & Publisher

I have edited and published this newsletter since 1985, initially within the Aerospace Industry, and then to all industry using chemicals since 1991.

I work as a Regulatory Affairs and Hazardous Materials Consultant and try to put my concern about chemicals into practice, and influence everyone to make better choices of, and better use of chemicals.

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

• GHS 1st Revised Edition 2005: Free to Download

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS): First Revised Edition, August 2005, is available to download as 15 pdfs, 5.8Mb.

From: www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev01/01files_e.html

• Classification & Labelling of Petroleum Substances

CONCAWE Report 6/05 (July 2005) offers advice on the classification and labelling of the petroleum substances according to the EU Dangerous Substances Directive (which Australia also follows). 184 page pdf file (1.16 Mb).

CONCAWE stands for *CON*serva*tion* of Clean Air and *Water* in Europe and is the Oil Companies' European Association for Environment, Health & Safety in Refining and Distribution.

Downloadable from <http://www.concawe.be/> and select Petroleum Products on the left side (as Publications does not work properly), then select Reports, then Report 6/05

Editor's Comment: This is said to have a more comprehensive classification of petroleum products, including advice on all endpoints compared to Annexe I on the EU ECB website at <http://ecb.jrc.it/classification-labelling/>

There are also a range of other useful Reports and Dossiers for Petroleum products on the CONCAWE website.

From the CONCAWE website www.concawe.be

• Adopted National Exposure Standards Amdmts

The following chemicals have had their exposure standards declared as amended on the 6th Sept 2005:

Ammonium Persulfate; 2-Butoxyethanol; 2-Butoxyethyl Acetate; n-Butyl Acrylate; e-Caprolactam (dust and vapour); Chloroform; Cumene; o-Dichlorobenzene; 1,1-Dichloroethane; N,N-Dimethylethylamine; 1,4-Dioxane; Ethylene Glycol (particulate); Ethylene Glycol (vapour); Lindane; (2-Methoxymethylethoxy) Propanol; 1-Methoxy-2-Propanol Acetate; 5-Methylheptan-3-one; 1-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone; Mercury, Aryl Compounds (as Hg); Mercury, Inorganic Divalent Compounds (as Hg); Mercury, Inorganic Monovalent Compounds (as Hg); Monochloroacetic Acid; 2,2'-Oxybis[ethanol]; Piperidine; Potassium Persulfate; Sodium Persulfate; Sulfotep; Toluene; 1,1,1-Trichloroethane; Trichloroethylene; Triethylamine.

These can be accessed in the Sept 2005 Chemical Gazette at www.nicnas.gov.au or from the Haz. Substances Info System website at www.nohsc.gov.au/applications/hsis/

From NICNAS Chemical Gazette, 6th Sept 2005

• Inquiry into Workplace Exposure to Toxic Dust

The Terms of Reference cover: 1/ health effects of exposure; 2/ adequacy of regulations to control dusts; 3/ the extent to which employers and employees are informed of the risks; 4/ availability of accurate diagnoses and medical services for those affected and the burden of such conditions; 5/ availability of accurate records on the nature and extent of illness, disability and death, diagnosis, morbidity and treatment; 6/ access to compensation, limitations in seeking legal redress and alternative models of financial support; and 7/ the potential of emerging technologies, including nanoparticles, to result in workplace related harm.

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is due to report by the 1st Dec 2005.

For details contact: Committee Secretary ph: 02-6277-3515; email: Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au

From: www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_cte/toxic_dust/index.htm

• Danish Advisory List for Self Classification

Lack of data represents a major problem in the assessment of chemicals dangerous properties. Therefore, the Danish EPA has compiled this Advisory List for Self-Classification of Dangerous Substances (called Hazardous Substances in Australia) which was created in 2001.

With the aid of QSAR (Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship) models, the Danish EPA has evaluated around 47,000 organic substances on EINECS with unambiguous structures for selected dangerous properties and the list identifies 20,624 chemicals for classification for one or more of the following properties: Acute Oral Toxicity; Sensitisation by Skin Contact; Mutagenicity; Carcinogenicity; and Danger to the Aquatic Environment.

The Advisory List is not binding but intended as a help to producers /importers for their **Self-Classification when no other reliable data are available**.

The accuracy of the predictions from the models used in making the list are approximately 70-85 per cent. This means, that for approximately 20% of the chemical substances evaluated, the model predictions will overestimate or underestimate the danger of the chemical substances (false positives/ false negatives).

Where existing reliable documentation exists the substances should be classified according to this documentation in preference to the list recommendations.

From: www.mst.dk/homepage/ & select "Other Chemicals" then select "Advisory List for Self-Classification".

• Danish List of Undesirable Substance (LOUS)

Compared to the previous lists, the criteria for the selection of substances for the 2004 list have been changed.

1/ Based on the EU List of Dangerous Substances, the Danish EPA has chosen to concentrate on the substances that could cause very serious and long-term damage, i.e. substances which may cause chronic damage to human health or which may impact future generations.

Substances classified as having one or more of the following properties are candidates for the LOUS:

R33 Danger of cumulative effects / R39 Danger of very serious irreversible effects / R40 Limited evidence of carcinogenic effects / R42 May cause sensitization by inhalation / R45 May cause cancer / R46 May cause heritable genetic damage / R48 Serious damage to health by prolonged exposure / R49 May cause cancer by inhalation / R50/53 Very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment / R58 May cause long-term adverse effects in the environment / R59 Dangerous for the ozone layer / R60 May impair fertility / R61 May cause harm to the unborn child / R62 Possible risk of impaired fertility / R63 Possible risk of harm to the unborn child / R64 May cause harm to breastfed babies / R68 Possible risks of irreversible effects

2/ Substances on the Danish Advisory List for Self-classification of Dangerous Substances with one or more of the problematic classifications indicated above have also been selected as possible candidates for the LOUS.

3/ The Danish EPA has decided that all substances listed on the EU candidate list as PBT substances/vPvB substances (persistent & very persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances) are to be included on the LOUS when they are used in volumes of more than one tonne per year in Denmark.

4/ The Danish Parliament's Environment and Regional Planning Committee has, however, decided that all substances on the EU list of substances with documented endocrine-disrupting effects which are not already prohibited in Denmark should be included on the LOUS.

5/ Priority substances in relation to the Danish Water Framework Directive are included in LOUS when applied above designated limits in Denmark.

This leads to 68 Chemicals or Chemical Groups in Appendix A (the LOUS) which can then be searched on.

From: www.mst.dk/homepage/ & select "Other Chemicals" then select "List of Undesirable Substances 2004"

Chemical Management

• US REACH-Style Legislation Proposal

The US may soon be undergoing radical reform to their chemicals legislation, as is expected to happen under REACH in Europe.

United States Senator Frank R. Lautenberg has introduced a new draft legislation to "amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the exposure of children, workers, and consumers to toxic chemical substances."

The proposed Act is known as the "Child, Worker, and Consumer-Safe Chemicals Act of 2005" or as the "Kid Safe Chemicals Act". This would force manufacturers of chemicals to provide health and safety data on chemicals used in consumer products.

The draft requires a priority list of at least 300 chemical substances, that is updated at least annually and requires that the manufacturer has met the safety standard of "no harm" by no later than 3 years from being placed on the priority list.

See the Bill at: www.theorator.com/bills109/s1391.html

From RSC Green Chemistry Network Newsletter Sept 05, www.chemsoc.org/networks/gcn/current.htm and the Bill. It is free to become a registered member of the RSC GCN.

• EU REACH Chemicals Directive Progress

REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals)

The European Environment Committee agreed on the 4th Oct 2005 to adopt as a general principle the duty of care of businesses - i.e. the duty to avoid placing on the market products which endanger health or the environment. Producers will be required to prevent, limit and even remedy any adverse effects. They will also be required to inform downstream users of risks automatically and free of charge, a detailed procedure being laid down for this purpose, so that those users can choose less harmful substances.

One of the main aims of REACH is to encourage the replacement of the most hazardous substances (those which are carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction or bioaccumulative). On the basis of the precautionary principle and the substitution principle, the Environment Committee wishes to make the provisions in the package more stringent. In its opinion, authorisations should be granted only for a

maximum of 5 years in order to encourage the development of alternative methods and substances.

From: http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/064-976-276-10-40-911-20050929IPR00907-03-10-2005-2005-false/default_en.htm

This has raised significant concerns by CEFIC.

See: www.cefic.org/Files/NewsReleases/1840_Parl_Env_Ctee_REACH.pdf. For other comment go to: European Media Monitor:

<http://press.jrc.it/NewsBrief/alertedition/en/REACH.html>

All of the ten European Parliament committees have issued their positions on the draft REACH chemicals regulation. There will be a EU Parliament plenary vote in mid-November on the REACH regulation.

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

• Consultation on Certain Lead Salts

NICNAS intends to declare as Priority Existing Chemicals (PECs) certain Lead Salts in Surface Coatings & Inks

These include: Lead Monoxide (1317-36-8); Lead Chromate (7758-97-6); Lead Sulfate (7446-14-2); Lead Molybdate (10190-55-3); Lead Sulfo-Chromate (1344-37-2); Lead Chromate Molybdate Sulfate Red (12656-85-8); Lead Chromate Oxide (18454-12-1); Lead Octanoate (7319-86-0); Lead 2-Ethylhexanoate (301-08-6); Lead Oxide (1314-41-6); Lead Nitrate (10099-74-8); Lead Naphthenate (61790-14-5); Lead Peroxide (1309-60-0); Lead Carbonate [White Lead] (1319-46-6); Lead Chrome 1244 (No CAS known).

The Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation Inc (APMF) along with its industry members has embarked on a program to eliminate lead from those surface coatings and inks where Lead continues to be used. NICNAS supports this initiative and will conduct the risk assessment.

All persons who import and/or manufacture Lead Compounds and/or products containing Lead Compounds that are used in surface coatings and inks are encouraged to provide the information as requested in the October 2005 Gazette www.nicnas.gov.au. **Note:** If you have already responded to the joint APMF/NICNAS survey you do not need to do anything further at this time.

For details contact: Stephen Zaluzny, ph 02-8577-8883; or email: stephen.zaluzny@nicnas.gov.au

From NICNAS Chemical Gazette, 4th Oct 2005

• Draft PEC Formaldehyde Report: MSDS & Label

The public comment period for *Draft PEC Formaldehyde Report*, Sept 2005 closed on the 4th Oct 2005.

Editor's Comment: The MSDS (and Label) are the key documents that industry will access and use from this PEC report, so it is important these MSDSs and Labels be accurate, appropriately comprehensive and a very high standard.

A high quality sample MSDS (and Label) is needed for both Formaldehyde 37% with 7% Methanol, and Paraformaldehyde, the standard industrial raw materials for Formaldehyde based products.

This PEC is very interesting as Formaldehyde is in, or generated at levels >0.1% by many, many products. The implications for using R49 - May cause cancer by

inhalation, will have to be carefully considered, especially for those products that do not readily release a Formaldehyde atmosphere of concern.

NICNAS is now reviewing the large amount of comment received, which may be a problem to adequately complete with the allowed 28 days.

The *Draft PEC Formaldehyde Report, Sept 2005* is still available to download on the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) website www.nicnas.gov.au.

• Tetra Ethyl Lead & Tetra Methyl Lead

These two industrial chemicals, Tetra Ethyl Lead CAS No. 78-00-2 & Tetra Methyl Lead CAS No. 75-74-1, have been added to the Rotterdam Convention Annex III effective 1 Feb 2005.

The Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, known as the Rotterdam Convention, entered into force for Australia on 18 August 2004. Australia must ensure that the chemicals listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention are not exported to countries that do not wish to receive them.

A summary of the information collected was published in the *Chemical Gazette* of 2 August and can be accessed at http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/PDF/2005aug_whole.pdf#page=6.

From *NICNAS Chemical Gazette*, 6th Sept 2005

• PEC Candidate List of Chemicals

The Table 1 Candidate List will be used by NICNAS as a basis for selecting chemicals from time to time for declaration and assessment as Priority Existing Chemicals.

From *NICNAS Chemical Gazette*, 2nd Aug 2005

http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_August_2005.asp and select Item 6.

Editor's Comment: It is worth looking at this list of 56 chemicals in the products that you trading / handling.

TGA Chemicals

• Nominations for Membership on the Advisory Group on Chemical Safety

The Advisory Group on Chemical Safety (AGCS) will provide expert advice to the Director of the Office of Chemical Safety (see the scope of the OCS below) on human health (occupational & public) matters relating to the safety assessment and use of agricultural, veterinary, industrial and domestic chemicals, as well as cosmetics in the following areas:

Toxicology/Clinical Toxicology; Occupational Health and Safety; Public Health Risk Assessment; Chemical Monitoring; Exposure Assessment; Best Practice Methodology in hazard and Risk Assessment; Health Standards; Chemical Use Practices (agricultural, clinical veterinary, industrial and/or domestic/consumer); PLUS provide advice on technical and scientific developments in the fields of regulatory science as they relate to human health and safety.

Nominations close 24th Oct 2005. Obtain information from: www.nicnas.gov.au/Media/Latest_News/AGCS_Nomi

[nations.asp](#). Contact AGCS Secretary ph: 02-6289-3278, email: AGCS@health.gov.au

From www.nicnas.gov.au

• Regulating Products at the Cosmetics Therapeutic Interface

Australian Draft Review of the Policy Framework - Summary of 85 responses to the recommendations, July 05.

[Summary of responses to the recommendations](#). Also see: [Review of the regulation of products at the interface between cosmetics and therapeutic goods](#)

Editor's Comment: There was significant agreement from the respondents in how each situation should be handled. It will interesting to see the TGA / NICNAS final responses.

From: www.tga.gov.au/npmeds/cosresp.htm

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

• New Zealand: Agcarm's Draft Labelling Guide

Agcarm is a New Zealand based non-profit trade association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell animal health and crop protection products.

Agcarm is developing a Guide for Preparing Labels, for animal health and crop protection products, that meet the requirements of the NZ Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 and the NZ Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997.

This Guide is intended for use by the wider animal health and crop protection industry – comments on how it may be improved are welcome.

Please forward your comments to jack@agcarm.co.nz. Download a copy of the guide: [Agcarm Labelling Guide](#) (182 page pdf file 3.5Mb)

From the www.agcarm.co.nz website

Editor's Note: This Guide is still very much in draft form but makes interesting reading of how agricultural chemicals labelling could appear once the GHS of Classification & Labelling is in place in Australia.

• APVMA CCC E-Bulletin Issue 30 Sept 2005

Two items that caught my attention are:

1/ **Copper Chrome Arsenate Review:** the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has decided not to amend the Building Codes of Australia to prohibit the use of CCA treated timber in situations according with APVMA findings.

The Community Consultative Committee has agreed to prepare material for interested community organisations that may wish to lobby the ABCB.

2/ **Spray Drift Guidelines:** The latest [spray drift operating principles and proposed registration requirements](#), (5 Aug 05, 24 pages), are out for public consultation. (www.apvma.gov.au/users/spray_drift_risk.pdf)

From: www.apvma.gov.au/community/ccc_ebulletin7.shtml

• Manual of Requirements and Guidelines 2nd Ed.

MORAG replaces the Ag and Vet Requirements Series and sets out the Australian Government's requirements for:

- approval of an active constituent

- registration of a product
- approval of a label
- variation to an active constituent, product or label.

The CD is setup for you to choose either the Ag MORAG or the Vet MORAG. MORAG lays out the decision process and requirements covering: Background Information; Determination of Application Category; Data Requirements; and Supporting Documents (**including Guidelines and Labelling Code**).

The most significant change in the 2nd edition is the introduction of revised application forms. It is published on CD which can be requested from the APVMA. Or is also downloadable from the APVMA website at www.apvma.gov.au and select "MORAG". The third edition of MORAG will be published in April 2006.

From www.apvma.gov.au

• Final Endosulfan Report, June 2005

Endosulfan is a broad-spectrum insecticide / acaricide used widely for the control of a large variety of insects and mites in horticultural and agricultural crops for over 35 years. Endosulfan products are not registered for home garden use. There are five product registrations (suspended since 2002) for Endosulfan emulsifiable concentrates.

Since the 1998 interim report the endocrine disruption potential for Endosulfan has also been reassessed and considered in this 2005 Final Report and has been found to be not a significant risk to public health under the existing management controls and health standards.

The recommendations of the Final Review are that:

- the suspension of registration and label approvals for endosulfan can be revoked;
- product labels will be varied by deleting certain uses, adding new label instructions, amending withholding periods, safety directions and re-entry statements for retained product uses;
- all product registrations for endosulfan can be affirmed;
- label approvals considered not to contain adequate instructions will be cancelled.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/endosulfan.shtml

• APVMA Ag Actives & Ag Products QA Scheme

APVMA's Quality Assurance Scheme for Agricultural Active Constituents and Agricultural Chemical Products ('Ag QA Scheme') has an updated set of Questions and Answers as at September 2005.

APVMA visits have identified a number of areas where current records kept by registrants may be deficient when monitored against the Ag QA conditions. The Questions and Answers are to assist industry to comply with the conditions of registration.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/actives/actives_sep_2005_FAQ.shtml

• New Agricultural Active Constituents (2)

Dr Paul Sethi, Chemistry Manager, Chemistry and Residues Program, APVMA, ph: 02-6272-3987, fax: 02-6272-3551, email: paul.sethi@apvma.gov.au

1/ Pyraflufen-Ethyl

A Phenyl Pyrazole compound, CAS No: 129630-19-9, Formula: C₁₅H₁₃Cl₂F₃N₂O₄ and is a post-emergent

contact herbicide whose main use is for control of broadleaf weeds in cereals. Mode of Action: Inhibition of the enzyme protoporphyrinogen IX oxidase. SUSDP S5.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0508p14.pdf

2/ Quinclorac

Quinclorac is a quinoline carboxylic acid, CAS Number: 84087-01-4, Formula: C₁₀H₅Cl₂N₂O₂, that has weak auxin activity, with uptake via the foliage and root system, has been developed as a post emergence herbicide. SUSDP S5.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0509p17.pdf

Dangerous Goods

• UN DG Model Regs 14th Ed: Free to Download

The 14th Edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations Vols. I & II is now available as a free download as 13 pdf files (total 10.0Mb).

From: www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/rev14/14files_e.html

• New NSW Laws: Dangerous Goods & Explosives

From 1st September 2005, new laws in NSW are in place to ensure the safe handling and storage of dangerous goods and to strengthen security controls for explosives and concentrated ammonium nitrate.

The NSW *Dangerous Goods Act 1975* is repealed and the following legislation has commenced:

NSW Explosives Act 2003 and the supporting Explosives Regulation 2005; the NSW OHS Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Act 2003 and the supporting NSW OHS Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Regulation 2005

Changes to the NSW dangerous goods legislation require anyone using and keeping dangerous goods to adopt a risk management approach based on a nationally uniform approach.

Note: There are series of free public seminars across NSW until the end of November 2005. For more information go to the website below or ph: 02-4321-5000 at Gosford.

From: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/NewLegislation/DangerousGoods/default.htm

• Self Assessment Tool for Chemical Safety

This Workcover Victoria **Chemical Safety Self Assessment Tool for Chemical Notifiers** is now almost finalised.

It is expected that the Employer or Occupier will use the Self Assessment Tool to periodically check that chemical safety on their site is in compliance with the Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances legislation. *Note:* The Self Assessment Tool does not cover Incident Notification.

By November the Self Assessment Tool document (about 20 pages) will be available to download from:

www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/so_chemicals. To obtain a draft copy in the meantime, contact Ross Bootes at Workcover Victoria ph: 03-9641-1582, email: Ross.Bootes@workcover.vic.gov.au

By December 2005 Workcover Victoria will be sending out letters to about 6000 companies handling chemicals in Victoria that they are aware of.

In February 2006 Workcover Victoria will start their chemical safety visits to the 200-300 companies they want to focus on, with follow up visits 3 and 6 months later.

From Chemical Notifiers Project presentation by Ross Bootes at the Oct 2005 DGAG network meeting.

Editor's Comment: The Dangerous Goods specialists at the meeting were very supportive that Workcover Victoria was putting this Tool in place and then visiting companies, as this would help highlight the need by all companies to meet their performance based obligations on chemical safety. The Self assessment Tool is also expected to be very useful for other State Authorities to implement their own D.Goods & Haz.Subs Regulations.

• **AIDGC Dangerous Goods (S&H) Video on DVD**
Dangerous Goods – The Facts: Understand the Risks. Meet your Responsibilities.

The Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants (AIDGC) has produced an informational / promotional video to encourage potential clients of AIDGC members to undertake risk assessments and safety audits of their Dangerous Goods storage and handling facilities.

Editor's Comment: Worth seeing and using.

The DVD is currently available for free (although a small charge may be needed in the future). To order a free copy online go to www.aidgc.com.au.

• **NZ Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005**

The **Land Transport Rule Dangerous Goods 2005, Rule 45001/1** sets out the requirements for the safe transport of dangerous goods on land in New Zealand and is viewable on website: www.ltsa.govt.nz/rules/dangerous-goods-2005.html#4

The website below contains all significant changes to the Dangerous Goods Rule 1999 that have been included in the revised Dangerous Goods Rule 2005: www.ltsa.govt.nz/rules/about/dangerous-goods-2005.html

From the www.ltsa.govt.nz websites listed above.

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

• **Contaminated Sites Work: OS&H Management**

This WA Commission for Occupational Safety & Health document (45 page pdf 232Kb file) provides general guidance for employers, employees, site owners, consultants, self-employed people and contractors on the occupational safety and health issues to be addressed as part of the Preliminary Site Investigation, Detailed Site Investigation, Remediation, Waste Management and Waste Disposal stages of work on a contaminated or potentially contaminated site.

Contaminated sites may present occupational safety and health risks for workers during investigations and remediation, as known and unknown substance hazards can be encountered at any stage of site works.

From: www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/pagebin/guidwswa0086.htm

• **Contaminated Construction Sites Standard - Victorian Industry Standard, June 2005**

Construction work can involve development of sites that have been contaminated by various substances as a result

of previous land use. Contamination can be a health risk to both site workers and others living, working or passing nearby, if the risks are not controlled.

This Industry Standard explains what contamination is, and outlines how to: 1/ identify contamination, determine the level of contamination and any risk to health; and 2/ provide and maintain an acceptable level of protection for workers and sub-contractors.

Downloadable 39 page 239Kb pdf file. This Industry Standard was jointly developed for Foundations for Safety Victoria by WorkSafe Victoria and EPA Victoria.

From: www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/contaminated

• **Victorian Proposed LTWC Facility**

Proposed Long Term Waste Containment Facility, at Nowingi (just south of Mildura on the Calder Highway). A Summary Brochure (1.5Mb pdf 16 pages), provides an overview of: What is Proposed; the Assessment and Approval Process; the Environment Effects Statement (EES) Findings and Conclusions; the EPA Works Approval Application; and the Planning Scheme Amendment.

The EES final conclusion is: "However, the EES demonstrates that overall, the proposed LTCF can be developed and operated in an environmentally, socially and economically acceptable manner and without any significant impacts."

There is a July 2005 [Containment Facility Fact Sheet 8](#) able to be downloaded that provides a summary of the [Technical Information Report](#).

There will be two Information Sessions in Mildura on 26 Oct 05 to present the EES and specialist studies. Book with Major Projects, 1800-440-902.

From: www.majorprojects.vic.gov.au/industrialwaste

Editor's Comment: For Melbourne to continue as a manufacturing centre, with companies being prepared to stay here or setup here, such a facility is needed for the inevitable non-reuseable hazardous materials being generated (although now in significantly reducing amounts).

• **Proposed Immobilised Waste Classification Scheme**

In December 2003 EPA Victoria commissioned Entech Industries Pty Ltd to prepare a report that provides an assessment of current treatment technologies used in Victoria, describes possible future approaches, and proposes a possible framework for the proposed Immobilised Waste Classification Scheme. This report was to include an evaluation of the following key areas.

- 1 Identification & Assessment of Immobilisation Approaches;
- 2 Immobilised Waste Classification Assessment Process; and
- 3 Immobilised Waste Evaluation Process.

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/Waste/prescribed_industrial.asp

Editor's Comment: This appears to start addressing my concerns that wastes going into the LTWC Facility must be reasonably immobilised in order to not create a future problem.

It is crucial that the solidified waste placed in the LTWC Facility is highly immobilized in its own right so that in thousands of years any hazardous chemical leaving the facility in leachate or dust, is at a concentration easily able to be handled by the local environment and people at the time.

We would not be impressed today if there was a hazardous plume coming out of the Egyptian pyramids and causing problems every time it rained on them or the wind blew across them.

- **Sustainable Production and Use of Chemicals**
"A Vision".

This is a very interesting report which contains the aims of Sustainable Use plus a number of Case Studies.

The sixteen members of the *Chemistry Leadership Council (CLC)* – half from the chemicals industry itself, half representing various stakeholders focused their activities on: 1/ sustainable development and the future; 2/ research and innovation; 3/ skills

It includes a Sustainability Matrix for the Use of Chemicals in Society which is expressed in terms of Natural Capital; Human Capital; Social Capital; Manufactured Capital; & Financial Capital. This is followed by Interim Measures and Directional Priorities.

From: <http://www.chemistry.org.uk> select "News/Events" then "6 July 2005". Downloadable 2.28 Mb, 38 page pdf.

- **Report on Workshop on Sustainable Chemistry - Integrated Management of Chemicals, Products and Processes**

This workshop was held in Germany 27-29 Jan 2004. The 15 page Report covers a very comprehensive range of sustainability issues related to chemicals and how we might address them.

387 Kb pdf report from www.sustainable-chemistry.com

Standards

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

AS 1678.2.1.010-2004: Emergency Procedure Guide - Transport - Butadienes, Inhibited, 2 pages, pdf \$7.13, Hardcopy \$7.92.

AS 4484-2004: Gas Cylinders for Industrial, Scientific, Medical and Refrigerant Use - Labelling and Colour Coding, 19 page, pdf file \$58.61

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

DR 05389: Road Tank Vehicles For Dangerous Goods - Part 1: General Req'ts For All Road Tank Vehicles, 18 p.

DR 05388: Road Tank Vehicles For Dangerous Goods - Part 2: Road Tank Vehicles For Flammable Liquids, 32 p.

DR 05387: Road Tank Vehicles For Dangerous Goods - Part 3: Road Tank Vehicles For Compressed Liquefied Gases, 20 p.

DR 05420: Safety in Laboratories - Part 2: Chemical Aspects. 47 p.

DR 05422: Laboratory Design and Construction, 47 p.'

- **Standards Undergoing Review**

AS1216: 1995 – Class Labels for Dangerous Goods. Project No. 6998. The objective is to revise the illustrations of Class Labels that will be required by the Aust. Dangerous Goods Code 7th Edition.

If you have the specialist background and time to participate on this committee as an industry representative, contact your Industry / Professional Association and the Project Manager, Dawn Lindsay, Standards Australia, ph: 02-8206-6000, email: mail@standards.com.au

Seminars, Conferences, Courses

- **Safe Work Australia Week, 23-29 Oct 2005**

Across Australia next week the various State and Territory Authorities are running seminars and workshops. Contact your local Workcover / Worksafe Authority for details.

- **PACIA Haz. Subs. & D. Goods Training 2005**

The remaining sessions for 2005 are:

25 Oct	Tues	Warehousing of Chemicals and the Transport Interface, 2.1	Sydney
26 Oct	Wed	Dangerous Goods Risk Assessment, 2.4	Sydney
9 Nov	Wed	Understanding the New MSDS Code of Practice, 2.5	Melbourne
23 Nov	Wed	Road & Rail Transport of Dangerous Goods, 1.1	Sydney
24 Nov	Thurs	Understanding the New MSDS Code of Practice, 2.5	Sydney

For information contact PACIA, Jenny McLean, ph: 03-9426-3827, email: jmclean@pacia.org.au

- **Dust Explosions 2005, NSW, 29-30 Nov 2005**

Focussing on how to reduce your dust explosion risks. It will look at the new Code of Practice for the handling of flammable dust & how this impacts operations at your plant.

Cost \$2304.50. Obtain a brochure from: www.informa.com.au and do a Quick Search on "Dust Explosions". You need to register before you download it.

- **AIOH Conference: 25 Years On, 3-7 Dec 2005**

23rd Annual Conference of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists. Date: 3rd to 7th December 2005. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Terrigal, NSW. Cost \$1150

Explore how the profession has evolved in this period and its future direction(s).

Details at: www.aioh.org.au/conference/2005/default.htm.

To obtain a Brochure with the Program and Registration, select "Registration" then select "Download the [Registration Brochure](#) now" at the right side.

- **AIOH Continuing Educ'n Sessions, 3-4 Dec 2005**

These are all half day sessions costing \$230 each.

"The Basics of Respiratory Protection"; "The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals"; "Dangerous Goods – Classification and Storage"; "Permeation of Chemical Protective Clothing"; "Total Integrated Respiratory & Skin Protection : A Practical Demonstration"; "Health Effects of Diesel Emission: Morbidity vs Mortality"; "Confined Space Entry Under Difficult Conditions"; "Engineered Nanomaterials and Occupational Health"; "Biosafety, Biocontainment and Biosecurity"

From: www.aioh.org.au/conference/2005/session1_ces.htm and: www.aioh.org.au/conference/2005/session2_ces.htm

• **AIOH Prof. Development Course, 3-4 Dec 2005**

"Introduction to the Principles of Occupational Hygiene"
 From: www.aioh.org.au/conference/2005/session1_pdc.htm

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

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

• **Hazmat 2006 Conference, 11-12 May 2006, Melb**

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

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

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