

Hazmat & Environment Notes March-April 2002

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Notes to Especially Consider are:

Declaration of Formaldehyde as a Priority

Existing Chemical: As at the 24th April 2002 there were only 23 Applicants! As formaldehyde is in many imported products it is likely that many importers have omitted to be an Applicant. This will put them and their customers at risk over the next year as they are not legally able to import a product containing >1% formaldehyde unless they are a NICNAS PEC applicant. See the Note on page 3.

Veterinary Chemical Active Constituents

are each proposed by the NRA to reference one specific pharmacopoeia only. See the Note on page 4.

NSW EPA Dangerous Goods Transport Blitz:

which will occur over 2002 has found 11 serious breaches so far. It has also raised the issue that the old Group Text Emergency Procedure Guides are no longer meant to be used, HB76 Initial Emergency Response Guide is, however the ADG Code 6th Edition does not clarify this, See the Note on page 4.

Hazmat & Environment Notes are prepared by:

Jeff Simpson

Hazardous Materials Consultant

Editor & Publisher

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

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

My approach is to provide a short, succinct note on each hazardous material issue, sufficient to allow you to make a decision of whether it is relevant to you. If you need more information contact details / website / etc are provided.

I encourage all readers to make comment on draft regulations, codes and standards.

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Hazardous Substances

- **Useful Guides from Worksafe Victoria**

A Step by Step Guide for Managing Chemicals in the Workplace. To help employers to comply with the Hazardous Substances Regulations and the Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations. 52 pages, 346Kb PDF file, 2001, released 6-03-02.

A Step by Step Guide for Manufacturers, Importers and Suppliers of Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods. To help manufacturers, importers, first suppliers, and suppliers of hazardous substances and dangerous goods with implementation of the Hazardous Substances Regulations and the Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations. 32 pages, 202Kb PDF file, 2001, released 6-03-02.

A Guide to Risk Control Plans. Written for employers to help them prepare an effective risk control plan. 28 pages 366 Kb PDF file, Sept 2001.

Downloadable from www.worksafe.vic.gov.au and click on "publications", then "publications" again. Hard copies are available from WorkCover Publications ph: 03-9641-1333, email: publications@workcover.vic.gov.au.

- **Chemical Cleaners for Buildings, Statues, etc**

may be either acidic or alkaline. Corrosive cleaners can cause serious ill health by skin contact or by inhaling fumes or mist from the concentrated product or when using spray application.

The Construction Information Sheet No 24 *Chemical cleaners* (Revision 1, July 2001) is now available on the UK HSE website. It contains advice on using chemical cleaners safely. This includes information on avoiding the use of corrosive chemicals whenever possible; how to prepare dilute solutions of the product; selecting personal protective equipment; and ways to prevent the public from coming into contact with these chemicals.

From www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/conindex.htm and select *Chemical cleaners (Construction Information Sheet No. 24)*, a 43kB pdf file, 2 page sheet.

From *Toxic Substances Bulletin*, Sept 2001, www.hse.gov.uk/toxicsubstances/index.htm

- **German Exposure Standards – MAK / BAT 2001**

Maximum Workplace Concentration (MAK). For the establishment of a MAK Value, the **carcinogenicity**, the **sensitising effects**, the **contribution to systemic toxicity after percutaneous absorption**, the **risks during pregnancy**, and the **germ cell mutagenicity**, of a substance are evaluated and substance classified or designated accordingly. The MAK List is a well researched, very useful list of exposure values based on an 8 hr / day, 40 hrs / week exposure period. It is used in the same manner as the Australian Exposure Standards.

Biological Tolerance Values (BAT) are defined as the maximum permissible quantity of a substance or its metabolites, or the maximum permissible deviation from the norm of biological parameters induced by these substances in exposure humans. BAT values can be defined as the ceiling formation or excretion rates (Quantity / Time) for healthy individuals

Changes from the previous publication are clearly indicated with an asterisk *****. **Some MAK changes** are for: Acetonitrile 20 ppm, Carbon Tetrachloride 0.5 ppm; Cyanides 2 mg/m³ Peak; Diacetone Alcohol 20 ppm; Hydrogen Cyanide 1.9 ppm; Hydrogen Fluoride 2 ppm; Propylene Glycol 2-Methyl Ether 5 ppm; Selenium 0.05 mg/m³; Sodium Cyanide 3.8 mg/m³; and many acrylate active group containing compounds are now present as sensitizers. **Some BAT changes** are

TRK – Technical Exposure Limits for carcinogenic substances and suspected carcinogens is also included for 97 substances or groups of substances.

\$122, John Wiley & Sons, Aust. ph: 02-9586-0200, email: sydney@johnwiley.com.au, web: www.johnwiley.com.au; or DA Information Services ph: 03-9210-7777, email: service@dadirect.com.au, website: www.dadirect.com.au.

- **CICADS (OECD) and SIDS (IPCS) Programs**

Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADS) were approved at the IPCS 9th CICAD Nov 2001 meeting for: acrolein; bromoethane; carbon disulphide; silver (environmental aspects). Approved pending further work for: 4-chloroaniline; polychlorinated biphenyls (human health aspects); diethyl phthalate; ethylene glycol (human health aspects).

The OECD 13th "Screening Information Data Set" SIDS meeting was held in Nov 2001. 33 of 38 chemicals discussed had their SIDS Initial Assessment Profiles agreed at the meeting. Those with agreed profiles (SIAPs) and which are also candidates for further work are: Oxirane, methyl- CAS 75-56-9; Acrylic acid CAS 79-10-7; N,N'-Dimethyl Formamide CAS 68-12-2; Ortho-Chloronitrobenzene CAS 88-73-3; Fluorescent Brightener 220 CAS 16470-24-9; o-Dichlorobenzene CAS 95-50-1.

Information on the meetings can be obtained from Ms Deborah Willcocks ph: 02-8577-8890, email: deborah.willcocks@nicnas.gov.au.

IPCS CICAD website: www.who.int/pcs/ra_site/cicads.htm

OECD SIDS Status Table website: <http://www1.oecd.org/ehs/sidstable/index.htm>

From *Chemical Gazette*, 5 Feb 2002, www.nicnas.gov.au

- **Exposure Standard Review from NICNAS PECs**

NOHSC is considering NICNAS recommendations to review specific exposure standards contained in its Priority Existing Chemical Reports. NOHSC has provided an opportunity for interested parties to supplement the PEC information.

The PEC chemicals are: 2-Butoxyethanol; Carbon Disulphide (from the Sodium Ethyl Xanthate PEC); Chrysotile asbestos; Chrysotile alternatives; Ortho-Dichlorobenzene; 1,4-Dioxane; HCFC 123; Persulphates; Savinase; Trichloroethylene.

More information and a list of questions that may be used to guide preparation of information is at: www.nohsc.gov.au/OHSLegalObligations/HazSubstancesAndDngGoods/esrAdvert.htm

From *Chemical Gazette*, 5 Feb 2002, www.nicnas.gov.au

• **NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards**

The NIOSH Pocket Guide (NPG) is intended as a source of key general industrial hygiene information and data in abbreviated or tabular form for 677 chemicals or substance groupings (e.g. cyanides, fluorides, manganese compounds) that are found in the work environment. It is intended to be used by workers, employers, and occupational health professionals.

The NPG can be accessed on-line or can be downloaded free from the USA National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety website: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npg.html>

The file downloaded is 1.3 mB "NPG_only.zip". When extracted this becomes 684 htm files where you start with "pgdstart.htm" that opens in your browser and allows you to search the Pocket Guide off-line.

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

• **Chlorinated: Naphthalenes, Styrenes**

Diphenyl Ethers, etc. Information was sort in the Jan 2002 Chemical Gazette for these chemicals nominated in 1999. They have been selected mainly because of environmental concerns. Manufacturers and importers since Aug 1999 must provide quantity and use information.

The polychlorinated naphthalenes and tetrachlorobenzyltoluenes are used overseas, as PCB alternatives. as dielectric fluids in transformers and capacitors, and as hydraulic fluid in the mining industry. The polychlorinated diphenyl ethers and chlorinated styrenes are formed as by-products of industrial processes involving chlorine. Chlorinated styrenes are also used in some plastic and foam manufacturer.

For details contact NICNAS, Existing Chemicals, ph: 02-8577-8880, email: sneha.satya@nicnas.gov.au, website: www.nicnas.gov.au

From Chemical Gazette, 1 Jan 2002

• **Formaldehyde Declared a PEC**

for full assessment. Formaldehyde is widely used in Australia, mainly in resins during furniture and textile manufacturing and to a lesser extent as a preservative in cleaning and cosmetic products. Formaldehyde is emitted as a result of industrial processes. (Editor's Note: It is also emitted from many building products using urea-formaldehyde resin, that react with moisture in the air over the product's life, to release formaldehyde into living spaces.)

Formaldehyde is a hazardous chemical as it is a skin, eye and respiratory irritant and causes contact dermatitis in humans. It causes nasal tumours in rats and is weakly genotoxic.

The National Occupational Health & Safety Commission (NOHSC) and the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) are also reviewing formaldehyde for its workplace exposure standard and for ambient air toxic measures needed.

Matters to be taken into account by the NICNAS PEC are:

- a) the properties of formaldehyde;
- b) the uses of formaldehyde;

- c) any adverse health or environmental effects of formaldehyde;
- d) the extent of occupational, public and environmental exposure to formaldehyde;
- e) the risks to humans and the environment resulting from exposure to formaldehyde;
- f) the extent to which any risk is capable of being reduced.

Those who have manufactured, imported, or formulated with, formaldehyde during the period that it is a PEC (or wish to) **must apply** in writing using the PEC application form. This includes importers of products/mixtures containing formaldehyde who must also apply for assessment. There are no application fees. However, there is a penalty for manufacturing, or importing a PEC without first applying for assessment of the chemical.

Applications were required **by 5 April 2002**. Information is required by **4 June 2002**. It will cover all formaldehyde containing chemicals imported under NICNAS in the previous 2 years and proposed over the next year. Formaldehyde is in many imported chemical products, so that many applicants and large amounts of information are expected to be submitted.

NICNAS does not cover formaldehyde at <1.0% in products, where no hazardous substance labels are required for formaldehyde. However NICNAS still wishes to be informed about this aspect of formaldehyde exposure. Paraformaldehyde is also included as this product is a way of delivering formaldehyde.

NOTE: *Companies that are not applicants cannot import formaldehyde containing products (with >1% HCHO) during the period of the PEC, which should be published in the third quarter of 2003.*

Any other persons who have relevant information (e.g. users of formaldehyde) are encouraged to provide it.

See 5 March 2002 Chemical Gazette p 56-59. Website: http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazette_mar2002.htm

Formaldehyde Contact Officer: Griffin D'Costa, ph: 02-8577-8894, email: griffin.dcosta@nicnas.gov.au

For further information or assistance, please contact Deborah Willcocks ph: 02-8577-8890, fax: 02-8577-8888, email: deborah.willcocks@nicnas.gov.au
From Chemical Gazette, 5 Mar 2002

• **Draft Acrylamide & Limonene PECs**

were published for comment in the Feb 2002 Chemical Gazette until 5th March 2002. The Drafts can be obtained from NICNAS email: jun.zhang@nicnas.gov.au. The reports present a summary and evaluation of information relevant to a full assessment of acrylamide and full assessment of limonene, covering use, exposure, toxicity, effects on human health and the environment. Recommendations are made for their safe use.

Editor's Comment: Two points that caught my attention were: 1/ for acrylamide the recommended Risk Phrase set did NOT fully match the just released EU 28th ATP Risk Phrases in Aug 2001; and 2/ for limonene it is given an R43 Sensitising Risk Phrase due to an oxidation breakdown product, even though limonene itself is not sensitising.

From Chemical Gazette, 5 Feb 2002

• High Volume Industrial Chemical Quantities

reporting deadline is 30th April 2002.

Some issues I found whilst determining quantities for the HVIC List include: Specific CAS No's versus generic CAS (NICNAS wants these grouped); CAS No's for Hydrocarbon composite materials versus the individual ingredient CAS No's; Hydrated Chemical CAS No's. versus Non-Hydrated CAS No's (NICNAS wants these grouped). How you decide to handle these CAS No. differences will effect the summed quantity of a chemical or group.

For products where you only have a "CAS on AICS" statement the overseas supplier will need to provide the information direct to NICNAS. Encapsulated chemicals in polymers are included even though the polymer is not. A large range of similar products at 5-10t can easily add up to >100t for a common ingredient.

For HVIC data collection details see the NICNAS website: www.nicnas.gov.au.

• NICNAS Approval of Foreign Schemes

has been enhanced with firm links established with Canada and the European Union to make it easier to obtain assessment reports from these sources. In particular Canada and share similar criteria for defining a *Synthetic Polymer of Low Concern (PLC)*. If there is evidence that a polymer has been notified and assessed in Canada as a PLC then NICNAS could wave the application fee for an Early Introduction Permit. For details contact NICNAS New Chemicals Section, freecall: 1800-638-528; ph: 02-9577-9400; website: www.nicnas.gov.au.

From Chemical Gazette, 6 Nov 2001, www.nicnas.gov.au

• Amdts to the Australian Inventory of Chemical

Substances that have occurred from July 2001 to the March 2002 Chemical Gazette include replacement of 348 AICS Numbers with CAS Numbers; addition of 140 Chemicals Eligible for Listing after 5 years; 7 Amnesty additions and 91 Corrections.

These additional CAS No.s may be found in the Chemical Gazettes downloadable from: www.nicnas.gov.au

Editor's Note: New AICS CD is said to be due in May 2002!

Food Chemicals

• The Facts About Sulphites In Food - ANZFA

This is an updated ANZFA Fact Sheet for asthma sufferers and others who become allergic to sulphites in food.

Sulphites, including bisulphites, metabisulphites and sulphur dioxide are permitted as food additives in Australia and New Zealand by the *Food Standards Code* which is developed and maintained by the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA).

The major functions that sulphites perform in foods are preservation and inhibition of browning reactions.

A small section of the population responds to sulphites with allergy-like reactions - these are mainly people who suffer from asthma. In sulphite-sensitive people, sulphites can provoke asthma and other symptoms of an allergic response such as skin rashes and irritations. Sensitivity to

sulphites in food is dependent on how much a person is exposed to sulphur dioxide or sulphites from all sources.

The Fact Sheet provides a summary of the issue and the actions that sensitised persons need to be aware of.

Contact details for the Asthma Foundation in each State/Territory are also provided.

From ANZFA Fact Sheet, Updated Nov 2001:
<http://www.anzfa.gov.au/mediareleasespublications/factsheets/factsheets2001/forasthmasufferersth1152.cfm>

Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals

• NRA Non-Detectable Residues Requirements

Maximum residue limits and withholding periods are recommended by the NRA. Residue Guideline 10: *Withholding Periods* indicates that depletion data to the limit of analytical quantitation would only be necessary where there could be significant trade issues involving major export commodities.

When there is the possibility of significant trade issues with the particular commodity / chemical combination being developed, applicants are advised to contact the Chemistry and Residues Evaluation Section of the NRA concerning the depletion of residues limit of quantitation, prior to undertaking residues trials for registration purposes.

For more information contact Veterinary Residues, ph: 02-6272-3800; fax: 02-6272-3551; email: preeves@nra.gov.au; or Agricultural Residues, ph: 02-6272-6551; fax: 02-6272-3551; email: rbhula@nra.gov.au.

• Ag & Vet Products - GMO derived Constituent(s)

New legislation governing genetically modified organisms has recently come into effect. The NRA is undertaking a project to implement the requirements for the relevant products that contain a GMO, in particular, specific data requirements, with the NRA implementation in several phases.

Registrants and/or applicants must make separate enquiries with the Gene Technology Regulator regarding dealings with GMOs.

For details contact the NRA, Veterinary Evaluation Section, ph: 02-626\72-3831; fax: 02-6272-5249

• Ruminant Feeds & Vet. Chemical Products

Composition Requirements: reflect an ARMCANZ decision taken in 2001 in relation to minimising any potential risk of transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Because of the possible link between the spread of BSE and feeding meat and bone meal products to ruminants, the inclusion into ruminant food of any meals made from any fish and poultry material, as well as meals made from any mammalian material, is prohibited under State laws.

At this stage the mammalian materials tallow, gelatin and milk products remain exempt, however these exempt materials must be locally sourced and should still meet appropriate quality specifications, and must not contain meat and bone meal material.

This prohibition applies to some veterinary chemical products administered orally to ruminants, including

medicated stockfoods, medicated stockfood premixes, stockfood supplements, stockfood additives, and medicated blocks and licks.

For information contact NRA, Veterinary Chemicals Evaluation ph: 02-6272-3985; email: rhogg@nra.gov.au.

• Veterinary Chemical Active Constituents:

The NRA now proposes to implement a series of Minimum Compositional Standards (MCS) for active constituents used in the formulation of veterinary chemical products. The development of these MCS will provide further transparency, rigour and confidence in the evaluation process.

It is proposed that where a suitable compendial standard(s) exists for a particular active constituent then this standard(s) will be adopted directly as the NRA MCS. Attachment 1 has 405 Active Constituents where the MCS is highlighted for one only of the four recognised pharmacopoeias (except 2). Where there is no current compendial standard available the NRA is establishing MCS for these veterinary chemical active constituents. Attachment 2 has 19 Active Constituents with MCS detailed as these are not already in recognised pharmacopoeias.

From *Ag&Vet Chem Gazette*, Apr 2002, www.nra.gov.au

• Atrazine Review Draft Final Report Released

An interim report was released in Nov 1997. The major concern is the potential risk atrazine's use poses to the environment. Atrazine is one of the most widely used herbicides in Australia. Additional residue studies, water monitoring information and forest industry studies have now been considered for the final report. There are new additional label instructions on 1/ Resistance; 2/ Withholding Periods; and 3/ Protection of the Environment.

Submissions and comments are sought by the NRA until 11 June 2002. A copy of the 57 page draft report can be downloaded from their website: www.nra.gov.au.

From *Ag&Vet Chem Gazette*, Apr 2002, www.nra.gov.au

Dangerous Goods

• Haz. Materials Sites – Community Preparedness

The Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) has prepared "**Best Practices Model for Identification of Hazardous Materials Sites and Issues and for Assurance of Community Emergency Preparedness – Issue 1 Nov 2001**".

The 17 page document provides guidance to Fire Services on the best practice methods for working with potentially affected communities to ensure that both the agency and the communities are aware of any significant risks from hazardous materials in their area, how the public will be informed and how they should respond in the event of a hazardous materials emergency.

This document was developed, in 2001 as one component of the AFAC Hazardous Materials Strategy, by the AFAC Hazardous Materials Working Group. It compliments other documents produced by the group including:

- AFAC National Hazardous Materials Management Guidelines (May 2001)

- AFAC Best Practices Model for Hazardous Materials Incident Response
- AFAC Best Practices for Hazardous Materials Industry Liaison.

A copy may be downloaded from the AFAC website: www.ausfire.com. The other documents will probably become available in May 2002.

• Major Hazard Facilities Schedule 1 Paper

From mid Dec 2001 to mid March 2002 the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) sort public comment on proposed amendments to Schedule 1 of the *National Standard for the Control of Major Hazard Facilities* (MHF). The amendments are being proposed to facilitate the consistent adoption in Australia of the national standard.

Some points that caught my interest were: It proposed to clarify that Table 1 listings take precedence over the generic hazard classes in Table 2 of the Schedule 1. There were some other interesting issues raised about consistency with the EU and UK Schedule 1 lists: Australia aggregates some entries whereas the UK doesn't. The UK's COMAH Regulations include more substances, different threshold levels for some substances, and generic advice on other substances. The UK approach has a two tier approach for provisions.

The paper can still be downloaded from the NOHSC website: www.nohsc.gov.au from the media release on the 18 Dec 2001.

• NSW EPA Dangerous Goods Transport Blitz

In January 2002 the NSW EPA announced a 12-month Dangerous Goods Enforcement Blitz aimed at cleaning up hazardous industry practices on NSW roads. Run in conjunction with NSW Police and the Road Transport Authority it is the first long term blitz for the EPA. "Our research indicates that 15% of all trucks on our roads carry dangerous goods and, of these vehicles, 10% fail to comply with the legislation in some way." On the 25th March the EPA advised of the 687 trucks pulled over at Coonabarabran, 85 (12%) were carrying dangerous goods. Of these, just 5 transporters were found to be in serious breach of the legislation. Of the 129 trucks inspected at North Albury, 26 (20%) were carrying dangerous goods. EPA inspectors found just 6 serious breaches.

Director General Ms Lisa Corbyn said: "While overall there were only 11 serious breaches of the environment and safety regulations, we mustn't forget that we're talking about some very dangerous substances."

For details contact John Dengate (02) 9995-5347

Editor's Note: I am advised that transporting companies have been asking consignors for the old group text and specific emergency procedure guides. These EPGs are "allowed" under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code but are only expected to be used in limited circumstances. Some EPGs have been maintained by Standards Australia but most are now withdrawn. EPGs are no longer identified in the ADG Code. The key document now used is HB76 Initial Emergency Response Guide which allocates the correct Guide from the UN No. and the Proper Shipping Name.

From <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/> & Media Releases

• Qld Dangerous Goods (Storage & Handling) Regs

start on the 7 May 2002 in Queensland, when the WHS Miscellaneous Regulations are "retired" and the new Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act and Regulations begin. My contact has advised me that there may be some teething problems as every government department has a role to play. Also the layout of the Act and Regs make it very difficult to find information easily.

Occupiers of existing Large Dangerous Goods Locations and possible Major Hazard Facilities will have 3 months from May 7 to notify the CHEM Unit within the Dept of Emergency Services.

A copy of the Act (106 pages, 638 Kb) and Regulation (94 pages, 516 Kb) can be downloaded as pdf files from <http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/chem/legislation/>

• Canadian Emergency Response Guides (ERGO)

can be accessed on-line or downloaded as a standalone program. It was jointly developed by Transport Canada, the U.S Dept of Transportation and the Secretariat of Communications & Transportation of Mexico.

It is primarily a guide to aid first responders in quickly identifying the specific or generic hazards of the material(s) involved in the incident, and protecting themselves and the general public during the initial response phase of the incident. It is not intended to provide information on the physical or chemical properties of dangerous goods. It is primarily designed for use at a dangerous goods incident occurring on a highway or railroad. There may be limited value in its application at fixed facility locations.

These ERGO Guides are similar to the Australian HB76 Initial Emergency Response Guide as this was based on an earlier Canutec Emergency Response Guide Book. ERGO now has 62 Guides, Australia has 49 Guides. It is interesting to see the extra Guides and how the next edition of HB76 may be changed.

To use it free online or to obtain a free electronic copy go to: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/en/menu.htm>. The file is 4.6Mb in size.

• Long-Term Reliability of Domestic CO Alarms

Domestic Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm reliability has been questioned by the UK HSE Report. Of 30 alarms studied 6 were selected for a one year field trial but only 2 of the 6 were judged to have operated reliably over an extended period of time.

This report reinforces the first line of defence against CO poisoning should be proper annual safety checks and maintenance of appliances.

A free pdf copy can be downloaded from http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/crr_pdf2001/crr01360.pdf
From the UK HSC Newsletter, Oct 2001

• Determining Capacity of Gas Cylinders for Class 2 Dangerous Goods

Victorian Guidance Note Issued: November 2001. There can be confusion about the actual capacity of gas cylinders containing Class 2 dangerous goods as both the water capacity and cylinder contents are listed on the cylinders. Knowing the capacity is necessary for

determining quantity according to regulation 204 (2) (a) of the Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2000.

This is a useful & clear explanation of the water capacity.

From *Worksafe Victoria Guidance Note website for 2001:*
<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/alerts.nsf/GuideInter>

• Coode Island Chemical Storage to Grow

Coode Island's chemical storage will be expanded despite the fears of western suburbs residents. The State Government in late March 2002 received approval for the \$35 million expansion from the Environment Protection Authority. But residents said despite reassurance the upgrade would be safe, they believed it increased the danger.

The Vic EPA has approved the development of 11 bulk storage hazardous liquid tanks, which will contain a range of chemicals including benzene and propylene oxide. The tanks will be built by New Zealand company Marstel Terminals, now the second operator on the island, which has a 20-year lease on a disused BP site. If there are no appeals, construction will start immediately and will likely be finished in a year.

But the EPA has reassured residents the development will not see a repeat of the inferno that cast toxic smoke over the city. EPA deputy chairman Rob Joy said the latest technology would ensure maximum safety. "We have considerable confidence it won't pose an unacceptable threat to the community or nearby residents." Despite this expansion, Mr Joy said Coode Island would have less chemical storage by 2004, when an existing terminal will be dismantled. He said the development would have strict environmental standards including minimal vapour emission and no discharge to the Maribyrnong River. A Victorian Government spokesman last night said it and the EPA were satisfied that Marstel had met conditions for approval.

From *DG&Hazmat Listserv 28th March 2002:*
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods/>

• Chinese Respond to Fireworks Fire in 2001

Following the explosion and fire in a school-run fireworks factory which killed 42 children in March 2001, Chinese authorities have tightened restrictions on fireworks. Consequently, 9000 fireworks factories have closed, throwing 200,000 people out of work.

From *Fire Australia, Feb 2002, www.fpa.com.au*

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

• Ozone-Depleting Substances

as **Process Agent usage** has been reported to be nil in Australia. Environment Australia (EA) has asked for information to determine if this is correct. EA wishes to determine if there are legitimate process agent uses of ozone depleting substances within Australia; register these uses; and determine whether Australia needs to seek an amendments to its current nil limit. For details contact Environment Australia, Mr ben Stapley ph: 02-6274-1601.

From *Chemical Gazette, 6 Nov 2001, www.nicnas.gov.au*

Publications

- **SI Chemical Data, 5th Edition, Nov 2001**

Aylward & Findlay, ISBN 0 470 80044 5. The chemicals included are chosen specifically to cover those studied in university chemistry courses. This very useful chemical data compilation of 217 pages has been updated with later Risk and Safety Phrases aligned with the UK HSC Approved Supply List 6th Ed. 2000 plus extra Risk and Safety Phrases for other chemicals from *ChemDat, The Merck Chemical Database 2000*. There is expanded data to more aqueous solutions and mixtures of hazardous gases with air.

Cost \$30 plus postage. Published and available from John Wiley & Sons, Australia ph: 1800-777-474, website: www.johnwiley.com.au, also available from DA Information, ph: 03-9210-7777, website: www.dadirect.com.au

- **Videos from Fire Protection Association Aust.**

- Piper Alpha (Oil Platform Explosion) Training Package – Spiral to Disaster. Duration 30 mins, Cost \$385.
- Anhydrous Ammonia (Basic Facts). It covers effects, preventing release, first aid. Duration 22 mins, Cost \$390
- Confined Space Entry: Inside Manoeuvres. Compares to working in a submarine. Duration 23 mins, Cost \$434.50.
- Hydrogen Sulphide: A Matter of Life or Death. It covers effects, monitoring, PPE, emergency response, first aid. Duration 18 mins, Cost \$390.

Contact Bob Sutcliffe, FPAA, ph: 03-9890-1544, email: bobs@fpaa.com.au.

Standards

- **Standards Catalogue 2002**

It lists current Australian Standards and Miscellaneous Publications & Other Products. It also provides details of correspondence between Aust. Stds and ISO and IEC International Standards. Available as a free PDF download

- **AS/NZS 2243.3:2002 : - Microbiological Aspects & Containment facilities**

In the Safety in Laboratories Series: Specifies requirements and gives recommended practices relating to safety in laboratories in which microorganisms are handled. Includes descriptions of risk group categories for microorganisms and requirements for facilities of corresponding containment levels. 99 pages \$120.

- **AS 4655(Int)-2002: Guidelines for Fire Safety Audits for Buildings**

Provides guidance for establishing a process associated for the conduct of fire safety audits for buildings. Contains descriptions of three types of audits; i.e. compliance, maintenance and fire safety engineering. Also includes a sample fire safety check list together with examples of sampling rates. 34 pages \$62.

- **AS 3745-2002: Emergency Control Organization and procedures for buildings, structures and workplaces.** Specifies recommended procedures for the safety of people in buildings, structures and workplaces during emergencies; guidelines for the appointment of the Emergency Planning Committee and the setting up of the Emergency Control Organization. 18 pages, \$52.

- **DR 02032 CP Fume Cupboards Amdt 1 to AS/NZS 2243.8:2001 – Safety in Laboratories.** Amends in 9 places, in particular amends The Smoke Test and Face Velocity Figure F. 3 pages, free as PDF

- **DR 02050: Biological safety cabinets - Part 2: Laminar flow biological safety cabinets (Class II) for personnel, environment and product protection**

Proposes general construction and performance requirements for Class II laminar flow biological safety cabinets intended to provide protection for hazardous biological agents for personnel and the environment and also to protect material used in the cabinet from exogenous contamination. 26 pages free as PDF.

Seminars, Conferences, Courses

- **Emergency Control and Management Seminars**

Based on AS3745-2002 it covers emerging issues for controlled evacuation from buildings: 1st May – Hobart; 2nd May – Melbourne; 7th May – Brisbane; 8th May – Sydney; 28th May Adelaide; 30th May – Perth; 12th June – Canberra. Cost \$265.

For details contact the Fire Protection Association Australia, ph: 03-9890-1544, email: events@fpaa.com.au.

- **Chemcon 2002, Switzerland, 3-7th June 2002:**

International Conference on Chemical Control Regulations, to be held in Basel, Switzerland. It will cover information on current and emerging chemical regulations covering the reporting and testing of new chemicals, chemical inventories and the evaluation of existing chemicals, classification and labelling, risk management, hazard communication and product registration.

Cost EURO1400, for details contact Feierl-Herzele GmbH, email: office@chemcon.net, or website: www.chemcon.net.

- **Green Processing 2002, 29-31 May 2002, Cairns International Conference on the Sustainable Processing of Minerals.**

The theme is the sustainable production of metals and other value-added mineral products and the focus is on the processing of mined ores through to refined metal products and on the associated wastes, including recycling.

Cost \$1045, details ph: 03-9662-3166, email: conference@ausimm.com.au, website for the registration brochure: <http://www.ausimm.com.au/green2002/html/index.html>

• **Interact 2002, 21-25 July 2002, Sydney**

This is group of conferences includes: 7th RACI Environmental Chemistry Conference; the 7th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society for Ecotoxicology. Delegates will be offered access to allied disciplines.

4 day cost \$1100, details ph: 02-4984-2755, email: interact@pco.com.au, or website: www.pco.com.au/interact2002.

• **Spillcon 2002, 16-19th Sept 2002, Sydney**

Keeping the Waters Clean - Australian Marine Safety Authority oil spill conference, with advice and latest information concerning marine oil spill prevention and response techniques.

Organised for AMSA by The Meeting Planners Collingwood, Victoria, ph: 03-9417-0888, fax: 03-9417-0899, Email: spillcon@meetingplanners.com.au

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