

# Hazmat & Environment Notes - March 2001

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- . Science 2001 Exhibition, 8-10 May, Melbourne
- . Vic D.Goods Regs & Haz.Subs. Regs. 23rd May, Melb.
- . HazMat 2001 Conference, 26-27th June, Sydney
- . Lab Design & Technology, 30-31st May, Sydney
- . Inter'l Congress of Toxicology, 8-13th July, Brisbane
- . Congress of Chem Engineering, 23-27 Sept, Melb.
- . Carriage of Dang. Goods by Sea Course, Sydney
- . Haz. Substances & Dang. Goods in the Workplace, Vic

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Prepared by Jeff Simpson

Hazardous Materials Consultant

Editor & Publisher

I work as a Hazardous Materials Consultant and have edited and published this newsletter since 1985.

Each year our community expects more controls to be in place to ensure our safety and our children's future. There is a significant move to have a common world system of controls. As a result there is a moving target of regulatory requirements to be met.

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. Contact details are provided so that you may then obtain the detailed information. I also encourage you to make input into the system of regulations and standards.

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## Hazardous Substances

. **Contact Allergy to Low Molecular Weight Epoxy Novolac Resins:** These resins, also known as DGEBF or Diglycidyl Ether of Bisphenol F, have been found to also have contact allergies. They are used in the aircraft industry. Bisphenol-A epoxy resin monomer is already known to be able to cause a contact allergy, but it is also possible Bisphenol-F may separately sensitise individuals. Further studies are being done to clarify the differing sensitising potential of three isomers of Bisphenol-F. *For more information contact Malmö University, Sweden, Institute of Dermatology, Magnus Bruze or Ann Pontén ph: 0011-46-40-336-516, fax: 0011-46-40-336-213.*

*Medichem Newsletter, Nov 2000, website: [www.medichem.org.au](http://www.medichem.org.au)*

. **Software to Carry Out the UK COSHH Essentials Risk Assessment:** "Core COSHH" is a free sample of West Technical Consultants, Scotland, UK work. This program has been put together to make the UK HSE's "COSHH Essentials" system even easier. Just answer 5 or 6 questions related to the hazardous substance under question. The software will do the rest of work for you. It will direct you to the appropriate "COSHH Essentials" Control Sheet, saving you the trouble of working through the HSE's paper-based system. Once you have been directed to the Control Sheet, you can look it up in your "COSHH Essentials" pack. The file is 5.8 megabytes. For details contact West Technical Consultants Ltd, Scotland UK, website: [www.westtechnical.com](http://www.westtechnical.com), ph: +44-141-222-2175; fax: +44-141-222-2400; email: [info@westtechnical.com](mailto:info@westtechnical.com).

*Information from West Technical Website: [www.westtechnical.com](http://www.westtechnical.com).*

. **UK HSE Chemical Hazard Alert Notices (CHANS):** on bromochloromethane; chlorobenzene; chloroethane, manganese and its inorganic compounds; and phenol. The UK Health & Safety Executive exposure standards committee can no longer identify a level which is both safe and practicably achievable for these chemicals. In the UK users have a duty to reduce exposure to as low as is reasonably practicable. *Copies can be downloaded from their website: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/chindex.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/chindex.htm)*

. **MSDS websites that search across manufacturers data:** are

1/ Vermont SIRI which also has toxicology data searching - [www.hazard.com/msds2/index.html](http://www.hazard.com/msds2/index.html).

2/ MSDSONline at <http://www.msdsonline.com>.

Another useful website with links to specific manufacturer's MSDS websites is MSDS-SEARCH at <http://msdssearch.com> and click on manufacturer databases.

. **UK Exposure Standards Update 2001, EH40/01:** It includes new maximum exposure limits (MELs) and revised occupation exposure standards (OESs) for the United Kingdom. Published March 2000, ISBN 0-7176-1730-0. *Cost from the UK HSE £9.50 plus postage + surcharge. See "Publications" in this newsletter for where to obtain it.*

## NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

Website: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au)

. **Chemical Gazette and Handbook for Notifiers are now Online:** As of Feb 2001 the Australian Government Chemical Gazette is no longer distributed as a gazetted by mail. From now on it may be obtained free, after the 1st Tuesday of each month, as a pdf file from the NICNAS website: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au). You can be reminded by email each month that the online chemical gazette is available by contacting NICNAS by fax: 02-9577-9465; by post: Gazette, PO Box 58, Sydney NSW 2001. Persons without internet access should ring NICNAS ph: 02-9577-9345 to arrange to receive a paper copy.

Similarly the NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers is now also available from the website free of charge, requests for email alerts for updates to updates of the handbook should be sent to [<kettled@nicnas.gov.au>](mailto:kettled@nicnas.gov.au).

*From "Official NICNAS Newsletter" ([www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au))*

. **Report Recommends Change to the NICNAS Existing Chemicals Program Fee Structure:** with a 3 tiered structure and a 3 year renewal cycle. The 3 tier structure is intended to improve the equity in sharing the fee burden between large and small businesses, with limited group provisions to avoid related companies having to register separately. Various tiering proposals are in report. The current practice of excluding large packaging costs from cosmetics has discontinued. NICNAS hopes to have the changes in place in time for the next renewal cycle. One of the key issues is to ensure that the small companies continue to take part in the process so that they know their responsibilities. *To obtain a copy go to the NICNAS website: [www.nicnas.gov.au/news/](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/news/) and go to "Company Registration Evaluation" where there are 3 pdf files to download.*

*From "Official NICNAS Newsletter" ([www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au))*

. **NICNAS Chemical Audits:** are being carried out in several areas and the findings at an aggregate level, will be reported in the Chemical Gazette.

**1/ Audits for NICNAS Permit Holders:** will commence in May 2001 for "Low Volume Chemical" and "Commercial Evaluation Categories". The areas of interest NICNAS will be examining include: customer agreements, volume controls, MSDS availability and general safety issues.

**2/ Company Audits for NICNAS Compliance:** will be selected from a range of areas: industries not well represented as chemical notifiers; or when NICNAS has data to support possible low levels of compliance.

*For more information contact NICNAS ph: 1800-638-528 email: [sfinasj@nohsc.gov.au](mailto:sfinasj@nohsc.gov.au).*

. **Guidelines for Establishing a Case for Confidential Listing of Chemicals on the AICS:** were published in the Nov 2000 Chemical Gazette and on their website at [www.nohsc.gov.au/nicnas](http://www.nohsc.gov.au/nicnas). It provides a comparison of public interest versus commercial interest. The onus is on the

applicant to prove that commercial interest over-rides public interest. The Director will act on the basis that non-confidential listing on AICS is the precautionary default. There are various situations where public interest is always required as these chemicals must be identified under several existing regulations.

*From the Chemical Gazette, Nov 2000, p98-105, Ausinfo.*

. **NICNAS Safety Information Sheets:** are now available for - chrysotile asbestos; glutaraldehyde; sodium ethyl xanthate, trichloroethylene, savinase, HCFC-123; 2-Butoxyethanol in cleaning compounds; 1,4-Dioxane; acrylonitrile; N-Vinyl-2-Pyrrolidone; and Glycolic Acid. These are intended to be used on workplace bulletin boards and contain essential, plain language information. *They can be downloaded from the NICNAS website: www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/#infosheets.*

. **p-Dichlorobenzene (p-DCB) Summary PEC Report 13:** is now available. p-DCB is used primarily as a toilet deodoriser and a room freshener.

There is no evidence that it bioaccumulates in any tissue, nor persists in air or surface water; but it does bioaccumulate in anaerobic sediments. Potential atmospheric concentrations are unlikely to reach levels likely to cause acute effects, including eye and respiratory irritation. It is also unlikely to have a risk of chronic adverse health effects for inhalation exposure. The hazard classification Risk & Safety Phrases should be amended to: No Risk Phrases and Safety Phrases S23 (Do not breathe vapour), and S51 (Use only in well ventilated areas).

*For a copy contact NICNAS website: www.nohsc.gov.au/chemicals/index.htm, or phone publications: freecall 1800638-528., ph: 02-9577-9579.*

*From the Chemical Gazette, Dec 2000, Ausinfo.*

. **AVSR Fuel Additives declared as PECS:** Anti-valve seat recession fuel additives are used to replace lead in petrol, and may delivered by pre-blending to unleaded petrol at the refinery or purchased and added by a vehicle owner. Little is known about the AVSR fuel additives' potential adverse impacts on the environment and human health. Assessment will be on the "active ingredients" that convey the protective quality including: Phosphorous-based; Sodium-based; Methylcyclopentadienyl Manganese Tricarbonyl (MMT)-based; and Potassium-based additives. For further details contact NICNAS Dr Wafa El-Adhami ph: 02-9577-9477, fax: 02-9577-9465, email: <eladham@nohsc.gov.au>.

*From the Chemical Gazette, Dec 2000, Ausinfo.*

. **NICNAS Priority Existing Chemicals (PECs) - Drafts:** are available for Hydrofluoric Acid, Tetrachloroethylene, Short Chained Chlorinated Paraffins, Trisphosphates, Polybrominated Fire Retardants, and Sodium, Ammonium & Potassium Persulfates. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the draft reports are available on the NICNAS internet website: www.nicnas.gov.au. For

information about the PEC process also see the NICNAS website. Copies may be requested from NICNAS, Paul Berwick freecall: 1800-638-528, ph: 02-9577-9437, email: berwickp@nohsc.gov.au.

*From the NICNAS Chemical Gazette, Feb 2001, now obtained from www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/#gazette*

. **NICNAS Priority Existing Chemicals (PECs) - Reports:** are available for **PEC No. 14** Ortho-Dichlorobenzene with the health Risk Phrases in the 1999 Designated List confirmed (R22-36/37/38); and **PEC No. 1** Triglycidylisocyanurate (Secondary Notification) with two added Risk Phrases "R42 - May cause sensitisation by inhalation" and "R48 - Danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure if swallowed". Reports are available from NICNAS freecall: 1800-638-528, ph: 9577-9579, summary reports are available in the Feb 2001 Gazette and on the NICNAS website: www.nicnas.gov.au.

*From the NICNAS Chemical Gazette, Feb 2001, now obtained from www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/#gazette*

. **11th SIDS (OECD) - Initial Assessment Meeting:** This was the second SIDS (Screening Information Data Set) meeting under the High Production Volume (HPV) Program, which has now refocussed on the hazards of the chemicals. Recommendations for 25 chemicals were agreed: propylene glycol (57-55-6); citric acid (77-92-9); methacrylic acid (79-41-1); methyl methacrylate (80-26-6); o-chlorotoluene (95-49-8); 1,2-epoxybutane (106-88-7); glyoxal (107-22-2); 1-methoxy-2-propanol (107-98-2; m-toluidine (108-44-1); 1-methoxy-2-propanol acetate (108-65-6); toluene (108-88-3); 6,6'-di-t-butyl-4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-methylenediphenol (119-47-1); 1,1'-oxydi 2-propanol (110-98-5); 1-octene (111-66-0); 1-dodecene (112-41-4); dimethyl terephthalate (120-61-6); 1-hexane (592-41-6); 3,4-dichloro-1-butene (760-23-6); 1-decene (872-05-9); 1-tetradecene (1120-36-1); methyl tert-butyl ether (1634-04-4); 3-methyl-1,5-pentadiol (4457-71-0); sulfuric acid (7664-93-9); dipropylene glycol (25265-71-8); pentabromodiphenyl ether (32534-81-9).

*For further information contact NICNAS Ms Deborah Willcocks freecall: 1800-638-528, ph: 02-9577-9377, email: <willcocksd@nohsc.gov.au>*

*Information on the OECD SIDS program website: http://www.oecd.org/ehs/hpv.htm.*

*From the NICNAS Chemical Gazette, Feb 2001, now obtained from www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/#gazette*

## Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

. **NRA Recognition of Overseas Manufacturers of Veterinary Chemical Products (GMP Technote Series - No. 99/01):** Registrants of veterinary chemical products manufactured overseas must provide evidence that the product is manufactured to a standard comparable with the Australian Veterinary code of Good Manufacturing Practice

(GMP). This will be either a/ a current GMP certificate recognised by the NRA; or b/ a satisfactory inspection report from an NRA approved GMP auditor, TGA auditor, or an auditor from an overseas agency recognised by the NRA. If neither a/ or b/ are possible the NRA will consider a complete Plant or Site Master File (but this is considered a poor substitute for an audit report).

GMP certificates currently recognised from overseas countries include: 1/ European (EMEA) Certificate of Pharmaceutical Manufacturer; 2/ Switzerland, Norway & Sweden - Certificate in accordance with the European Code of GMP, or the Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention requirements; or the WHO recommendations; 3/ USA FDA "Certificate of Export to Foreign Governments"; 4/ USDA Centre for Veterinary Biologics establishments licence; 5/ Canadian Ministry of Health manufacturers licence; NZ MAF manufacturers licence; 6/ South African Medicine Control Council Dept of Health manufacturers licence; 7/ Other countries party to the Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention.

*Further information, contact the NRA Bruce Johnson ph: 02-6272-4924, fax: 02-6271-6271-6442, email: bjohnson@nra.gov.au; Graham Savage ph: 02-6772-3418, fax: 02-6272-3133, email: gsavag@nra.gov.au, Kathy Winterton ph: 02-6272-3409, fax: 02-6271-6442, email: kwintert@nra.gov.au. EU contact details are in the Gazette.*

*From the Ag&Vet Chemicals Gazette, Jan 2000, Ausinfo.*

. **Endosulfan - Restricted Conditions:** for purchase and use by "Authorised Persons". The NRA "authorised person" is one who: - conducts a business of selling or supplying agricultural chemical products; or  
- is a State licensed spray contractor; or  
- possesses an approved certification as listed in the Nov 2000 NRA Ag&Vet Chemical Gazette.

Note: Persons may be further restricted in some States / Territories. *For more information contact the NRA Chemical Review Section, David Loschke ph: 02-6272-5396.*

. **New NRA Approved Label Process:** Before marketing, 15 specimens of the printed label, for each pack size must be submitted to the NRA (this includes pamphlets, all panels of a label, etc). An applicant now only has to submit a covering letter stating: 1/ Full name of the Product including the NRA Approval Number; 2/ Details of the relevant finished labels e.g. Packsize etc; and 3/ If the labels are photo reduced they must state the percentage of reduction.

The NRA will process labels within 20 days, however labels not conforming to requirements will be asked to resubmit the 'approved labels'. The submission of a final marketed label is NOT required following the acceptance of Notification of changes/s to an approved label. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that the label on the product is identical to the "NRA approved (text)" in all ways.

. **Permissible Changes to Approved Ag & Vet Chemical Labels:** are minor, non-technical changes to update the label to comply with the Ag or Vet Labelling Codes, where

there is no change to the product or container. On receipt of the correctly completed notification forms and attachments the NRA will process the change notification within 14 days.

*For more information concerning the NRA's approved label policy, contact the Registration & Customer Service Section, ph: 02-6272-5852, fax: 02-6272-5788. Also see the NRA website: [www.affa.gov.au/nra](http://www.affa.gov.au/nra).*

*From the Ag&Vet Chemicals Gazette, Jan 2000 & Mar 2000, Ausinfo, Canberra.*

. **Veterinary Chemicals - Minimum Compositional Standards are now Proposed:** to be implemented to cover active constituents used in the formulation not described in a recognised pharmacopoeia. The following constituents are listed: Acetyl-DL-methionine; Albendazole oxide; Altrengeest; Bacitracin Methylene Disalicylate; Bone phosphate; Calcium propionate; Cobalt carbonate; Cobalt(II) chloride; Cobalt gluconate; Cobalt oxide; Cobalt(II) sulfate; D-alpha tocopherol polyethylene glycol succinate; D-biotin; Dexamethasone phenylpropionate; Flugestone acetate; Halofuginone bromhydrate; lupristiol; Mafenode hydrochloride; Malachite green; Tricalcium phosphate. *Comments should be addressed to the NRA, Dr Paul Sethi, Chemistry and Residues Evaluation Section, ph: 02-6272-3987, fax: 02-6272-3551, email: psethi@nra.gov.au.*

*From the Ag&Vet Chemicals Gazette, Jan 2001, Ausinfo*

. **NRA Antifouling Product Efficacy Guidelines:** for the registration of film-forming coatings or paints that allow controlled biocide release to prevent settlement of fouling organisms. They are intended to replace Part 8 of the current *Ag Requirement Series - Guidelines for Registering Agricultural Chemicals*, and outline the efficacy data requirements for antifouling paints, in recognition of the different efficacy properties and efficacy issues associated with these products. *The guidelines are now available on the NRA website: [www.affa.gov.au/nra/guidelines.html](http://www.affa.gov.au/nra/guidelines.html) or contact the NRA Chemicals Evaluation Section ph: 02-6271-6384, fax: 02-6272-3218.*

*From the Ag&Vet Chemicals Gazette, Jan 2001, Ausinfo*

. **Chlorfenvinphos Review Interim Report:** was published in Jan 2001. This report has been prepared as a result of concerns over users health and its potential for adverse environmental impact. The NRA is satisfied that the safe conditions of use can be altered sufficiently to allow time for further data to be generated over the next few years. *The complete report is available free in two parts from the NRA site: [www.nra.gov.au/nra](http://www.nra.gov.au/nra); hard copies of part 1 are free, but part 2 costs \$100. For details contact the NRA Chemical Review ph: 02-6272-3213, fax: 02-6272-3551, email: <spike@nra.gov.au> or <jtaylor@nra.gov.au>.*

*From the Ag&Vet Chemicals Gazette, Jan 2001, Ausinfo*

. **Aldocarb Review - Call for Public Comment:** as part of the Existing Chemicals Program. Aldicarb is a carbamate insecticide/nematicide for the control of insect pests in cotton, citrus and sugarcane. There have been reports of

human poisonings, water contamination and bird deaths following its use in agriculture in the United States. The NRA has recommended that: approvals of aldicarb containing products can be affirmed; its use is not expected to have any public health implications; if good agricultural practice and labelling instructions are adhered to then workers are not at risk; the likelihood of water contamination in Australia is minimal; labels will be strengthened to protect workers and the environment. The Draft Review Summary and the Draft Aldicarb Technical Report are available from the NRA website: [www.nra.gov.au](http://www.nra.gov.au)

*From the Ag&Vet Chemicals Gazette, Feb 2001, website*

## Dangerous Goods

. **Dangerous Goods Laws Brochure (Victoria):** is a brief explanation of the duties under the new Victorian performance based Dangerous Goods (Storage & Handling) Regulations introduced in Dec 2000. It also provides examples of various chemicals that fit the dangerous goods Class system. Many small companies will not aware they are now clearly required to meet these new regulations as there is no quantity lower limit to be met. *Obtain copies from the Victorian Workcover Authority website: [www.workcover.vic.gov.au](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au), or freecall: 1800-136-089, ph: 03-9641-1555; fax: 03-9641-1222.*

*From Dangerous Goods Issues, March 2001.*

. **ADG Code is Being Revised:** and made current with the 12th Revision of the UN Model Regulations. The deadline for submissions for changes to be considered for the ADG 7th Edition is November 2001. Contact your local competent authority (find the addresses at 1.1.6 in the ADG 6th Edition).

. **European Labelling for Aerosols:** The Competent Authorities Panel agreed the proposed exemption to allow the marking of inner packages of aerosols to use safety markings detailed in Australian Standard 2278:2000, which are identical to those used in Europe, provided they are in English. This approval will allow alignment of Australia's domestic aerosols with imported products.

. **Height of Emergency Information Panels (EIPs):** allowed is to meet the needs of low loader type trailers, but now many tank vehicles are unnecessarily placing the EIP this low, which are often not visible in traffic, to the detriment of safety. Placards should be located as high as reasonably practicable.

. **Alphabetical or Numerical List for the ADG Code 7th Edition?** Australia currently has an alphabetical list as the primary list with all the data, similar to the USA. The UN Model Regulations have the list in Numerical order with all the data, using the alphabetical listing as an index. The Drafting Committee is considering a proposal to follow the UN model and use the primary list in numerical order. If you have a view on this, contact John Borig ph: 0412-303-747.

*Editors Comment:* I prefer the list to be alphabetic as it brings a lot of like data together, which could not be viewed together in a numerical list. I also remember entries best by their name rather than their UN No.

. **UN Committee of Experts Report:** on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, met in Geneva in Dec 2000 to ratify its decisions over the past biennium and to set its work program for the next. Full meeting minutes are available at: [www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgcomm/ac10rep.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgcomm/ac10rep.html).

Some issues covered are:

- **Ammonium Nitrate & Mixtures Entries:** under Classes 5.1 and 9, will be rationalised to 3 entries. UN 1942, Class 5, Ammonium Nitrate with not more than 0.2% combustible material; UN 2067 Class 5, Ammonium Nitrate Based Fertiliser; and UN 2071 Class 9, Ammonium Nitrate Based Fertiliser.

- **Packaged Sulfur Powder:** becomes classified as a dangerous good after a change was agreed to Special Provision SP242. Only sulfur that has been formed to a specific shape will not be subject to the Model Regulations.

## Environment Notes on Chemicals

. **Children's Air Quality to be Tested:** The Federal Government is considering introducing a National Environment Protection Measure to control air toxics and improve indoor air quality. Starting in March 2001 up to 700 Melbourne primary school children are to contribute to a study on how air pollutants affect children's respiratory health, to clarify the link between pollution and such common childhood diseases such as asthma. The study will look at various levels of exposure to traffic, and sample the air pollutants in the classroom, the playground and in a selected number of children's homes. Pollutants will include carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particles, benzene and formaldehyde. The study will be conducted over the next 18 months by the Royal Children's Hospital, the EPA Victoria, Monash University and the North Yarra Community Health Centre.

*From Environment Business, Feb 2001, ph: 03-9530-8900, website: [www.halledit.com.au](http://www.halledit.com.au)*

. **Phase Out of Methyl Bromide Fumigant:** The Federal Government has released an issues paper on targets to phase out the use of quarantine and pre-shipment fumigant methyl bromide under Australia's obligations to the Montreal Protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Fumigation with Methyl Bromide has been the main control agent to eliminate insects and diseases from trade goods. Developed countries are committed to a total phaseout by 2005. The issues paper recommends Australia reduces Methyl Bromide emissions to 70% of 1995 levels by the end of 2005. The issues paper is available on the Environment Australia website: [www.environment.gov.au/epg/ozone](http://www.environment.gov.au/epg/ozone). A draft strategy will be released in March 2001, and the final strategy in May 2001.

From *Environment Business*, Feb 2001, ph: 03-9530-8900, website: [www.halledit.com.au](http://www.halledit.com.au)

. **Air Quality Management (Draft Variation to the Victorian State Environment Protection Policy):** The draft variation is contained in the Vic EPA Publication No. 728, Protecting Victoria's Air Environment, Dec 2000. This features new provisions to address current and emerging issues to the air environment. A series of background papers on key issues in the policy review have been prepared and are discussed in the draft policy impact assessment contained within publication No. 728. The proposal has a larger number of substances with Class 3 Design Criteria and more stringent criteria for many of them, which reflect the most recent classifications of carcinogenic and highly toxic materials by IARC and NOHSC. This will have important implications for potential generators of emissions. The background papers are available on the Vic EPA's website: [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) or by contacting the Vic EPA Information Centre ph: 03-9695-2722, which will also have the above publication.

From *CleanAir & Environmental Quality Journal*, Vol 35, No.1, Feb 2001, [www.casanz.org.au](http://www.casanz.org.au).

. **Household Chemical Collection Programs:**

*Ecorecycle Victoria* runs a continuing program. Full details can be obtained ph: 1800-353-233 or from their website: [www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au](http://www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au) and go to "Home & Community" then to "Household Chemical Collection". Dates for collections around Melbourne are: 12 May 2001 - North Fitzroy; 23 June 2001 - Dandenong; 28 July 2001 - Kensington, 25 August 2001 - Doncaster, plus many country collection days.

**Sydney Water runs a Sydney & Environs Chemicals and Poisons Collection Program:** in association with Local Councils. Collection days are on their website: [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au) and go to "customer services" then to "Household Chemical Collections" To obtain a brochure ph: 1800-814-719 or ph: 02-9952-0354.

. **Oil Product Stewardship Levy:** is to levy oil products that generate waste and then distribute the funds to help to develop recycling and reuse of the waste oil. However, there is a significant inconsistency between what "oil" is levied, depending on the customs tariff codes deemed to be "oil" and the descriptive excise description which identifies the targeted oil accurately. The various chemical industry association's are discussing the discrepancy with the Customs and Treasury Departments so that the intent, of the levy against products that have become waste oils, is met.

. **NSW Proposed Pesticide Application Record Keeping Regulation:** Records would have to be kept for at least 3 years, by all people who use pesticides for commercial purposes. It would be applied to spraying crops, plants, stock or produce; dipping fruit; baiting pests like rabbits or foxes. It would not apply to domestic use of pesticides. *Copies of the proposed regulation and the regulatory impact statement can be downloaded from the NSW EPA website: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides).*

## Australian & NZ Standards

. **AS 2508.10.001-2000 Safe Storage & Handling Information Card - Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals (Packaged Products Only):** provides general safety information, including first aid information and emergency procedures for dealing with leaks and spills and fires. 4 pages \$25.30.

. **AS/NZS 4681: 2000 The Storage & Handling of Class 9 (Miscellaneous) Dangerous Goods & Articles:** in packages, IBCs and bulk. Advice is given on fire protection, waste disposal, operations and personnel safety. Guidelines for emergency procedures are provided. 57 pages \$80.30.

. **AS/NZS 2243.8:2001 Safety in Laboratories - Fume Cupboards:** specifies safety requirements and test methods used to determine their performance. It covers siting, maintenance requirements and guidance on use. 49 pages costs \$66.00.

. **AS/NZS 4081:2001 The Storage & Handling of Liquid and Liquefied Polyfunctional Isocyanates:** sets out requirements and recommendations. Advice is given on installation design, operations, personnel safety and waste disposal, Guidance is given on fire protection and emergency procedures. 65 pages \$93.50.

. **Storage & Handling of LP Gas (AS/NZS 1596) is being revised:** in order to address several new areas where LP Gas is used to provide suitable requirements for users. The main areas to be considered are: in restaurants where food is cooked at a table, or on a trolley, over an LP Gas fuelled burner; a trend to open air dining with LP Gas heaters being used; LP Gas is used at many outdoor events and LP Gas for hot air balloons. The public comment draft is expected to be ready by late 2001. *For details see the December 2000 TAS magazine p15 or contact the Sub-Committee ME/015 Project Manager Dawn Lindsay in Sydney ph: 02-8206-6000.*

. **Spray Painting Booths (AS/NZS 4414) is being revised:** More meetings have been scheduled in 2001 to achieve this. The public comment draft is expected to be ready by August 2001, and an updated standard released about a year later. *For details see the March 2001 TAS magazine p13 or contact the Sub-Committee EL-014-08 Project Manager José David in Sydney ph: 02-8206-6000.*

. **DR 00394 The Safe Use of Portable & Mobile Oxy-Fuel Gas Systems for Welding, Cutting, Heating and Allied Processes:** proposes requirements for the selection, operation and maintenance of oxy-fuel gas held or portable equipment used in these processes. It applies to portable or mobile gas cylinders, inclusive of manifolded packs of cylinders. NOTE: Reticulated systems are not intended to be covered by this draft. 21 pages, \$13.20.

Available from Standards Australia, ph: 1300-654-646, fax: 1300-654-949, email: [sales@standards.com.au](mailto:sales@standards.com.au). Drafts are downloadable from [www.standards.com.au](http://www.standards.com.au) and select "Download a Draft". Most drafts are free when downloaded.

. **NZ Standards Development Information is Online:** It has been set up to provide information on Standards under development, and improve the efficiency of the development process. It is known as SPEX (Standards Project Extranet). It will allow you to find out who is involved in developing a standard. Go to "www.standards.co.nz/spex."

## Publications

UK HSE Publications (including all below)

Available from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS, ph: 01787-881165 or fax: 01787-313995.

Also from John Smith & Son Bookshops, Scotland ph: 44-141-221-7472, fax: 44-141-248-4412, website: www.johnsmith.co.uk.. Note: The UK HSE Books have an international surcharge, whilst John Smith doesn't.

Also available in Australia through DA Information ph: 03-9210-7777, fax: 03-92107788, email: service@dadirect.com.au, website: www.dadirect.com.au.

. **General Methods for Sampling and Gravimetric Analysis of Respirable and Inhalable Dust MDHS 14/3:** replaces MDHS 14/2. It is aimed at occupational hygienists, health and safety representatives. Published February 2000 ISBN 0-7176-1749-1, cost from the UK HSE £12.00 plus postage + surcharge.

. **Volatile Organic Compounds in Air - Lab Method Using Pumped Sampling; Solvent Desorption, and Gas Chromatography MDHS 96:** replaces MDHS 1, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26, 28 and 36 and expands on the range of analytes. It provides guidance on measurement procedures to support EH40 and is aimed at occupational hygienists and safety representatives in the chemical industry. Published March 2000, ISBN 0-7176-1756-4, cost from the UK HSE £15.00 plus postage + surcharge.

. **Fume & Temperature Control in Plastics Processing - Practicality of Preventing the Evolution of Plastic Process Fume through Temperature Control.** Contract Research Report CRR 231 July 99 (ISBN 0 7176 2475 7) £25. A series of extrusion studies was performed to investigate the temperature effects on the composition of process fume for commodity thermoplastic compounds. No excesses were found when monitoring at typical workplace positions.

. **Investigations into the Pulmonary Effects of Low Toxicity Dusts, £25.00** (April 00)

## Seminars, Conferences, Courses

. **"Chemical Weapons Convention" Symposium, 4th May 2001, Melbourne:** This is your first seminar opportunity in Australia to discuss the operation of this international convention to which tracks chemicals that could be used as raw materials to manufacture chemical weapons. All companies must currently check if any of their chemicals are identified on the list and provide information if over the thresholds. Overseas delegates who will have attended the

international meeting prior, will be present. Cost \$135, for details contact the RACI ph: 03-9328-2033, email: <physics@raci.org.au>

. **Indoor Air Pollution Talk, 10th May 2001, Melbourne, 5.30-7.30pm:** Steve Brown, CSIRO has been invited to speak on this issue at the Victorian Aust. Institute of Occ. Hygienists bimonthly meeting. To obtain the meeting address contact the AIOH office ph: 03-9335-2577; email: <cheryleclynes@attglobal.net>.

. **Victorian Dangerous Goods Regulations & Hazardous Substances Regulations, 23rd May 2001, North Melbourne, 5-9pm:** Dangerous Goods - Lloyd Eldred, Brambles Transport Group; & Barry Pratt, Victorian Workcover Authority. Hazardous Substances - Peter Sommers, Merck Pty Ltd; & Halel Ahmet, Victorian Workcover Authority. Cost \$66 if paid prior, \$76 if paid on the evening. Book with RACI Vic Branch ph: 03-9328-2808.

. **Science 2001 Exhibition, 8-10 May 2001, Melbourne:** Organised by Science Industry Australia. The 8th May Theme is Safety & Compliance (includes Safety in the Lab; Waste Management & Disposal; Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Substances), There will be an industry exhibition. Cost is free for most activities, or a nominal cost only for others. For details contact the SIA ph: 02-9804-8051, fax: 02-9804-8052, email: sia@scienceindustry.com.au, website: www.scienceindustry.com.au.

. **Laboratory Design & Technology, 30-31st May 2001, Sydney:** Organised by the International Quality & Productivity Centre. Topics include "Modified Labs - Achieving Compliance", "Ecologically Sustainable Design for Labs", "Incorporating Best Practice OH&S Principles into Lab Design". There is a Workshop "How to Develop a Successful Lab Design Brief". Cost \$2199, or \$2799 with workshop. For details contact IQPC, ph: 02-9223-2600, fax: 02-9223-2622, email: registration@iqpc.com.au, website: www.iqpc.com.au.

. **HazMat 2001 Conference, 26-27th June 2001, Sydney (Parramatta):** to ensure chemical regulations compliance for companies handling chemicals. It covers Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Substances, Scheduled Poisons; MSDS & Labelling; Chemical Registration & Control Schemes; Environment Emissions, Waste Disposal & Contaminated Sites; and Emergency Response. Cost \$748 incl. GST for 2 days, \$451 for 1 day. Fire Protection Association of Australia (FPAA) ph: 03-9890-1544, fax: 03-9890-1577, email: amyym@fpaa.com.au, website: www.fpaa.com.au.

. **International Congress of Toxicology, 8-13th July 2001, Brisbane:** Incorporating toxicology with sustainable development. For details ph: 07-3369-0477, email: ictix2001@im.com.au, website: www.uq.edu.au/ICT9.

. **6th World Congress of Chemical Engineering, 23-27 Sept 2001, Melbourne:** 14 parallel sessions covering from biotechnology applications and food processing, to petrochemicals and minerals. Sustainable development will be a feature issue. Cost \$1430, for more details contact The Meeting Planners ph: 03-9417-0888, email: <chemeng@meetingplanners.com.au>, website: www.chemengcongress.com.

