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• **Proposed GHS based Australian Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Framework**

Go to: [www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm](http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm). Details under **Chemical Mgmt p3**.

**Editor's Comment:** Two key areas of concern are:

1/ The change to the GHS Criteria will mean the scope of what is classified as a hazardous substance is significantly extended so that 20-40% more non-haz products (my estimate) will become hazardous. *Note:* many products currently prepared just below the lowest cut-offs concentrations.

2/ The Standard Sections 27-30, 53-70, & 73-74, significantly extends what is currently regulated to be done for hazardous substances. I want “Serious Health Effects” Hazardous Substances to be covered in this way, but for simple harmful, simple irritant, and other lowest hazard categories the benefits vs the cost to regulate this, needs careful discussion.

**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

### • ASCC Research on OH&S & Nanotechnology

“A Review of the Potential Occupational Health and Safety Implications of Nanotechnology - July 2006”. (80 page 2.2Mb pdf)

The Office of the Australian Safety & Compensation Council (ASCC) commissioned a review of the potential OHS implications of nanotechnology. The review report, which includes a detailed examination of the potential toxicology of nanoparticles, is derived from a detailed review and analysis of worldwide literature and consultation with nanotechnology stakeholders.

Exposure to free nanoparticles, such as when workers are performing equipment maintenance, when performing cleanup of spilled nanoparticles or when materials are transferred in open systems, may pose greater risks in the workplace.

From: [www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/HealthSafety/EmergingIssues/Nanotechnology/Nanotechnology.htm](http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/HealthSafety/EmergingIssues/Nanotechnology/Nanotechnology.htm) and *Advancing National Safety Newsletter Vol 3 2006*.

### • NICNAS Nanomaterials Information Sheet

This 8 page 133 Kb pdf covers:

- What is Nanotechnology?
- What are Nanomaterials?
- NICNAS and Nanomaterials
- What industrial Nanomaterials are in use in Australia?
- Do Nanomaterials pose health and/or environmental risks
- Priority needs for Nanomaterials
- What is being done internationally and in Australia
- Abbreviations / Glossary / Information sources

Under *Priority needs for Nanomaterials* NICNAS informs: There is insufficient knowledge concerning the characterisation, use and exposure, fate and persistence, toxicology and ecotoxicology of nanomaterials, to allow for adequate assessment of the risks of nanomaterials.

Under *What is being done in Australia* NICNAS informs: The challenge for NICNAS is to ensure the regulatory framework can adequately identify and assess any risks of nanomaterials, and that there are appropriate mechanisms for the management of the risks.

Seven activities NICNAS is undertaking are identified and it is noted that any changes to the current regulatory framework to address nanomaterials need to be based on scientific evidence.

Nine key websites are listed plus 11 other useful websites.

From: [www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Information\\_Sheets/General\\_Information\\_Sheets/NIS\\_Nanomaterials\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Information_Sheets/General_Information_Sheets/NIS_Nanomaterials_PDF.pdf)

### • A Community Website on Nanomaterials

It is important for us to all understand the concern that Nanomaterials raise in the community. To help you understand the different view held currently by concerned members of our community about the introduction of nanomaterials, I suggest you look over the Australian Friends of the Earth website.

“Nanotechnology is being heralded as the basis of the next industrial revolution, yet, amidst the hype there are serious

questions about the health, environmental and social impacts of this powerful new technology. The FoE nano project aims to catalyse debate on what is set to be one of the defining issues of our time.”

The Friends of the Earth regards that the “government's proposed nanotechnology strategy fails to manage nanotechnology's impacts and ethical challenges” and their website “documents the many public interest issues ignored by the government to date.”

Go to: <http://nano.foe.org.au>

### • Design a Nano-Hazard Symbol Competition

You are invited to submit you designs for a universal Nanotechnology Hazard Symbol. The closing date for entries is 8th January 2007.

From: <http://www.etcgroup.org/nanohazard>

### • Third Explosion With Flammable Products Leads to a Safety Call by Victorian Workcover.

On the 17th Oct 2006 a dentist suffered third degree burns to the face and hands after an explosion at a surgery in Reservoir this morning. WorkSafe inspectors went to the surgery where it is believed gas from a disposable bottle escaped and was ignited by a nearby Bunsen burner in a workshop attached to the practice.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2006 a man using a steel drum containing a flammable construction industry product suffered burns at Niddrie.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 a man who was brazing a steel drum also suffered severe injuries when flammable residue inside exploded at Moolap on the Bellarine Peninsula.

From: [www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/media.nsf/docsbyUNID/F98C6ABBEA7B1889CA25720A002ADA3D?Open](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/media.nsf/docsbyUNID/F98C6ABBEA7B1889CA25720A002ADA3D?Open)

### • Alert: Safe Handling of Contaminated Groundwater at the Workplace

This two page Safety Alert from Workcover NSW (No.4954) is based on the Botany Industrial Park area which has a long history of chemical-based industries and as a result the groundwater has been contaminated with chemicals and their by-products (e.g. various chlorinated hydrocarbons). Bore water used for industrial purposes in the area may therefore be contaminated with chemicals, some of which are hazardous to health.

WorkCover NSW does not recommend the use of water from the Botany aquifer for washing, cleaning, watering of lawns and gardens. However contaminated groundwater can be used safely for a limited number of work activities, such as in enclosed process cooling systems, if adequate precautions are taken in the workplace. Workcover NSW gives practical advice on safety precautions to be followed.

From: [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/OHS/SafetyAlerts/safe\\_handling\\_contaminated\\_groundwater\\_workplace\\_fact\\_sheet.htm](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/OHS/SafetyAlerts/safe_handling_contaminated_groundwater_workplace_fact_sheet.htm) and

For the newly declared Botany Sands Aquifer restriction zone the NSW Government now requires all licensed industrial bore water users in zones identified as zones 1-4 (red and yellow) to test their bore water at least annually and provide the results to the NSW Departments of Natural Resources and Environment and Conservation.

From: [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/MediaResources/MediaReleases/2006/safety\\_alert\\_to\\_businesses\\_affected\\_botany\\_sands\\_aquifer.htm](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/MediaResources/MediaReleases/2006/safety_alert_to_businesses_affected_botany_sands_aquifer.htm) 29th August 2006 Media Release.

## • Safe Manual Handling of Chemicals Guide

This guide has come out of the program "Safe Handling of Chemicals in the Automotive Industry (SHCOAI)". It will become available to download on Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006.

Go to: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/so\\_c\\_hemicals](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/so_c_hemicals)

## • UK HSE Project on Rosin-Cored Solder Fume

This project only covers hand soldering. 19 page 87Kb pdf.

The various solder wire products can be divided into a relatively small number of groups based on their metal (lead-based or lead-free) and flux (rosin-based, modified rosin, water soluble or rosin-free) composition. There is currently a move to rosin-free and lead-free products, which is subject to concerns of quality and durability. Scrutiny of most of the MSDS obtained for rosin-free solders has shown that they contain little or no information on either the compounds present in the flux or those likely to be generated on heating.

From: [http://hse.gov.uk/research/hsl\\_pdf/2006/hsl0658.pdf](http://hse.gov.uk/research/hsl_pdf/2006/hsl0658.pdf)

## • Control of Isocyanate Exposure in Motor Vehicle Repair (MVR) Bodyshops

Version 6, July 2006 (36 pages, 380 Kb pdf).

The UK HSE has established a Disease Reduction Programme (DRP) as part of the FIT3 Strategic Programme. The DRP aims to achieve a reduction in the incidence of work-related ill-health caused by exposure to hazardous agents, this includes the common causes of occupational asthma.

From: [www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/fod/inspect/mvrtopicp\\_ack.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/fod/inspect/mvrtopicp_ack.pdf)

## • Stone Dust and You – UK HSE INDG315

This 3 page leaflet explains what you should do to protect yourself and your employees from health problems caused by stone dust. Crystalline Silica is in most rocks, sands, clays and also products such as bricks, tiles and concrete. When cut, sanded, carved, ground etc, dust is created. This dust may be fine enough to be breathed deep into the lungs. The fine dust is called Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS).

From: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg315.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg315.pdf)

## • UK COSHH Guidance on Silica

COSHH Essential publications series on Silica are:

- [Brick and tile making: Silica - BK series](#)
- [Construction: Silica - CN series](#)
- [Ceramics: Silica - CR series](#)
- [Foundries: Silica - FD series](#)
- [Manufacturing: Silica - MN series](#)
- [Quarries: Silica - QY series](#)
- [Slate works: Silica - SL series](#)
- [Stonemasons: Silica - ST series](#)

From: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/index.htm)

## Chemical Management

### • Proposed Australian Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Framework

The Office of the Australian Safety & Compensation Council proposes to bring the current requirements for Dangerous Goods Storage & Handling and Workplace Hazardous Substances under one standard and code. They will classify to criteria in the UN Globally Harmonised System for Classifying and Labelling of Chemical (GHS).

[Draft National Standard for the Control of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals](#)

[Draft National Code of Practice for the Control of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals](#)

[Draft Regulation Impact Statement - Proposed revisions to the national OHS framework for the control of workplace hazardous substances and dangerous goods](#)

[Public Discussion Paper for the Draft National Standard and Code for the Control of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals](#)

The GHS Criteria can be found in the GHS document at [http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_rev01/01files\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev01/01files_e.html)

For details email: [chemicals@dewr.gov.au](mailto:chemicals@dewr.gov.au) or ph: 1800-552-488. Public comment closes on 1 February 2007.

From: [www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm](http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm)

*Jeff Simpson's comment:* Compare the Australian proposal to the proposed EU GHS implementation, as the EU is not planning on including the lowest GHS hazard categories that don't fit reasonably with their current system, however the Australian proposal includes all the lowest health hazard categories except for acute toxicity category 5. Australian manufacturers and suppliers will not be able to rely on EU generated data for these lowest categories and may need to generate this data at their own cost!

Also, the GHS criteria classifies more mixtures as hazardous as the GHS criteria has lower cut-off concentrations for most hazard categories compared to the current Australian system.

There are no reduced provisions for minor quantities of Hazardous Substances as is possible for Dangerous Goods in Minor Quantities.

**Further comments are on page 1 of this newsletter.**

For information on the proposed EU GHS implementation: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs\\_consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs_consultation_en.htm) and see the EU GHS Proposal in these Notes.

**Urgent Action is Needed:** As a minimum read the Draft National Standard for the Control of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals.

**Note:** I have prepared an article for CCH Australia Ltd about the scope of the GHS Criteria in the ASCC proposal compared to the current Australian Criteria and the proposed EU GHS criteria. This article "Getting Ready for the GHS in Australia" first appeared in the CCH publication Hazard Alert – Managing Workplace Hazardous Substances, which has an annual subscription for a Loose-leaf copy of \$719.50 or an Online copy of \$670.00. ph: 1300-300-224 or 61-2-9857-1300, email: [support@cch.com.au](mailto:support@cch.com.au), website: [www.cch.com.au](http://www.cch.com.au) select "OHS" in the green bar, then "Hazardous Materials" on the left. Then find Hazard Alert under "Loose-leaf" or "Online".

You may also purchase a hardcopy copy of this Report for your own use, with no further distribution allowed, from myself for \$110 including GST. Email me for a Tax Invoice to complete for this at [Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au](mailto:Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au).

## • Draft Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Label Code

The Draft National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals is likely to go out for public comment in December.

As the required GHS label information and statements is already defined under the GHS (and by the Australian proposed framework) this document is actually a compilation of GHS information into one document with clarification about what is required under various scenarios.

e.g. It will be much clearer that consumer products labelled to the SUSD and used in an incidental, similar way as for normal households, use will not need to be labelled to the GHS for a workplace. How we will label consumer products that are not covered by the SUSD, but are hazardous to GHS and are used in normal households, is still being discussed.

Compared to minimum labelling requirements in our current Hazardous Substance regulations the GHS labelling Code will require a lot more Precautionary Statements which cover Prevention, Response, Storage and Disposal. This will require significantly more space than most current workplace labels but a similar amount of space as is required for a Schedule Poison label.

There will be various preferred label layouts shown to help us prepare labels in a common way, to aid users to find information quickly.

To check when it becomes available go to the ASCC website at [www.ascc.gov.au](http://www.ascc.gov.au) and select Documents for Public Comment in the "Spotlight On box".

## • Draft Workplace Hazardous Chemicals SDS Code

The main changes are needed to the current Australian MSDS to become a GHS Safety Data Sheet (SDS) are:

- Other Hazards which Do Not Result in Classification [GHS A4.3.2.3] – These hazards may contribute to the overall hazards of the material, such as: formation of air contaminants during hardening or processing, dust explosion hazards, suffocation, freezing or environmental effects such as hazards to soil dwelling organisms.
- Thickness and Breakthrough Time of the Glove Material [GHS A4.3.8.3.3] is now mentioned as a "special" requirement in our current Code but will normally be required by the GHS for handling many materials.
- Odour Threshold [GHS A4.9.2.3.c] - This is quite a rare piece of data for most substances and usually has a wide range. By placing it in the physical and chemical properties this has raised the profile for this data.
- Evaporation Rate [GHS A4.9.2.3h]
- Decomposition Temperature [GHS A4.9.2.3q]
- Viscosity [GHS A4.9.2.3r]
- Transport Information – Environmental Hazards [GHS A4.3.14.6] – This will require you to indicate whether the material is a known marine pollutant according to the IMDG Code (*Editor's Comment:* for the current 2004 IMDG Code this is only those materials on the IMDG Code list classified explicitly with a "p" or "pp").

Even though the GHS SDS guidance evolved from our current Australian MSDS Code there are a lot of subtle changes we need to have a close look at in the draft.

From CCH Hazard-Alert article (copyright) prepared by Jeff Simpson. The full article can be obtained as part of the CCH Publication Hazard Alert or by purchasing a copy of the article from me as above.

*The Draft National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Safety Data Sheets is likely go out for comment in December. Check when it is available by going to the ASCC website at [www.ascc.gov.au](http://www.ascc.gov.au) and select Documents for Public Comment in the "Spotlight On box".*

## • EU GHS Proposal

The EU Website on Stakeholder Consultation on the Implementation of the GHS in the EU Community Legislation is at: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs\\_consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs_consultation_en.htm) where the EU GHS Draft Regulation Volumes 1, 2 and 3, the four Impact Assessment documents, and the two Background documents can be downloaded. The proposed EU GHS regulation was out for comment until the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006.

The EU GHS Proposal does not fully incorporate all the GHS criteria as the European Commission and are not needed for consistency with transport legislation and include: "Flammable Gases Category 2", "Flammable Liquids Category 4", "Skin Corrosion/Irritation Category 3", "Aspiration Hazard Category 2", "Acute Aquatic Toxicity Category 2 and 3", and the hazard class "Acute Toxicity Category 5".

For consistency with the transport legislation some hazard classes or categories have been incorporated which are part of the existing EU transport system or will be implemented by transport. These are: "Gases Under Pressure", "Self-Reactive Substances and Mixtures, Type C to G", "Self-Heating Substances and Mixtures"; "Oxidising Liquids Category 3"; "Oxidising Solids Category 3"; and "Corrosive to Metals".

The EU draft proposal is to create a publicly accessible GHS Classification and Labelling Inventory similar the current European Substances Information System (ESIS). With an emphasis on suppliers to notify and agree on classifications (Vol 1-1.6 & Article 25)

There is a Conversion Table for Current Classifications to GHS Classifications (Vol 1-Annex VII) where a simple equivalence is possible, with the proviso that if they are not used for any reason, then the supplier must re-evaluate the substance or mixture using the GHS criteria from the beginning.

*From the EU website and my article "Getting Ready for the GHS in Australia" which first appeared in the CCH publication Hazard Alert – Managing Workplace Hazardous Substances.*

*Editor's Comment:* From the Stakeholders Replies there is a request to implement GHS for single substances over 5 years followed by a further 5 years for mixtures. The key documents to look at here are the pdf and doc files.

## • USA OSHA GHS Guideline & Preparation

The USA OSHA Website on the GHS is at: [www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardcommunications/global.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardcommunications/global.html).

The USA OSHA is Accepting Comments on Hazard Communication and the GHS. The OSHA Agency has provided a new Guidance Document on GHS that summarizes the GHS requirements, informs how the USA OSHA sees the GHS and how it expected to be implemented. It is available at: [www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html) (from Trade News Release, 7 Sept 2006). Comments may be submitted up to 13 Nov 2006, to: <http://ecomments.osha.gov>.

From: [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=12417](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=12417)

A comparison between USA current system and the GHS system is available at [www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/GHSOSHAComparison.html](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/GHSOSHAComparison.html) (900Kb pdf). It provides an understanding of how the existing USA OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) elements compare to the GHS elements.

From the USA OSHA website and my article "Getting Ready for the GHS in Australia" which first appeared in the CCH publication Hazard Alert – Managing Workplace Hazardous Substances

## • Canadian GHS Preparation

Canadian Website on the GHS is at: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/intactiv/ghs-sgh/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/intactiv/ghs-sgh/index_e.html)

For the Situational Analysis Document which compares the Canadian Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHIMS) & Dangerous Goods systems to GHS go to: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/pubs/ghs-sgh/analys/index\\_pdf\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/pubs/ghs-sgh/analys/index_pdf_e.html)

## • New Zealand and GHS

When chemical substances and mixtures are classified under the NZ Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act for the most part, each HSNO threshold is the lowest boundary of the least hazardous category for each GHS class.

As New Zealand introduced their version of GHS prior to the GHS being finalised, there are several hazardous effects not covered the same as in the 1<sup>st</sup> Revised Edition of the GHS. They are planning on introducing amendments by 2007 to pickup these changes.

From a UN Informal document, submitted by New Zealand, at [www.unecce.org/trans/doc/2006/ac10c4/UN-SCEGHS-11-inf14e.pdf](http://www.unecce.org/trans/doc/2006/ac10c4/UN-SCEGHS-11-inf14e.pdf).

There are two very useful classification documents on the ERMA website:

1/ NZ Gazette 28 June 2006 ERMA Hazardous Substances (Chemicals) Transfer Notice 2006 at: [www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/gn72june06.pdf](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/gn72june06.pdf). This 183 page notice provides the NZ Hazard Classifications for approx. 5500 chemicals

2/ Pesticide Ingredient Hazard Classifications and Toxicity Data from [www.ermanz.govt.nz](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz) and go to What's New then select "Group standards data easy to access with new CD".

From the referenced websites and my article "Getting Ready for the GHS in Australia" which first appeared in the CCH publication Hazard Alert – Managing Workplace Hazardous Substances.

## • REACH – In Brief / Questions & Answers

There are two new background documents on the main EU Commission website for the EU Registration Evaluations

and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/overview\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/overview_en.htm)

They are: REACH in brief (Sept 2006) (20 pages 143 Kb pdf) and Questions and answers on REACH (Aug 2006) (38 pages 293 Kb pdf). Both refer to REACH as at 27-06-2006.

*Editor's Comment:* In Australia it is time to understand just how REACH will operate to provide the missing toxicological data needed by the GHS for classification & labelling of chemicals.

## • REACH UK - HSE Competent Authority Decided

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has been asked by the UK Government to take on the role of UK Competent Authority for REACH, a new European regime for regulating chemicals (see Note above for information).

The UK HSE helpdesk can be contacted on UK 0845-408-9575 or [UKREACHCA@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKREACHCA@hse.gsi.gov.uk).

From: [www.hse.gov.uk/press/2006/e06101.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2006/e06101.htm)

From: [www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/061010b.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/061010b.htm)

## • Victorian OH&S Compliance Framework

From here you can access the current draft (19-10-06) of the proposed Hazardous Substances Part 3.6, of the proposed Victorian OH&S Regulations, due to be implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

The final draft will come out for public comment in mid December 2006 (after the Victorian State Election) and close for comment in mid February 2006.

Note: Most documents on this site are **working drafts and may be subject to change**.

From: [www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/vwa044-021.nsf/home](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/vwa044-021.nsf/home)

## NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

### • Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals Reform

An Overview of the Planned Reforms, is being released for public comment until 30 November 2006.

Eight discussion papers (as pdf files all <300Kb each) may be accessed from the NICNAS Website.

[Overview of the Planned Reforms](#)

[Low-Hazardous Criteria for the Purpose of Notification and Assessment - Discussion Paper No. 1 & Appendix 1](#)

[Low Risk Criteria and Scenarios for Controlled Use Permits - Discussion Paper No. 2](#)

[Modular Assessment of Chemicals that have been assessed by another Authority - Discussion Paper No. 3](#)

[Modular Assessment of Chemicals for which appropriate analogues have been previously Assessed by NICNAS - Discussion Paper No. 4](#)

[Review of Definitions - Naturally Occurring Chemicals and Essential Oils - Discussion Paper](#)

[Low Regulatory Concern Polymers - Discussion Paper No. 6](#)

There are 3 Appendices where the criteria for Health Effects, Physicochemical Effects and Environmental Effects are compared across the Australian systems of NOHSC, SUSDP, APVMA and ADG; and also EU, GHS, NZ and USEPA.

Discussion Paper No. 1 outlines what Recommendations from 2003, NICNAS will be able to implement once the definitions of low hazard and low risk are agreed. These are:

- Introduce an audited self-assessment permit for low hazard chemicals (introduced at low volumes 100 – 1000 kg per year) (R1.2)
- Introduce a low hazard permit for polymers of low volume (1000 kg/yr per introducer) for 3 years. (R4.2)
- Introduce to the standard certificate assessment category of a new low-hazardous chemical sub-category (R7.1)
- Expand access to the Early Introduction Permit system to include low hazard and low risk chemicals (R7.2)
- Introduce a low hazard permit for chemicals of low volume. 1000 kg/yr/introducer for three years. (R7.3)

For details contact Bob Graf ph: 02-8577-8850, email [Bob.Graf@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:Bob.Graf@nicnas.gov.au).

From: [www.nicnas.gov.au/About\\_NICNAS/Reforms/LRCC.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/About_NICNAS/Reforms/LRCC.asp)

## • Updated NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers

The *NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers* has been updated on the NICNAS website to include a new category for Controlled Use (Export Only) Permit & other amendments.

The Handbook can be found at: [www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS\\_Handbook.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Handbook.asp)

Contact Hana Hamdan (Team Leader, Notification & Assessment) ph: 02-8577-8855, email: [info@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:info@nicnas.gov.au)

From: [www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical\\_Gazette/Chemical\\_Gazette\\_September\\_2006.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_September_2006.asp)

## • Manufacturing & Formulating (Introducing)

### What are the NICNAS Registration Requirements?

In the Sept 2006 Chemical Gazette, NICNAS have provided an outline of the NICNAS registration requirements via 4 examples to help you decide whether you are an importer or a manufacturer.

*Editor's Notes:* A simple change in pH can make you a manufacturer as your ingredient(s) change from the acid form to the alkaline salt form or vice versa, where one form may not be on the AICS.

Also, be very careful about overseas MSDS that quote ingredients that are likely to have reacted, particularly where the resultant chemical is not on AICS.

From: [www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical\\_Gazette/Chemical\\_Gazette\\_September\\_2006.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_September_2006.asp)

## • Updated NICNAS Cosmetic Guidelines – Aug 06

These updated [Cosmetic Guidelines](#) (9 pages 234 Kb pdf) are NOT YET IN FORCE except in relation to 6 specific product categories covered by permits issued under interim arrangements. There is also a [Questions and Answers](#) update (7 pages 168 Kb pdf) for Cosmetics.

Download from [www.nicnas.gov.au/Cosmetics.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Cosmetics.asp), forms from: [www.nicnas.gov.au/Forms/Cosmetic\\_Reform\\_Interim\\_Arrangements.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Forms/Cosmetic_Reform_Interim_Arrangements.asp)

From: the NICNAS [Cosmetic Guidelines](#) August 2006

## • NICNAS Existing Chemicals Review – Submissions

The 57 Submissions (received up to July 2006) responding to *Promoting Safer Chemical Use: Towards Better Regulation of Chemicals in Australia* - a discussion paper for public engagement on a new mode for the NICNAS Existing Chemicals Assessment Program - April 2006

This allows everyone to see how this discussion paper is seen by these responding stakeholders.

The final document 57 "**Consolidated Summary of Comments on Each Proposal from Public Forums**" has comments from each forum grouped under each proposal number. This summary did not include an adequate summary of all the issues raised in Melbourne on Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> June forum so probably also does not do this for the other forums. I would like to have a access to the full transcript of all the sessions.

From: [www.nicnas.gov.au/About\\_NICNAS/Reforms/Review\\_Of\\_The\\_Existing\\_Chemicals\\_Program/Appendix\\_8\\_List\\_of\\_Submitters\\_to\\_the\\_review.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/About_NICNAS/Reforms/Review_Of_The_Existing_Chemicals_Program/Appendix_8_List_of_Submitters_to_the_review.asp)

## Scheduled Poisons

### • NDPSC Record of Reasons 20-22 June 2006

National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee Record of reasons from their 47th meeting on the 20-22 June 2006 issues discussed that caught my attention are:

- Naphthalene in Moth Balls near Children and Warning Phrase "Do not use on the clothing of infants or in the bedrooms of young children" (p164). But no mention was made in their discussion of its new R40 Category 3 Carcinogen status as in the EU 29<sup>th</sup> Amendment to their Hazardous Substances List;

- N-Oleyl-1,3-Diaminopropane and N-Coco-1,3-Diaminopropane likely to become Schedule 6 (p136).

- Amines used as curing agents for epoxy resins (p139).

- Caffeine Tablets available over the counter, for general sale, are currently unclassified, and will continue as unclassified. Concern was raised about excessive use by teenagers (p233).

From: [www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/record/r200606.htm](http://www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/record/r200606.htm)

## Food Chemical Issues

### • Danger of Sodium Nitrite in Asian Home Cooking Powders

FSANZ on the 12 Oct 2006 warned consumers not to use Goldfish brand Natural Powder, Natural Baking Powder and Nutre Powder containing Sodium Nitrite [note additional recall items may be added].

This follows the national recall of these products after the hospitalisation of five people in Sydney's south west. It was sold directly to consumers through some Asian stores.

Dr Bob Boyd, FSANZ's Chief Medical Adviser, said "These products contained 100% Sodium Nitrite which can be very dangerous when added to home cooking as high levels of Sodium Nitrite can cause a condition called methaemoglobinaemia - a disorder of the blood."

Consumers should either return it to where they purchased it or dispose of it safely out of the reach of children.

Symptoms of Sodium Nitrite poisoning usually occur within minutes of ingestion, are severe and can be fatal. They include: shortness of breath; racing heart; tiredness; blue skin; vomiting; loss of consciousness.

Note: Poisons Information Centre is ph: 13 11 26.

From: [www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/mediarelease/s/mediareleases2006/fsanzwarnsconsumerso3383.cfm](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/mediarelease/s/mediareleases2006/fsanzwarnsconsumerso3383.cfm)

## • Proposal to Remove the Cadmium Level in Peanuts

We are being asked to remove the maximum level of Cadmium in Peanuts of 0.1mg/kg for Australia and New Zealand. The only other country to regulate Cadmium in peanuts is Switzerland at 0.1mg/kg.

The Confectionery Manufacturers of Australasia Limited (CMA) has applied to remove the maximum level (ML) of 0.1 mg/kg for cadmium in peanuts in Standard 1.4.1, in order to harmonise with international standards for peanuts (of no maximum level).

The Applicant states that at present, confectionery manufacturers are severely restricted in their choice of countries from which they can source peanuts because some may exceed the current ML for cadmium in peanuts in the Code.

Some peanut growing areas in Australia are also at increased risk of higher uptake of cadmium from the soil, in particular, sandy coastal areas with light sandy soils that are acidic and have a long history of phosphate fertiliser use.

There are a number of approaches that growers can take to minimise cadmium uptake by peanut crops such as adequate irrigation, applying lime to the soil to raise the pH, and use of low-cadmium sources of fertilizer.

*Editor's comment:* No data is provided in the application for Cadmium levels found in peanuts from various sources (local or imported) so I find it difficult to accept that the dietary study says we won't be at risk from peanuts with higher levels of Cadmium.

Contact the APVMA ph: 02-6271-2222. We have until the 15th November 2006 to comment. How to submit at [www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/informationforsubmit1129.cfm](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/informationforsubmit1129.cfm) then send to [slo@foodstandards.gov.au](mailto:slo@foodstandards.gov.au)

From: [www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/applications/applicationa552cadmi3374.cfm](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/standardsdevelopment/applications/applicationa552cadmi3374.cfm)

## • Ice Structuring Protein Processing Aid in Ice cream & Edible Ices: A Safety Assessment

I thought it of interest to alert you to this Food Standards Technical Report on Ice Structuring Proteins (ISP) to be used as a processing aid at up to 0.01% in ice cream and edible ices, released in June 2006. It reports on the potential toxicity and potential allergenicity of ISP protein.

*From the Report's Summary and Conclusions:* Ice Structuring Protein type III HPLC 12 (ISP), derived from a northern hemisphere fish species, has been assessed for safety for human consumption. Naturally occurring ice structuring proteins can bind to and influence the growth and structure of ice crystals, resulting in a modified ice structure. When used in the manufacture of certain frozen

food products, such as ice cream and water ices, these properties affect the physical and sensory properties of the foods, as well as improve temperature stability.

Commercial quantities of ISP are produced by fermentation of baker's yeast that has been genetically modified (GM) to manufacture and secrete the fish ISP. The ISP preparation is a mixture of functionally active ISP, inactive mannose-conjugated ISP, proteins and peptides from common baker's yeast, and sugars, acids and salts commonly found in food.

No potential public health and safety concerns have been identified in the assessment of ISP. On the basis of the data provided in the present application, and other available information, the ISP preparation derived from GM baker's yeast can be considered safe for human consumption.

Select Technical Report No. 42 at:

[www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/newpublications.cfm](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/newpublications.cfm) (where you can also find other GM Technical Reports)

or directly download the 39 page 298Kb pdf file at:

[http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/srcfiles/NO42\\_Ice\\_structuring\\_protein\\_Technical\\_Report\\_3\\_.pdf](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/srcfiles/NO42_Ice_structuring_protein_Technical_Report_3_.pdf)

From FSA NZ Technical Report Series No. 42

## Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

### • Preliminary Review Findings for Azinphos-Methyl

Azinphos-Methyl is a broad spectrum, non-systemic organophosphate insecticide. Products containing Azinphos-Methyl are used in pome and stone fruit orchards, citrus, macadamia nuts and grapes, with further minor uses in crops such as lychees, kiwifruit and blueberries. The main use is for the control of codling moth and light brown apple moth, predominately in pome and stone fruit orchards.

The APVMA has found that the major concern with this chemical relates to:

- the potential risk of exposure of users to products containing Azinphos-Methyl, which may be an undue hazard to the safety of people exposed to it during its handling; and
- the potential for some uses of Azinphos-Methyl to contain residues in fruit and vegetables that exceeds the safety threshold; and
- the potential for the use of Azinphos-Methyl to have a harmful effect on the environment.

Variations to label instructions and registration conditions are regarded by the APVMA to satisfy the requirements for continued registration of the four product registrations which are proposed to be affirmed.

To download a copy of the Summary; Technical Report – Toxicology; and Technical Report - OH&S, Residues, Trade and Environment ; go to: [www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/azinphosmethyl.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/azinphosmethyl.shtml)

Comment by 15 Dec 06 to: Evaluator, Azinphos-methyl Review at [chemicalreview@apvma.gov.au](mailto:chemicalreview@apvma.gov.au).

From APVMA Ag&Vet Gazette, 3 Oct 2006

- **New Agricultural Active Constituents (1)**

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

- 1/ **Cydia Pomonella Granulosis Virus**

Cydia Pomonella Granulosis Virus is a naturally occurring biological insecticide for the control of codling moth.

Minimum Purity: 3 x 10<sup>13</sup> granules/L

Chemical Family: Granulosis Virus

SUSDP: Not scheduled and to be added to Appendix B (substances consider to not require control by scheduling)

From: [www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0609.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0609.shtml)

- **APVMA Chemistry Data and Data Lists Data Protection Requirements**

The APVMA has reviewed the “no required details for chemistry data to be submitted” with regard to its administration of the data protection and transparency provisions of the Agvet Codes and has decided that in order to comply with the Agvet Codes, chemistry data submitted for each application must be recorded and subsequently identified as protected data (if relied on to grant the application) against each product. Therefore, from 1 October 2006 the APVMA will require that applicants must include details of any chemistry data in the ‘data list’ which applicants provide to the APVMA with an application.

For details contact Martin Holmes, Program Manager, Veterinary Medicines, APVMA, ph: 02-6272-3471, email: [martin.holmes@apvma.gov.au](mailto:martin.holmes@apvma.gov.au)

From: [www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0609p22.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0609p22.shtml)

- **APVMA Quality Assurance & Compliance Activities for 2006-2007**

The APVMA will sample and test all agricultural chemical products that may contain one or more of Mancozeb, Oxyfluorfen, Quantozene or Chlorpyrifos. Visits will be made to 30 manufacturers to inspect their supply records and active constituent batch analysis results.

APVMA inspectors will visit rural produce stores that sell Endosulfan to inspect their compliance with records of their sales for this restricted product.

Compliance audits for hormonal growth promotants will check purchaser declarations as well as the usual checks on record keeping.

From Sept 2006 APVMA E-Newsletter at: [www.apvma.gov.au/publications/enewsletter\\_home.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/enewsletter_home.shtml)

- **Suspension of 2,4-D Herbicide High Volatile Esters**

On 3 October 2006 the APVMA suspended the registration of 24 products containing high volatile ester forms of 2,4-D (2,4-D HVE).

*Reason:* The continued use, or other dealing with the products in accordance with the currently approved label instructions might be likely to have an unintended effect that is harmful to animals, plants or things or to the environment.

At the same time the approval of all labels for these products were also suspended with new instructions for use (e.g. only used between 1 May and 31 August; removing some uses; limiting application rates and specifying buffer zones) and record keeping required.

These [new instructions](#) and record keeping apply to 800 g/L 2,4-D HVE products present as the Ethyl Ester, Butyl Ester or Isobutyl Ester. The new instructions impose new limitations on the use of these products and a requirement for users to keep records of use. Go to: [www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/24DdirectionsSuspendedProducts.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/24DdirectionsSuspendedProducts.pdf).

Within 24 hours of completing a 2,4-D ethyl, butyl or isobutyl ester application all users must make and keep a record of each application as in the [recordkeeping form](#) at [www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/24Drecordkeeping.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/downloads/24Drecordkeeping.pdf)

From: [www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/2,4-D.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/chemrev/2,4-D.shtml) and the APVMA Ag&Vet Gazette, 3 Oct 2006 p64 and Media Release [www.apvma.gov.au/media/mr0806.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/media/mr0806.shtml)

- **Electronic Submission of Data Now Possible**

The APVMA has been trialling the feasibility of allowing applicants to submit data electronically and is now able to accept electronic submission of application data.

A [guidance document](#) at [www.apvma.gov.au/registration/ESubmissionsGuidance.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/registration/ESubmissionsGuidance.pdf), explains how to construct an electronic data pack and how to submit it to the APVMA.

From Sept 2006 APVMA E-Newsletter at: [www.apvma.gov.au/publications/enewsletter\\_home.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/enewsletter_home.shtml)

- **APVMA First Instructions Updated Handbook**

The handbook of First Aid Instructions, Safety Directions and Warning Statements for agricultural and veterinary chemicals was updated on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006.

The FAISD Handbook is a consolidation of the advice provided to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) by the Office of Chemical Safety in the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DHA), up to the date of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006 amendment.

The Handbook is 129 pages, 408Kb pdf file at [www.tga.gov.au/docs/pdf/faisd.pdf](http://www.tga.gov.au/docs/pdf/faisd.pdf)

From: <http://www.tga.gov.au/docs/html/faisd.htm>

## Dangerous Goods

- **Buncefield Standards Task Group Initial Report**

This report presents the **initial** recommendations for immediate action from the Task Group responding to, firstly, recommendations in the Buncefield Major Incident Investigation Board [reports](#) and secondly, areas of concern identified in the safety and environmental reviews of fuel and oil storage [sites](#) conducted by industry and the regulators in spring 2006.

Immediate Actions cover: Pipeline transfers; Tank overflow prevention; Valves; Containment measures; & Shift handover.

Types of Installation to which the Task Group's Recommendations will Apply: Petrol stored at COMAH top and lower tier sites<sup>13</sup> in vertical, cylindrical, non-refrigerated, above ground storage tanks<sup>14</sup> with side walls greater than 5 metres in height<sup>15</sup> and where the filling rate is greater than 100 cubic metres/hour.

There are over 40 people from industry on working groups considering:

1. Definition of sites to which the safety standards will apply.
2. Management of operations.
3. Design and maintenance of plant and equipment.
4. Design and maintenance of control and safety systems.
5. On-site emergency response arrangements.
6. Bunding and other containment.

From: [www.hse.gov.uk/comah/buncefield/bstg1.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/buncefield/bstg1.htm)

## • ADG 7 Progress and NTC Summary Response

On the National Transport Commission's website you can see the published timetable (but add a few months).

We are very fortunate to have a highly knowledgeable and dedicated dangerous goods specialist to help our authorities and legislative drafting persons bring this package together.

There are two documents you can have access to, to see how the ADG Code 7<sup>th</sup> Edition has progressed. They are: 1/ the [NTC Summary Response to Submissions](#) (70 pages 719 Kb pdf) and 2/ [Summary of Key Changes Fact Sheet](#) (3 pages 106 Kb pdf) to the ADG7 Legislative Package (August 2006).

[www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au) then select "[Dangerous Goods Code](#)" or [www.ntc.gov.au/ViewPage.aspx?page=A022113024004706250](http://www.ntc.gov.au/ViewPage.aspx?page=A022113024004706250)

*Editor's Comment:* We are hoping that the Competent Authority Panel will allow compliance with ADG7 to mean compliance with ADG6, so that industry can get on with using ADG7, particularly as UN14 will be implemented for the IATA Regs and possible for the IMDG Code from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2007.

## • NSW MHF Regulations Delayed until 2007

The public comment draft on the NSW Major Hazard Facility Regulations has been delayed until after the NSW elections in early 2007.

From: *PACIA Regulatory Affairs Newsletter, Oct 2006*

## Environmental Notes on Chemicals

### • Long-Term Containment Facility for Industrial Waste

The [Major Project's Victoria \(MPV\) Reply Submission](#) was presented to the Panel and is now available on the website below. MPV documents have been made available within the [Industrial Waste Management publications](#) page.

The Vic Dept of Sustainability & Environment website can be found at: [www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/nrenpl.nsf/FID/-07B4D8B288438254CA256DE30027DADD?OpenDocument](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/nrenpl.nsf/FID/-07B4D8B288438254CA256DE30027DADD?OpenDocument) where information about the Panel can be found.

The Panel hearings concluded on 8 September 2006. The Panel has 12 weeks to present its Report and recommendations to the Victorian Minister for Planning.

Contact MPV ph: 1800 440 902,  
email: [industrialwaste@doi.vic.gov.au](mailto:industrialwaste@doi.vic.gov.au);

From: [www.majorprojects.vic.gov.au/industrialwaste](http://www.majorprojects.vic.gov.au/industrialwaste)

Community concerns are presented on the Envirowest website at: [www.envirowest.org.au/HazWasteIndex.htm](http://www.envirowest.org.au/HazWasteIndex.htm), Contact Envirowest at ph: 03-9731 0288, email: [wrec@envirowest.org.au](mailto:wrec@envirowest.org.au). Hardcopies of the community presentations can be obtained from Ph: 03-9637-9691.

### • Cleaning Products – “Green” Procurement

Guidance for Responsible Public Procurement of Cleaning Products – July 2006 Revision by UKCPI and BACS.

This 4 page Guidance document has been prepared by the British Association of Chemical Specialities (BACS) and UK Cleaning Products Industry Association (UKCPI) to provide guidance on environmental aspects of ingredients in cleaning products and concerns raised about them.

The guidance draws on published scientific risk assessments and was developed because specification by Local Authorities of cleaning product ingredients is common practice but is highly fragmented, with many different permutations.

From: [www.ukcpi.org](http://www.ukcpi.org) & [www.bacsnet.org/](http://www.bacsnet.org/) select “Other Activities”

In July 2004 the European Commission published Handbook SEC(2004) 1050, to give guidance on procuring “green” products and services and forms one part of the EU Commission’s “Green Public Procurement” initiative. Go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/guidelines.htm#handbook> where the 40 page handbook can be downloaded at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/int.pdf>

### • Australian EPHC Strategic Plan 2006-2008

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) plan was made available on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006. The EPHC Strategic Plan is to ensure the protection of the environment and heritage of Australia and New Zealand.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Strategic Directions of the 11 directions are:

- To promote ecologically sustainable development in all aspects of its work; and;
- Develop agreed national approaches to emerging global and international environment and heritage issues.

Priority issues relevant to chemicals are:

- Developing a strategic national approach to improving air quality;
- Promoting waste avoidance and better waste management through national approaches to encourage the efficient use of resources, product stewardship/extended producer responsibility (EPR) and cleaner production based on better data, economic analysis and sound science;
- Pursuing eco-efficiency and conservation of natural resources, including energy and water use, through national approaches to sustainable production, consumption and waste management;
- Within a national framework, developing environmentally sound assessment and risk management of chemicals and consistent regulation of chemical use between jurisdictions, across industry sectors, and across the Tasman, for example between agricultural and industrial uses. Identifying and responding to emerging developments in international chemical issues;

From: [www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/vision\\_state.html#ephc\\_strat\\_plan](http://www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/vision_state.html#ephc_strat_plan)

*Editor's Comment:* these directions and priority issues are totally in line with my submission that the NEPC Act be altered so that they can prepare NEPMs on Eco-Efficiency and Sustainability. By the August deadline, 12 out of the 26 Australian submissions highlighted this issue needs to be changed. With thanks to those who supported this.

In particular I am looking for an NEPM covering the initial selection criteria and practical tools for individuals in companies and the community to use, when trying to decide **which chemical product for a particular use is reasonably Eco-efficient and Sustainable**. This needs to be done on a harmonised basis worldwide so that our initial efforts become one layer in an ever more focussed set of layers, as we develop our skills over the years in this area.

## • Australian Greenhouse Office Web Site

This is a new website for me and maybe for others. An important website for our world where Carbon Dioxide is now an environmentally hazardous substance due to its heat trapping effect. I became aware of this website because I was told of the Technical Manual in the "Your Home" part of the website at:

[www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/technical/index.htm](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/technical/index.htm)

that gives examples of "environmentally sustainable homes".

"Your Home" was produced for the Australian Government by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney, under the guidance of leading experts in environmentally sustainable housing. The website acknowledges 35 persons who have contributed and 12 partner organisations.

Go to: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/>

## • Greenhouse and Energy Reporting

In July 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) asked that by December 2006, for a detailed proposal for a reporting system, including advice on timing, thresholds and governance arrangements. COAG agreed that a single streamlined system that imposes the least cost and red tape burden is the preferable course of action.

A draft Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) (53 pages) with 3 attachments (90, 26 & 1 pages), has been prepared to facilitate input by stakeholders, to inform COAG.

Key design elements were to include: reporting thresholds; public disclosure; data security and access; compliance and enforcement; and timing of implementation

The RIS on p5, Figure 1 shows a Diagram of proposed reporting requirements under a Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Reporting Act, which provides a quick snapshot of what is proposed. For the proposed national reporting system there are 3 alternatives analysed (starts on p16).

*Editor's comment:* For greenhouse gas reporting do we need another reporting system through another Authority or could we do it through the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) that we already report through.

Provide written submissions (Microsoft Word format preferred) on the issues addressed in the RIS by **30 October 2006** to:

Ms Julie Gaglia, Secretariat, COAG, Climate Change Group, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, email: [Julie.Gaglia@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Julie.Gaglia@pmc.gov.au)

From: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/reporting/index.html>

## • Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CDC&S)

Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CDC&S) is a technology aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels during industrial and

energy-related processes. CDC&S involves the capture, transport and long-term storage of Carbon Dioxide, usually in geological reservoirs deep underground, that would otherwise be released to the atmosphere.

The website discusses Australia's role in developing CDC&S technologies; CDC&S Projects in Australia; and the IPCC Special Report on CDC&S. It advises [Key Findings from the IPCC Special Report](#) and provides a [Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage](#) - Fact sheet

From: [www.greenhouse.gov.au/ccs/index.html](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/ccs/index.html)

From here you can go to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been established by WMO and UNEP to assess scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. The full report (443 pages) is a 23.4Mb pdf file, a summary file of 1.2Mb (62 pages) can also be downloaded.

Go to: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

## • NEPC Guidance on Industrial Residues Reuse

Guidance For Assessing The Beneficial Reuse Of Industrial Residues To Land Management Applications – A National Approach (September 2006).

Industrial residues (by-products) arise largely from the processing and use of minerals from heavy industries such as mining, refining, metal production and coal fired power generation. Their production in Australia can run into the hundreds of millions of tonnes each year and they can be used in a variety of applications including as fertilisers, soil conditioners, stock feeds, fill, road base, input to cement and concrete products and to provide energy recovery.

Concerns have been raised about the risks posed by the potential presence of some contaminants of concern such as heavy metals (i.e. cadmium, arsenic, copper, mercury, zinc, chromium, selenium, and lead) and Persistent Organic Pollutants (i.e. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Polychlorinated Biphenyls) in these materials at levels which may alter the chemistry of the soil, cause pollution of groundwater, and be retained and later released as soil degrades over time.

This national approach focuses on the application of industrial residues to land, particularly agricultural applications. The approach concentrates on closing the gaps in the 'front end' of the system by providing a common and consistent approach across jurisdictions in determining whether industrial residues should be allowed to be diverted from landfill and applied to land.

Legislation is now generally moving towards being able to account for the potentially greater range of contaminants that may be introduced into the environment from waste derived fertilisers.

This 11 page NEPC document discusses the guidance and nationally consistent criteria needed to put such an approach into place.

From: [http://www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/industrial\\_residue.html](http://www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/industrial_residue.html) and the downloaded [Guidance](#) document (21Kb pdf).

## Standards

### • Review on Stds Aust & NATA Lab Accreditation

*Update:* All the original submissions and the latest submissions on the draft. DR124-DR187, can be viewed at: [www.pc.gov.au/study/standards/subs/sublist.html](http://www.pc.gov.au/study/standards/subs/sublist.html). Several other submissions also highlight my concern of "How do we fund our technical specialists to participate". See my Haztech Environmental submission DR147 and the Safety Institute of Australia submission DR173 for details.

### • Standards – [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)

#### AS 2527-2006: Cylinders for Dissolved Acetylene.

Specifies the basic requirements for steel cylinders of 5 kg to 160 kg water capacity intended for the storage and transport of acetylene. Also specifies requirements for the porous filler, the solvent and the cylinder marking.

**ISBN:** 0-7337-7751-1, **Published:** 27 Sept 2006, **Pages:** 16, **Cost:** \$55.04 pdf, \$61.16 hardcopy.

### • Drafts – free pdf files from [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au)

#### DR 06593: The Storage and Handling of LP Gas.

Revision of AS/NZS 1596:2002. Specifies requirements for the location, design, construction, commissioning and operation of installations for the storage and handling of LP Gas, and includes the management of emergencies.

**Published:** 28 Sept 2006, **Committee:** ME-015, **Pages:** 154, **Comment Closes:** 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006

## Seminars, Conferences, Courses

### • Safety 2006, 14-15 Nov 2006, Perth WA

Organised by the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention at [www.ifap.asn.au/](http://www.ifap.asn.au/). The theme is Practical Workplace Solutions, with a specific focus on Corporate Governance and Risk Management. Cost \$880 + an extra \$99 for the dinner. For a brochure / details go to conference managers: [www.verticalevents.com.au/safetywa2006/](http://www.verticalevents.com.au/safetywa2006/), ph: 08-9388-2222, email: [info@verticalevents.com.au](mailto:info@verticalevents.com.au).

### • Life Cycle Assessment Conference, 22-24 Nov 06

Organised by the [Australian Life Cycle Assessment Society](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/au/australian-life-cycle-assessment-society/) and sponsored by the EPA Victoria.

The Conference aim is to make bridges between different environmental assessment methods that have a sustainability focus; & to provide a forum for sharing LCA experience in different sectors. There are workshops & courses.

Location: Melbourne. Cost: <\$1000 for the 3 days. For details go the website below.

From: <http://lca-conf.alcas.asn.au/>

### • AIOH 2007: Waves of Change, 4-6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists. Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Surfers Paradise Marriot Resort, Queensland. Non-member cost \$1050 to end Oct, then \$1250.

Occupational hygiene is becoming one of great diversity and continual change with the appearance of new hazards as well as advances in the science of workplace analysis and investigation. The Conference is planning to include "Introduction to...." Workshops on • Gases and Vapours, • Radiation, • Air monitoring, as concurrent sessions.

*Details at:* [www.aioh.org.au/conference/2006/default.htm](http://www.aioh.org.au/conference/2006/default.htm)  
A brochure with the Program and Registration will be available soon from this website.

### • AIOH Continuing Educ'n Sessions, 2-3 Dec 2006

Before the AIOH 2007 Conference there will be half day Continuing Education Seminars at approx. \$200 each covering: • Biological Hazards, • Aging Workforce, • Noise, • Vibration, • Heat Stress. *See above for details.*

### • Environmental Management & Systems, 4-5 Dec 06

Sydney, cost \$2414.50. The conference will focus on practical applications and management: Optimising EMS into Business Systems; Enhancing Environmental Management Performance; Information Management & Stakeholder Communication. Day 2 Workshops (at extra cost): Auditing Environmental Management Systems; Optimising EMS For Better Business Performance.

*For details go to:* [www.iir.com.au/infrastructure](http://www.iir.com.au/infrastructure),  
Register ph: 02-9080-4090; email: [info@iir.com.au](mailto:info@iir.com.au)

### • National Emissions Trading Summit, 11-12 Dec 06

Held at Darling Harbour, Sydney, cost \$2634.50. The outlook for and operation of the national emissions trading scheme; technology and alternative pathways; international approaches and impacts; upon domestic policy; addressing concerns for the domestic economy; and Australian business perspectives.

*For details go to:* [www.informa.com.au/emissions-trading](http://www.informa.com.au/emissions-trading),  
Register ph: 02-9080-4307, [registration@informa.com.au](mailto:registration@informa.com.au).

### • Safety In Action 2007, 20-22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

*For details:* <http://www.sia.org.au>

### • Spillcon 2007, Perth WA, 26-30<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Marine Environmental Oil Pollution Prevention and Response Conference with advice and latest information concerning marine oil spill prevention and response techniques.

The 2007 theme "Global, Regional, Local" highlights the many tiered approaches used in Australia and around the world to prevent and respond to oil spills in the marine environment. *Topics:* Cause and Prevention; Preparedness; Response Management; Post Spill Issues of Recent Incidents; Case Studies; Public Perception

*For details:* [www.spillcon.com/](http://www.spillcon.com/)

### • Chemcon 2007, Singapore, 23-27<sup>th</sup> April 2007

*For details:* <http://www.chemcon.net/>

*Note:* The previous **ChemCon 2006 CD Rom** with the papers and presentations is available. GHS and REACH papers are of particular interest. Cost € 200, plus € 25, - for shipment (and 20% VAT where applicable) by sending an order e-mail to [office@chemcon.net](mailto:office@chemcon.net).

### • Hazmat 2007, Sydney, 10-11<sup>th</sup> May 2007

To be held at the Dockside Conference Centre, Sydney CBD. If you are interested in having an exhibitor's table or sponsoring the Hazmat 2007 Conference, please contact Natalie Lowerson, Events Manager, FPAA, ph: 03-9890-1544 "Natalie Lowerson" [nlowerson@fpaa.com.au](mailto:nlowerson@fpaa.com.au)

*Details are on the FPAA website:* [www.fpaa.com.au/events/](http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/)

