Hazmat & Environment Notes Oct - Dec 2006

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4/ Victorian OH&S Compliance Framework (page 5)

On the 20th December 2006 the draft Hazardous Substance Part 3.6, Lead Part 3.8, Confined Spaces Part 3.9 and Major Hazard Facilities Part 4.2, along with all the other Parts will probably become available for public comment for 8 weeks.

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Hazmat & Environment Notes

are prepared by:

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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

- **Frequently Asked Questions on Nanotechnology**

Nanotechnology already arrived on the scene decades ago in varnishes and medicinal products even if it didn't go by this name. Nanotechnology is now used in a targeted manner in many areas of daily life like cosmetics, foods and consumer products without this being obvious to the consumer. There is no labelling obligation for nano products.

There are question whether new nano products may bring with them unknown risks for humans. In particular nanoparticles, which are present in unbound form, could lead to a specific health risk. BfR * is involved in research into the risks of nanotechnology. BfR has drawn up selected questions and answers on nanotechnology which can be accessed from their website or downloaded as a 4 page 101 Kb pdf file.

www.bfr.bund.de/cm/279/frequently_asked_questions_on_nanotechnology.pdf

* BfR –Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Germany)

From: www.bfr.bund.de/cd/8568

- **Consumers Call for Comprehensible Labelling & Accompanying Risk Research On "Nano" Products**

In Germany, the BfR conducted a Consumer Conference on Nanotechnology in November 2006.

16 people of various ages and occupations were extracted from a cohort of 6,000 randomly selected individuals on the basis of sociodemographic criteria for the Consumer Conference on Nanotechnology. This group took a comprehensive look at this subject at two preparatory weekends, prepared questions on various consumer aspects of this technology and selected experts from science, associations, public agencies and industry to answer them.

The main demands formulated in the vote by the 16 consumers who attended the BfR consumer conference on nanotechnology were for comprehensible labelling, clear definitions, terms and standards as well as far more research into the potential risks before nanotechnology is used to a greater degree in consumer products.

From: www.bfr.bund.de/cms5w/sixcms/detail.php/8601

- **Formaldehyde PEC Report No. 28**

This 389 page Priority Existing Chemical (PEC) report, which also covers Paraformaldehyde, was released on 5th Dec 2006. It is able to be downloaded from: www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/PEC28/PEC_28_Full_Report_PDF.pdf.

There is an Overview and Recommendations of 12 pages at the beginning that provides clear guidance.

This PEC applies to all products with >0.1% Formaldehyde (HCHO) (either as an ingredient, an impurity, or formed by decomposition within a product). NOTE: Many companies with 0.1-0.2% HCHO did not even take part in the PEC and will now be directly affected. Some may not even know their product even contains or forms Formaldehyde.

The key change in the report that affects all of industry is Recommendation 1 where all products with >0.1% Formaldehyde will become:

TOXIC R49 - May cause cancer by inhalation (Carcinogen, Category 2).

Note: this is a serious health effect classification, NOT and acute toxic dangerous goods classification. So for those products that are hazardous substances only they will stay hazardous substances only.

In early 2007 the Office of the Australian Safety & Compensation Council are expected to incorporate these changes into the Hazardous Substance Information System at www.nohsc.gov.au/applications/hsis/searchhs.aspx. This will then mean we won't align with the current EU ESIS listed classification.

All manufacturers and importers are then required to update MSDSs and Labels for their products (Recommendation 4). This will need to be done within a reasonable period of time (I suggest within 3 to 6 months).

This will mean for products coming from Europe will need their MSDSs & Labels to be altered or the information about Formaldehyde provided in an effective way, until the EU eventually aligns their listed classification.

Industry will need to alert its customers receiving products with >0.1% Formaldehyde that this change will be occurring in MSDSs and Labels during 2007 and that they should handle Formaldehyde containing products in the interim in accordance with the PEC 28 Recommendations.

From PEC No. 28 Assessment Report at: www.ascc.gov.au plus my assessment of what suppliers need to do first.

- **Titanium Dioxide - IARC 2B Carcinogen**

Pigmentary and ultrafine Titanium Dioxide were tested for carcinogenicity by oral, inhalation, intratracheal administration, subcutaneous injection, and intraperitoneal administration in rats and mice (and intratracheal administration in hamsters).

Two of the five inhalation studies had an increased incidence of cancers.

There is *inadequate evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of Titanium Dioxide.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of Titanium Dioxide.

Overall Evaluation: Titanium Dioxide is *possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B).*

From: http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Meetings/93-titaniumdioxide.pdf Feb 2006.

Also at http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Meetings/index1.php

Further discussion of the possible carcinogenicity of Titanium Dioxide can be found in the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS) August 2006 Newsletter.

"The IARC conclusions are based on very specific evidence. This evidence showed that high concentrations of pigment-grade (powdered) and ultrafine Titanium Dioxide dust caused respiratory tract cancer in rats exposed by inhalation and intratracheal instillation."

"The series of biological events or steps that produce the rat lung cancers (e.g. particle deposition, impaired lung clearance, cell injury, fibrosis, mutations and ultimately cancer) have also been seen in people working in dusty environments."

It was agreed by Health Canada (National Office of WHMIS), Quebec CSST and CCOHS "that Titanium Dioxide **does** now meet the criteria for WHMIS D2A (carcinogen) based on the information released by IARC to date, and that it is not necessary to wait for release of the full monograph."

From: www.ccohs.ca/newsletters/hsreport/issues/2006/08/ezine.html#inthenews.

- **Ceiling Dusts Containing Lead: Guidance Note**

This Guidance Note 4955 has been developed for contractor and workers involved in the cleaning, repairing or demolition of ceilings that may contain lead dust.

Lead is a hazardous substance. Contractors and workers involved in the cleaning, repairing or demolition of ceilings should be aware that lead is found everywhere in the urban environment, resulting from air, water and soil pollution from industrial processes, house renovations (from the use of leaded paint before 1976) and as a by-product from the combustion of leaded petrol.

The 4 page Guidance Note can be downloaded from: www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/OHS/SafetyGuides/ceiling_dusts_containing_lead_guidance_note.htm

Chemical Management

- **The Use of Chemicals of Security Concern - Development of Control Options**

This Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Discussion Paper identifies chemicals which may require additional control measures because of their assessed security risk. It will be necessary to consider what, if any, measures should be taken in relation to each of the identified chemicals. It is unlikely that any single regime would be necessary and appropriate for all of the identified chemicals. The control process that is ultimately implemented should be nationally consistent.

Anyone who might be affected by potential control measures is encouraged to examine the discussion paper and submit their views for consideration until 1st March 2007.

Feedback is specifically sought on:

i. guiding principles for the review
ii. an approach to determining formulated chemical products of security concern
iii. possible security control measures, and
iv. management and implementation of a security control framework.

By the nature of their choice of tactic, terrorists are interested in chemicals and other agents that are high impact (able to cause death and/or serious injury to a significant number of people) and feasible to use (easy to deploy, difficult to detect and readily accessible).

The chemicals included in the Discussion Paper are:

of most concern
Chlorine Gas; CWC 3 Chemicals (* see below); Cyanide Potassium; Cyanide Sodium; Disulfoton; Hydrogen Peroxide; Mercuric Chloride; Mevinphos; Nitric Acid; Nitromethane; Parathion Methyl; Phorate; Phosphides (Zn, Al, Mg); Phosphine; Potassium Chlorate; Potassium Perchlorate; Sodium Chlorate; Sodium Fluoroacetate; Sodium Perchlorate; Strychnine; Sulphuric Acid; Terbufos.

of more concern
Acephate; Aldicarb; Ammonium Perchlorate; Arsenic Trioxide; Arsine; Azinphos Methyl; Cadusafos; Chlorfenvinphos; Cyanide Calcium; Cyanide Mercury; Cyanide Zinc; Ethion; Dichlorvos; Fenamiphos; Mercuric Nitrate; Mercuric Oxide; Mercurous Nitrate; Methamidophos; Methidathion; Omethoate; Oxamyl; Perchloric Acid; Phosphorus; Potassium Nitrate; Sodium Nitrate.

of concern
Ammonia (Anhydrous); Arsenic Pentoxide; Bendiocarb; Beryllium Sulphate; Bromine; Carbofuran; Carbon Disulphide; Carbon Monoxide; Cyanogen Bromide; Diazinon; Dimethyl Mercury; Dimethyl Sulphate; Endosulfan; Ethyl Mercury Chloride; Fluorine Gas; Fluoroacetic Acid; Fluoroethyl Alcohol; Fluoroethyl Fluoroacetate; Hydrochloric Acid; Hydrogen Chloride; Hydrogen Sulfide; Methiocarb; Methomyl; Methyl Fluoroacetate; Nitric Oxide; Osmium Tetroxide; Paraquat; Propoxur; Sodium Azide; Thallium Sulfate; Thiophosphoryl Chloride.

*** Chemical Weapons Convention Schedule 3 Chemicals and Precursors**

Toxic Chemicals
Chloropicrin, Cyanogen Chloride: Hydrogen Cyanide; Phosgene.

Precursors
Diethyl Phosphite; Dimethyl Phosphite; Ethyldiethanolamine; Methyldiethanolamine; Phosphorus Oxychloride; Phosphorus Pentachloride; Phosphorus Trichloride; Sulfur Dichloride; Sulfur Monochloride; Thionyl Chloride; Triethanolamine; Triethyl Phosphite; Trimethyl Phosphite.

An assessment will be performed on each chemical of security concern to identify the thresholds for which formulated products are no longer considered of security concern.

The COAG Discussion Paper is available for comment until 1 March 07 from the CBRN Security Branch National Security Division, Dept of the Prime Minister & Cabinet website at: www.pmc.gov.au/protecting_australia/haz_materials/index.cfm where you send an email or send an email directly to chemicalsecurity@pmc.gov.au and then they will send the paper back by email.

From the Chemical Gazette 5th Dec 06 www.nicnas.gov.au, & from the COAG Discussion Paper.

- **GHS Information Sheet (ASCC)**

Prepared by the Australian Safety & Compensation Council (ASCC) as 119Kb pdf file.

This 2 page overview covers: 1/ An explanation of the GHS as an international approach to managing chemical hazards; 2/ GHS Pictograms explanation and the symbols are shown; 3/ GHS and Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace

From: www.ascc.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/1932635C-7B85-4480-9A19-5578D264312F/0/GHSInfoSheet2006.pdf

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

The comment period has been extended to 1st March 2007. There will probably be a series of presentations on the proposed Workplace Hazardous Chemicals framework held in each State during February 2007 to try and alert industry to this significant change and obtain comment.

Your Urgent Attention is Needed: As a minimum read the Draft National Standard for the Control of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals. This is 83 pages and will allow you then to understand the scope of the proposal and discuss its effects.

The *Draft National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals* and *Draft National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Safety Data Sheets* both came out for public comment on 5 Dec 2006 and comment for these will close on the 1st March 2007.

Go to: www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm.

Editor's Comment: My key areas of concern are:

1/ 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. (The Australian proposal does not include any environmental effect categories.) Australian manufacturers and suppliers will not be able to rely on EU generated data for these lowest health categories and may need to generate this data at their own cost!

2/ 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 are currently prepared just below the lowest Australian / EU cut-off concentrations.

3/ 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. Also there are no reduced provisions for minor quantities of Hazardous Substances as is possible for Dangerous Goods in Minor Quantities.

4/ I regard we do need to change to the GHS criteria but we must allow our changeover to GHS to follow the EU, for both the criteria they working to, and for the period of implementation, which is likely to be 5 years for single substances and a further 2½ years for mixtures. In this way we can keep working to the current Australian system until GHS data is available (as the EU will need to maintain their current system whilst they change). Preferably we allow a further period of 1-2 years so we can wait for the GHS data to come to us rather have to be created at Australian industry's cost.

Editor's Comment about the Draft Regulation Impact Statement: The RIS is significantly flawed as it does not pick up the costs in 1/, 2/ and 3/ at to change to the GHS issues and underestimates the cost to change in the area of 4/. From the RIS options they provide I currently prefer a modified Option 2 with implementation of the GHS criteria to occur as GHS data becomes available.

- **Draft Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Label Code**

As the required GHS label information and statements is already defined under the GHS (and by the Australian proposed framework) this document is mainly a compilation of GHS information into one document with clarification about what is or is not required under various scenarios.

e.g. It will be much clearer that consumer products labelled to the SUSDP 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 SUSDP, but are hazardous to GHS and are used in normal households, is not discussed by the draft.

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 are label layout examples shown to help us prepare labels in a common way, to aid users to find information quickly.

- **Draft GHS Safety Data Sheet 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.

- 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 Note:* which to the 2006 IMDG Code will clearly be to the aquatic environmental criteria compared to the current 2004 IMDG Code where industry regards it 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.

For Example: Odour Threshold [GHS A4.9.2.3.c] – The ASCC has chosen NOT to include this in Section 9. This makes sense to me as it is quite a rare piece of data for most substances and usually has a wide range. This means the Australian SDS will NOT include this GHS SDS data.

[The relevant GHS SDS Appendix is cross referenced in brackets.]

From the ASCC Draft document and from CCH Hazard-Alert article (copyright) prepared by Jeff Simpson which can be purchased directly from me or can be obtained as part of the CCH Publication Hazard Alert.

- **CCOHS Health & Safety Report Newsletter**

You can access the monthly CCOHS H&S Report newsletter at the website below or subscribe to it for free.

Hazardous substances or management of them in 2006 issues include:

- Combustible Dust Explosion Risk (Oct 2006)
- Preventing Asthma & Death from MDI Exposure (Oct 06)
- Titanium Dioxide Classified as Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans (Aug 2006)
- Allergic and Irritant contact dermatitis (Jan 2006)

http://www.ccohs.ca/newsletters/hsreport/issues/2006/

- **Victorian OH&S Compliance Framework**

Twelve sets of regulations currently operate under the 1985 Vic OHS Act. When the Government passed the new Act in 2004, the operation of the existing regulations was extended until 1 July 2007, when they will be replaced by a new consolidated, single regulation. Together with the new Act, the consolidated regulation, the new compliance codes and Victorian Workcover Authorities' various guidance materials form a 'compliance framework' aimed at building the knowledge and capacity of duty holders so they can fulfil their health and safety obligations.

The framework will accurately specify mandatory risk controls or prohibitions, let employers know what they must do to comply, and remove existing duplication.

From the 2006/2007 Business Plan for Workcover Victoria: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/resources/file/ebd3f54313a86c7/VWA_Business_Plan_06_07.pdf

For work in progress details of the draft consolidated regulation, codes and guidance go to: www.workcover.vic.gov.au/cfp. Got to Publications and then select your Topic of interest (e.g. Hazardous Substances) to find the latest version or drafting information. The Topic "Draft Chapters" provides a consolidated listing of the draft parts of the draft regulation.

Note: On the 20th December 2006 the draft Hazardous Substance Part 3.6, Lead Part 3.8, Confined Spaces Part 3.9 and Major Hazard Facilities Part 4.2, along with all the other Parts will probably become available for public comment for 8 weeks.

Go to: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au and select "What's New". Or select "About Worksafe" and go to "Public Comment".

- **Detox Your Home: TEC Brochure**

Total Environment Centre Safer Solutions program has released its updated brochure, Detox Your Home: Easy Steps you can take for Safer and Healthier Home with ideas on how to reduce the chemical load of your home.

"Many modern day illnesses such as asthma, allergies and hyperactivity in children are now being linked to chemicals that we are exposed to daily within our homes. It is now recognized that babies and young children are at the greatest risk from this chemical exposure."

Information: Jenny Kent – Project Manager ph: 02-9261-3437.

The Safer Solutions project has been funded as part of the $3.5 million grant from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust.

From: www.tec.org.au/dev/safersolutions/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=5

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

- **Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals Reform**

Comment closed on the 30th Nov 2006. I made comment about the **Low Hazardous Criteria for any effects.**

The NICNAS proposal uses possible cut-offs such as Acute Oral Toxicity LD50 (rat) 1100 mg/kg or 1500 mg/kg and Acute Aquatic Toxicity LC50 55 mg/L.

These sort of end points, mid way through an effect category, create several problems:

1/ In future, tests will be done to minimise animals used so that an effect range of e.g. 300-2000 mg/kg will be all we will have. Data will not be generated to be able to use cut-off values half way through a range.

On this basis it will only be those materials that are below the lowest categories of the EU Criteria that can be considered as Low Hazardous.

In future you will have the option of using the lower GHS categories (where they exist to define a lower hazard than the EU criteria).

2/ When training importing / trading staff to understand what can be considered as "not an unreasonable risk" it has been straightforward to say that if the ingredient classifies to the EU criteria, they would need to do extra work to show it was "not an unreasonable risk". They generally don't follow through with such ingredients.

Thus staff know that if it is "not hazardous to any of the EU criteria" then they can easily consider bringing in such chemicals in the <100kg exemption category.

This approach stops a lot time wasted trying to make such decisions and clearly protects against chemicals with an unreasonable risk.

Once we have the GHS in place in the future there will be an option to have a <100kg category for the lowest GHS effect categories that are introduced below the current EU categories. Under GHS we will need to include this level in SDSs even if we don't actually regulate them as required in Australia (because they may be required elsewhere such as in NZ).

I also suggested that there will also be the possibility in the future, for chemicals that **don't classify to any of the lowest GHS criteria** (where a **full** set of GHS data is available) to introduce another category of exemption of say up to 1000kg for these.

To access the NICNAS discussion papers go to: www.nicnas.gov.au/About_NICNAS/Reforms/LRCC.asp

- **Perfluorinated Carbon Chain Notification Data Requirements**

Perfluorinated substances are known to be persistent, some of them bioaccumulate, particularly those with long carbon chains and some have been reported to cause toxic effects in laboratory animals.

NICNAS is adopting a default position for assessing potential health and environmental hazards of new chemicals containing a Perfluorinated Carbon Chain.

The NICNAS position paper outlines the default position and the data that would be required where a notifier believes that the default position should not apply for a specific chemical.

The NICNAS Position Paper is available at: www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/New_Chemicals/Information_Requirements/Perfluorinated_PDF.pdf.

Contact Hana.Hamdan@nicnas.gov.au, ph: 02-8577-8855, or Louise.Stedman@nicnas.gov.au, ph: 02–8577-8830.

From Chemical Gazette, 7 Nov 2006, www.nicnas.gov.au

Scheduled Poisons

- **Draft Scheduling / Rescheduling Template**

22 Nov 2006 - This template is to be used in conjunction with the NDPSC Guidelines available at: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/ndpscg.htm.

This template is designed to facilitate the move to an electronic submission process for applications regarding scheduling or rescheduling of a substance made **directly** to NDPSC (not for those coming to NDPSC via a regulatory agency). The template is **not** intended to be used for general communications with the NDPSC.

Questions and comments regarding the template are to be directed to the NDPSC Secretariat.

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

- **NDPSC Record of Reasons 10-12 Oct 2006**

National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee Record of reasons from their 48th meeting on the 10-12 October 2006 issues discussed that caught my attention are:

1/ Confirmed 2 new entries into Schedule 6 based upon their highly irritating and corrosive effects on skin, eyes & mucosa:
N-OLEYL-1,3-DIAMINOPROPANE
N-COCO-1,3-DIAMINOPROPANE

2/ Paraquat - The Committee concluded that there was still insufficient evidence to support including Paraquat in Schedule 6 of the SUSDP, and that the current scheduling of Paraquat remained appropriate. Paraquat products are considered too hazardous for home garden use and therefore it would be inappropriate for Paraquat to be included in Schedule 6 of the SUSDP.

3/ 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2,4-D) - The Committee agreed to foreshadow that, based on its acute toxicity, 2,4-D be included in Schedule 6 of the SUSDP with a cut-off to Schedule 5 for 2,4-D in preparations containing 20 per cent or less of 2,4-D.

4/ Considered scheduling of Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) and Ethyl Methacrylate (EMA) for cosmetic use.

MMA has been used in cosmetic nail products, but following concerns about sensitivity and fingernail damage arising from the strength of the MMA nail coating, several countries have imposed restrictions and/or bans to the use of MMA in nail products.

Additionally, as a result of international limits to the use of MMA in cosmetic nail preparations, EMA has been used as a substitute for MMA and is promoted as a safer alternative. These EMA nail products are sold as two part formulations with EMA being cross linked with Methacrylates to form the finished nail.

FORESHADOWED DECISION (for consideration at the February 2007 Meeting): Schedule 6 – New entry
METHYL METHACRYLATE (excluding its derivatives).

Appendix C (prohibition of sale, supply and use) – New entry: METHYL METHACRYLATE for cosmetic use.

Schedule 5 – New entry: ETHYL METHACRYLATE (excluding its derivatives) for cosmetic use.
Appendix B (not require control by scheduling) – Amendment: ETHYL METHACRYLATE – Delete entry.

5/ Schedule 6 – New Entry: BASIC ORANGE 31 (2-[(4-aminophenyl)azo]-1,3-dimethyl-1H-Imidazolium chloride) except in hair dye preparations containing 1 per cent or less of Basic Orange 31 when the immediate container and primary pack are labelled with the following statements: …..

Reason: it is a severe irritant to the eye and a potential skin sensitiser.

From: www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/record/rr200610.htm

Food Chemical Issues

- **Copper Citrate not on a Bentonite Base - as a Processing Aid for Wine**

Application 562 (4 Oct 2006) from the Winemakers' Federation of Australia, to allow the use of Cupric Citrate (Copper Citrate) other than on a Bentonite base. The use of Cupric Citrate on a Bentonite base is currently permitted.

The purpose of Copper Citrate is to remove Sulfides, particularly Hydrogen Sulfide from wine, after which the Copper Citrate is filtered out of the wine. There would be low levels of residual Copper in the wine, and Copper Citrate would not perform a technological function in the final product. The Applicant has requested no specific maximum permissions for use of Copper Citrate; rather, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) would ensure appropriate use of the processing aid.

There is currently no permission in the Food Standards Code for allowing Copper Citrate other than on a Bentonite base, to be added to wine during the wine production process.

FSANZ are considering whether there any safety issues, food technology issues, or potential impacts with the use of Copper Citrate as a processing aid when it is not on a Bentonite base? Comment closed on the 15th Nov 2006.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/_srcfiles/IAR_A562_Copper_citrate_as_a_PA.pdf

- **Review of Processing Aids (Enzymes) – P276**

The Food Standards Australia New Zealand Proposal P276 focusses on the review of enzymes separately from other processing aids, since FSANZ considers the safety assessment, risk management and technical issues are different for enzymes compared to other processing aids.

Seven enzyme-processing aids have been evaluated for their safety. These enzymes had been recently reviewed by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). All substances were determined to have low oral toxicity and were considered to raise no safety concerns.

A list of these enzymes appears below.

1/ Alpha-acetolactate decarboxylase from *Bacillus brevis* expressed in *Bacillus subtilis;* 2/ *Alpha*-amylase from *Bacillus licheniformis;* 3/ Hexose oxidase from *Chondrus crispus* expressed in *Hansenula polymorpha;* 4/ Invertase from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae;* 5/ Maltogenic amylase from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* expressed in *Bacillus*

subtilis; 6/ Xylanase from B*acillus subtilis;* 7/ Mixed xylanase, *beta*-glucanase enzyme preparation, produced by a strain of *Humicola insolens*.

FSANZ has sought and still seeks further comments on:

- new scientific evidence regarding the safety of particular enzymes;
- recent international regulatory changes which may impact on specific enzyme processing aids;
- enzymes which are no longer used or likely to be used in the future;
- names of approved enzymes to better reflect current usage and international standards;
- errors and anomalies within the Standard; and
- specific amendments proposed in this report, in particular: updated enzymes (and their microbial source) being used in place of Bromelain EC 3.4.22.4, Carboxyl Proteinase EC 3.4.23.6, Metalloproteinase EC 3.4.24.4, and Serine Proteinase EC 3.4.21.14.

The draft variations to FSANZ Standard 1.3.3 – Enzyme Processing Aids of the Code are included in Attachment 1 and are recommended by FSANZ. The Safety Assessments are in Attachment 2 and none of the enzymes were advised to have any toxicological concern.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/_srcfiles/DAR_P276_Processing_Aids_Review.pdf

- **Regul'n of Residues of Ag & Vet Chemicals in Food - Policy Guideline to be Considered by FSANZ**

The Australian Government Minister for Health and Ageing has agreed to a Policy Guideline on Regulation of Low Level Residues from Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals in Food. This Policy Guideline will be forwarded to FSANZ for considering alternative approaches to the current zero tolerance approach to the regulation of residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in food.

Currently, where there is no Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) set in the Food Standards Code for residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, a zero tolerance approach is enforced. Therefore, foods containing low levels of residues of agricultural and veterinary chemicals with no MRL **become illegal for sale**, even if they pose no significant risk to public health. Mandatory enforcement action results in substantial imposts on industry and enforcement agencies that are not commensurate with the risks posed.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/mediareleases/mediareleases2006/jointcommuniquefoodm3392.cfm

- **From Food Standard News 59 - December 2006**

- In the CEO's Message

Items on the horizon for evaluation by Food Standards include: 1/ packaging (migration of chemicals from packing to the food), 2/ nanotechnology and its implications for the food industry, 3/ our present zero-tolerance policy for agricultural and veterinary residues in food unless specific limits are approved, and 4/ the addition of substances to food other than vitamins and minerals.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/foodstandardsnews/foodstandardsnews59d3428.cfm

- **Plant Sterols Food Standard – Amendment No. 89 (FSC 31), 9th Nov 2006**

Plant Sterols (or Phytosterols) are cholesterol-like substances that are naturally present at low levels in many varieties of fruits, vegetables, nuts and cereals. They can be extracted either from edible vegetable oils such as soybean or sunflower oil, or are obtained from a by-product of the pulping process used for coniferous trees.

Because plant sterols are chemically similar to cholesterol in animals, they have the ability to reduce absorption of dietary cholesterol, when eaten in sufficient quantities.

Plant sterols have previously only been allowed in margarines. FSANZ has decided, after an extensive safety assessment, to allow plant sterols to be added to low fat milks, low fat yoghurts and breakfast cereals, bringing Australia and New Zealand into line with current practice in Europe and North America.

Plant sterol products will have to carry advisory statements that they should be eaten as part of a healthy diet and that they are not suitable for children under five years, or for pregnant or lactating women. Statements will also tell consumers that eating more than the recommended dose of three grams of plant sterols a day will not provide additional benefits.

Because plant sterols lower cholesterol absorption, they can also lower the absorption of some fat-soluble vitamins. In particular, levels of beta-carotene are lowered when plant sterol enriched foods are consumed.

FSANZ is working with the National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Dietitians Association of Australia to provide information about plant sterol foods to doctors, health professionals and consumers.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/foodstandardsnews/foodstandardsnews59d3428.cfm and from the FSANZ fact sheet on Plant Sterols at: www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/factsheets/factsheets2006/plantsterols9novembe3399.cfm

- **Potential Intolerance Reactions to Food Additives**

The FSANZ "are aware of concerns raised by some consumers about the potential intolerance of people to some food additives. While the scientific literature indicates that such reactions affect a small number of individuals, the public perception is that intolerance to food additives is common. The symptoms usually linked with intolerance reactions include skin and respiratory manifestations, as well as neuro-psychiatric conditions. There is some suggestion that intolerance to food additives may cause behavioural and learning difficulties, particularly among children."

The FSANZ "have commissioned a review of the published scientific literature on food intolerance focusing on food additives. The review, by experts from the Allergy Unit at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, was completed during the year and a report considered by the FSANZ Board. FSANZ intends circulating the report to national and international experts on food intolerance before releasing it for public comment." The FSANZ want to confirm that the report is balanced and comprehensive. They will then work with their our regulatory partners to develop an agreed position on food intolerance.

From "Emerging Issues" in the Food Standards Annual Report 2005-2006 at: www.foodstandards.gov.au/newsroom/publications/annualreport/fsanzannualreport20052006/index.cfm

Other *"Emerging Issues"* related to chemicals were:

Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) flame-retardants in manufactured goods and their presence in human milk, food and blood serum.

The Potential Health Effects of Trans Fatty Acids in the food supply, particularly their alleged negative effect on blood cholesterol levels.

Mercury in Fish – the future approach to regulation may change to a greater reliance on public education campaigns to inform consumers, especially vulnerable groups, on the risks and benefits of fish consumption.

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

- **Electronic Submission of Marketed Product Labels**

Electronic submission of Marketed Product Labels (MPLs) has proven successful with approx. 60-70% of all submitted MPLs for final approval have been provided in an electronic PDF format.

From 1 January 2007 the APVMA will no longer accept labels in printed form, unless there are justifiable circumstances.

The revised guidelines as a 9 page pdf file are available at: www.apvma.gov.au/registration/ELabelRequirements.pdf.

Submit e-labels by email **only** to: E-labels@apvma.gov.au. The email shall be <3 Mb total (*Editor's Comment:* which means the pdf attachment should preferably be <2 Mb as the email has a larger size to transmit), and named to the following protocol:

[Product No]_[ATS No]_[Packsize]_[Label Component]_[Label Status]_[Version].pdf

An initial quality check on the label must pass:
1/ to be in the pdf format; 2/ the label is clear and readable (size, font, colours); 3/ the label dimensions are clearly indicated; 4/ the label does not contain any non-label matters; 5/ whether it is clear what comprises the actual components of the complete label.

The APVMA is also currently investigating how the use of e-labels can provide further efficiency gains through:

- submission of draft e-labels (as well as MPLs);
- electronically annotating required changes and other comments directly onto e-labels;
- electronically comparing varied labels against approved versions; and
- sending label comments and/or approved labels to applicants via email along with an electronic version of the notice of registration/approval.

For enquiries please contact: Peter Prammer, Manager, Application Management & Enquiries, APVMA, ph: 02-6210-4703; email: peter.prammer@apvma.gov.au.

From the APVMA website and the Updated Requirements.

- **Pool Sanitiser Efficacy Guideline – Draft Revision**

The APVMA is seeking public comment on a draft revised guideline for demonstrating the efficacy of sanitisers for swimming and spa pools. Originally issued 28 July 2004.

Note: The APVMA has previously warned owners of pools and spas to make sure, for health reasons, that when using water sanitising devices based on silver or silver and copper, they should also use registered pool chemicals containing chlorine or bromine.

Changes are highlighted in yellow in the draft. Send comment by 2 Mar 2007 to: David.Loschke@apvma.gov.au.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/qa/pool_spa.shtml

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

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/ **Prosulfocarb**

Prosulfocarb is used as a selective herbicide in agricultural chemical products.

Chemical Name: *S*-Benzyl Dipropylthiocarbamate or *S*-(Phenylmethyl) Dipropylcarbamothioate
CAS Number: 52888-80-9; Formula: C14-H21-N-O-S; MW: 251.4; Chemical Family: Thiocarbamate; Mode of Action: Inhibition of lipid synthesis in the meristematic region. Schedule Poison: SUSDP S6 POISON.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0611p16.pdf

2/ **Amicarbazone**

Amicarbizone is used as a selective soil acting herbicide in agricultural chemical product for residual weed control in ratoon cane by application of the herbicide to the green trash blanket soon after harvest. The biological activity of this herbicide involves the inhibition of photosynthesis at photosystem II. The mode of action of Amicarbazone involves absorption through the roots of weeds and transportation to the growing tips and leaves where inhibition of photosynthesis causes yellowing and death.

Chemical Name: 4-Amino-*N*-*tert*-Butyl-4,5-Dihydro-3-Isopropyl-5-Oxo-1*H*-1,2,4-Triazole-1-Carboxamide; or 4-Amino-*N*-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)-4,5-Dihydro-3-(1-Methylethyl)-5-Oxo-1*H*-1,2,4-Triazole-1-Carboxamide.
CAS No: 129909-90-6; Formula: C_{10}-H_{19}-N_5-O_2; MW: 241.3; Chemical Family: Triazolone; Mode of Action: Inhibition of photosynthesis at photosystem II. Schedule Poison: SUSDP S6 POISON.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0612p10.pdf

3/ **Iodomethane**

Iodomethane is to be used as a soil fumigant in horticulture.

Chemical Name: Methyl Iodide; CAS No: 74-88-4; Formula: CH_3I; MW: 141.9. Schedule Poison: SUSDP S7 DANGEROUS POISON.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0612p12.pdf

4/ **Sulfuryl Fluoride**

Sulfuryl Fluoride is an insecticide and has a complex mode of action. The toxic effect is primarily through the action of Fluoride anion. The Fluoride anion disrupts the glycolysis and fatty acid cycles, depriving the insect of necessary cellular energy.

Chemical Name: Sulfuryl Fluoride; CAS No: 2699-79-8; Formula: SO_2F_2; MW: 102.1. Schedule Poison: SUSDP S6 POISON.

From: www.apvma.gov.au/gazette/gazette0612p14.pdf

Dangerous Goods

- **Draft Australian Dangerous Goods Code ADG7 Update**

Some parts of UN15, in particular the additional UN No.s, are expected to be added to the draft ADG7 by the National Transport Commission.

Discussions have occurred on labelling of inner containers even though the ADG7 will allow an increased scope to accept ADG, EU or GHS pictograms along with the applicable information on inner containers.

It is also hoped that an arrangement can be come to which will allow the ADG Code 7th Edition to be accepted as meeting the legislated ADG Code 6th Edition requirements from a common start date of 1st July 2007.

From my various Authority and Industry contacts. For other information: www.ntc.gov.au, select "Dangerous Goods".

- **NSW Draft Major Hazard Facilities Regulation**

NSW WorkCover proposal to implement the main provisions of the National Standard for the Control of Major Hazard Facilities by an amendment to the NSW Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 2001.

They will make provisions for the safe operation and security of major hazard facilities and will require operators to minimise the risk of major incidents and to reduce the consequences to health and safety and damage to property.

Submissions by 5pm, Friday 15 Dec 2006 to: Regulatory Reform and Economic Unit; WorkCover NSW, Fax 02 9287 5236; Email: mhf.publiccomment@workcover.nsw.gov.au

Further information:

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulation 2006 Public'n No. 4995 (595 Kb pdf)

Guide to Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulation 2006
Public'n No. 4989 (116 Kb pdf)

General Conditions Major Hazard Facilities
Public'n No. 4991 (75 Kb pdf)

Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulation 2006 - Funding Regulatory Activities.
Public'n No. 4990 (121 Kb pdf)

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

- **Major Hazard Facilities Part 4.2 - Draft Vic Reg**

On the 20th December 2006 the draft **Major Hazard Facilities Part 4.2**, along with all the other Parts will probably become available for public comment for 8 weeks.

For work in progress details of the draft consolidated regulation, codes and guidance go to: www.workcover.vic.gov.au/cfp. Got to Publications and then select your Topic of interest (e.g. Hazardous Substances) to find the latest version or drafting information. The Topic "Draft Chapters" provides a consolidated listing of the draft parts of the draft regulation.

After 20th Dec 2006 go to: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au & select "What's New", or select "About Worksafe" & "Public Comment".

- **Intending Operators of Major Hazard Facilities Guidance Note GN27, 24 Nov 2006.**

This Guidance Note provides information relevant to persons who intend to operate MHFs (intending operators) on meeting the requirements of the MHF Regulations in circumstances where the proposed major hazard facility is:

- an entirely new facility (new MHF); or
- modification or expansion of an existing facility which makes it an MHF (expanding MHF).

Go to: www.workcover.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/WorkSafe/Home/Safety+and+Prevention/Your+Industry/Major+Hazards/Guidance+Notes and Select GN27

From: www.workcover.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/resources/file/eb5b0242742e6f5/GN27.pdf

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

- **Uranium Mining, Processing & Nuclear Energy – Opportunities for Australia? Draft Report**

The draft report is intended to contribute to a wide ranging public debate on energy technologies and the potential role of nuclear energy. The report addresses the economic, environmental, health, safety and proliferation issues associated with uranium mining, processing and nuclear energy.

On page 25 "The IEA estimates that at the current rate of demand, known conventional supplies are sufficient to fuel nuclear power for 85 years.

Exploration activity is expected to identify new reserves. In the long term, new fuel cycles using fast breeder reactors could enable the use of the very abundant U-238, increasing the energy value of uranium resources by several orders of magnitude. This would also allow the exploitation of alternatives such as thorium, which can be used to breed fuel."

p25 "Global uranium reserves at current prices and generating technologies can sustain current power production for 50–100 years. Technology improvements such as breeder reactors would extend this period significantly."

P24 "U-238 can produce fissile plutonium (Pu-239), which can be extracted for use as fuel in a nuclear reactor with advanced cycles using reprocessing."

P24 "Natural thorium (100 per cent non-fissile Th-232) can be used to breed the fissile isotope U-233, opening up thorium as a potential resource." "The use of thorium has been a central part of India's nuclear energy strategy."

From: www.pmc.gov.au/umpner/reports.cfm and the draft.

Editor's comment: Is 85-100 years really enough? We can extend this by breeder reactors, but with significant implications. Thorium is discussed in a minor way however Thorium is far more plentiful and does not have the long term radioactivity problems of uranium.

- **Possible Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme**

Discussion Paper: Possible Design for a National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme - August 2006

The 263 page Discussion Paper sets out a potential scheme design for comment, including considerations of

how impacts on regional areas and trade-exposed, energy-intensive industries can potentially be minimised. Stakeholder views on the effectiveness of the proposed measures are sought.

This discussion paper was prepared by the National Emissions Trading Taskforce which was established by Australian State and Territory Governments to develop a multi-jurisdictional emissions trading scheme for consideration by State and Territory Governments.

Information Sheets and Q&As for the Discussion Paper August 2006. This set of information sheets provides brief descriptions of the key aspects of the Discussion Paper and the proposed design of a national emissions trading scheme. The Q&As are intended to answer common questions with respect to emissions trading, the proposed design and the Taskforce's objectives.

Go to: www.emissionstrading.net.au/key_documents/information_sheets_and_q_and_as

Comment is required by the 22nd December 2006 to National Emissions Trading Taskforce E-mail: submissions@emissionstrading.net.au.

From: www.emissionstrading.net.au/key_documents/discussion_paper

- **Assessment Of Site Contamination NEPM Review**

Environment Ministers have supported the preparation of a NEPM variation proposal based on the recommendations contained in the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure Review Report. The 1999 NEPM had provided many benefits but since then significant advances had been made in technology and knowledge in relation to soil and water contamination. The NEPM varied by incorporating the latest methodologies for assessing contaminated sites and updating guidance on site assessment methods in line with technological changes in Australia and overseas. The 79 Page September 2006 Report is available at: www.ephc.gov.au/nepms/cs/cs_review_2005.html#cs_review_rpt

From: www.ephc.gov.au/news.html#communique_Nov06

Review of Diesel Vehicle Emission NEPM

The review of the Diesel NEPM discussion paper Oct 2006 has been released by NEPC Committee to seek stakeholder input on the effectiveness of the NEPM, identify issues and where possible make recommendations for NEPC to consider.

The scope of the NEPM is to provide guidelines for developing programs to minimise the deterioration in exhaust emissions performance, or improve exhaust emissions performance, from diesel vehicles while they are in service.

The Goal of the NEPM is to reduce exhaust emissions from diesel vehicles, by facilitating compliance with in-service emissions standards for diesel vehicles.

The Desired Environmental Outcome of this NEPM is to reduce pollution from in-service diesel vehicles.

It is important to note that in developing this discussion paper the project team considered at some length alternative fuels and vehicle conversions that enable use of alternative fuels, however they are not referenced within this discussion paper and the reasons are given in the discussion paper under 2.6.

Comments close Friday 15 December 2006. Further information and documents are available.

Send submissions to: Mr Haemish Middleton, Project Officer, NEPC Service Corporation, ph: 08 8419 1209, email: hmiddleton@ephc.gov.au.

From: www.ephc.gov.au/nepms/diesel/diesel_intro.html and the Discussion Paper.

- **Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW, Nov 2006**

This publication offers guidance for industry, consent authorities, environmental regulators and odour specialists on assessing and managing activities that emit odour. The framework is not a regulatory tool and does not introduce any new environmental requirements.

It outlines:
- the legislation that applies to odour assessment and management in NSW
- a fair and transparent process for assessing odour impacts from new developments
- a system to help protect the environment and community from odour impacts while promoting fair and equitable outcomes for odour-emitting activities
- a technical reference document for proponents/developers, planners and regulators.

From: www.dec.nsw.gov.au/air/odour.htm and from the Technical Framework document 62 pages: *www.dec.nsw.gov.au/resources/20060440framework.pdf*

- **Household Greywater Reuse – Updated Sept 06**

Greywater can be a good water resource during times of drought and water restrictions, but its reuse can carry health and environmental risks.

The Vic EPA supports water conservation methods and believes that greywater can be reused effectively and safely in domestic situations by following a few simple tips (*see on the website below*).

If you wish to put in a permanent system for greywater reuse, further information can be obtained from the updated EPA Publication 812.2 - *Domestic Wastewater Management Series, Reuse Options for Household Wastewater* (Sept 2006,15 page 176 Kb pdf file).

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/reuse/reuse.asp

Standards & Codes

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

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

AS/NZS ISO 13994:2006 : Clothing for Protection Against Chemicals - Determination of the Resistance of Protective Clothing Materials to Penetration by Liquids under Pressure.
ISBN: 0-7337-7819-4; **Published:** 25 Oct 2006; **Pages:** 16; **Cost:** $62.57 pdf, $69.52 hardcopy.

AS ISO 14064.1-2006: Greenhouse Gases - Specification with Guidance at the Organization Level for Quantification and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Removals.
ISBN: 0-7337-7870-4; **Published:** 27 Nov 2006; **Pages:** 20; **Cost:** $88.70 pdf, $98.56 hardcopy.

AS ISO 14064.2-2006: Greenhouse Gases - Specification with Guidance at the Project Level for Quantification and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions and Removal Enhancements (ISO 14062-2:2006, MOD).
ISBN: 0-7337-7871-2; **Published:** 27 Nov 2006; **Pages:** 29; **Cost:** $106.52 pdf, $118.36 hardcopy.

AS ISO 14064.3-2006: Greenhouse Gases - Specification with Guidance for the Validation and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions.
ISBN: 0-7337-7871-0; **Published:** 27 Nov 2006; **Pages:** 34; **Cost:** $106.52 pdf, $118.36 hardcopy.

AS 4736-2006: Biodegradable Plastics - Biodegradable Plastics Suitable for Composting & other Microbial Treatment
ISBN: 0-7337-7844-5; **Published:** 8 Nov 2006; **Pages:** 14; **Cost:** $55.04 pdf, $61.16 hardcopy.

- **Drafts – www.saiglobal.com/shop**

DR 06716 CP: Explosive Atmospheres - Part 26: Equipment with Equipment Protection Level (EPL) Ga. Specifies requirements for electrical apparatus of Group II intended for use in Zone 0 hazardous areas, in which explosive gas atmospheres caused by mixtures of air and gases, vapours or mists under normal atmospheric conditions are present continuously, for long periods or frequently. **Published:** 23 Nov 2006; **Pages:** 16; **Cost:** $43.96 pdf, $48.84 hardcopy; **Comment Closes:** 9th Jan 2007

DR 06726 CP: The Design and Construction, Filling, Inspection, and Testing of Gas Cylinders - Part 1: Refillable Gas Cylinders for Gases other than Acetylene. **Published:** 11 Dec 2006, **Pages:** 52, **Cost:** Free pdf, $48.84 hardcopy; **Comment Closes:** 14th Feb 2007

- **NZ Code: Preparation of Safety Data Sheets**

The New Zealand Chemical Industry Council Approved Code of Practice "Preparation of Safety Data Sheets" (AcoP SDS) HSNOCOP 8-1 is finally available.

The NZCIC SDS is in the 16 part internationally agreed format and incorporates all the GHS requirements. It provides guidance on the content required for both global and national chemical management requirements.

Available on CD for NZ $85+GST or as a hardcopy in a binder for NZ$85+GST.

A form can be found on www.nzcic.org.nz under what's hot and faxed to +64-4-472-7100; or email to: joanna@nzcic.org.nz with your requirements, and details, then phone through credit card details on ph: +64-4-499- 4311.

Note: Code of Practice HSNOCOP 2-1, Sept 2004, Signage for Premises Storing Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods can also be purchased from NZCIC at the same time. For more details on this Code see: http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-IS-24-1.pdf.

- **NZ Code: Labelling Guide for Ag&Vet Chemicals**

Code HSNOCOP 9-1 was developed by the New Zealand Association for Animal Health and Crop Protection (AGCARM) and is available as a free 165 page pdf file (2.7Mb) from the AGCARM website: www.agcarm.co.nz.

The purpose of the Code of Practice is to provide practical advice on the preparation of labels for animal health and crop protection products that meet the requirements of both the NZ Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 ("HSNO" Act) and the NZ Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 ("ACVM" Act), and associated legislation.

The Code includes the following:

- An introduction and description of the legislative and regulatory environment governing the preparation of product labels
- A description of labelling requirements
- Advice on identification requirements for labels
- Advice on disposal requirements for labels
- Advice on emergency management requirements for labels
- Label format and presentation of information

Comments on how it may be improved are welcome. Email them to jack@agcarm.co.nz.

From: www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-IS-37-1.pdf

Seminars, Conferences

- **Safety In Action 2007, 20-22nd March 2007**

For details: http://www.sia.org.au

- **Spillcon 2007, Perth WA, 26-30th 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/

- **Chemcon 2007, Singapore, 23-27th 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.

- **Hazmat 2007, Sydney, 10-11th May 2007**

Day 1 of the Conference focusses on GHS for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and how Australia expects to implement it. In the afternoon NICNAS changes, Community issues, Sustainable choices and Environment Protection measures are covered.

Day 2 opens with the UK Buncefield Disaster, followed by NSW Major Hazard Facilities & Dangerous Goods Storage and Handling, transport of DGs by sea and an ADG7 road. update. The afternoon covers safe trading of chemicals, contaminated site concerns and Orica Botany cleanup, finishing with emergency response to chemical incidents.

To be held at the Dockside Conference Centre, Sydney CBD. A Hazmat 2007 Conference exhibitor's or sponsor brochure is available. Please contact Natalie Lowerson, Events Manager, FPAA, ph: 03-9890- 1544 "Natalie Lowerson" nlowerson@fpaa.com.au

Details are on the FPAA website: www.fpaa.com.au/events/

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

I can come and work in your office, which provides better access to data with improved security, plus good technical contact with relevant personnel. This allows the work to be done more quickly and comprehensively. I also work from my home office, in Ashburton, Victoria, where I maintain an extensive reference library, developed over 15+ years whilst preparing these Notes.

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

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