Hazmat & Environment Notes Aug-Oct 2018

Hazmat & Environment Notes are prepared by:

Jeff Simpson

Hazardous Chemicals Consultant
Editor & Publisher

My approach is to provide a short, succinct note on each hazardous chemical issue, sufficient to allow you to make a decision of whether it is relevant to you.

If you need more information:
Contact details / Website details / etc are provided.

I encourage all readers to network and make comment on Draft Regulations, Codes, Standards and Guides.

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Prepared by Jeff Simpson, Haztech Environmental, 18 Laurel St, Ashburton Vic 3147, ph: 03-9885-1269, email: Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au

Hazardous Chemicals

• NZ EPA: Chemical Reassessment Programme

15 Oct 2018: The NZ EPA Chemical Reassessment Programme reviews Hazardous Substances already approved in New Zealand.

This can be done for a range of reasons - from making changes to the Rules ('controls') on their management, or to reassess whether they should continue to be approved or not.

At times new information may indicate a chemical poses more risks than existed, or that we knew of, at the time it was originally Approved for use in New Zealand.

Reassessment is the only formal legal process NZ EPA can use to review the Approval of a chemical classed as a Hazardous Substance. The outcome of reassessment may be that an Approval is revoked, banning the chemical; or that the rules controlling the chemical are changed; or it may be decided that no change is required.

Working with international counterparts, the NZ EPA has identified a priority chemicals list of around 40 chemicals that require further review and scrutiny. We are reassessing chemicals on this list. The NZ EPA has screened 727 chemicals from which the 40 priority chemicals have come.

1/ Priority 40 Chemicals List (36 are pesticides)

2/ Screened Chemicals List See separate Note for details.

Note: Glyphosate is only on the Screened Chemicals list with a Health Risk Rating of "D".

From: www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/chemical-reassessment-programme/

From: www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/latest-news/epa-ramps-up-chemical-reassessments-programme/

• NZ EPA: Screened Chemicals List & Process

15 Oct 2018: How the NZ EPA screen chemicals for possible reassessment, and the 727 chemicals currently screened.

FRCaST Screening Tool:

Using the Flexible Reassessment Categorisation Screening Tool (FRCaST), he NZ EPA screened 727 chemicals, and from that list identified the Hazardous Substances which make up our priority chemicals list.

The NZ EPA gathered information about chemicals from New Zealand, and from our counterpart agencies in Europe, Norway, Canada, Australia and the United States.

The NZ EPA developed the FRCaST Screening Tool to evaluate the chemicals' potential risk to Human Health and to the Environment. This tool was peer reviewed by two international regulatory bodies – NICNAS in Australia and Environment Canada (HC/ECCC). This exercise was considered essential to ensure that the NZ EPA are able align their approach with what is considered best practice internationally.

The FRCaST Peer Review Summary (5 page pdf)

An example of the FRCaST Tool, Notes, & a Guide to its use. FRCaST Tool Example (xlsx) With five test data scenarios

FRCaST Tool Support Notes (23 page pdf)

Screening is intended to allow comparison between chemicals, used for different purposes and in different ways. It is primarily intended to be used for the purposes of prioritisation and work plan development. It is not intended to replace the comprehensive assessments that the NZ EPA undertakes as part of its reassessment work.

The Priority Chemicals List (PCL) is populated by chemicals that have been screened and categorised into the higher risk groups (i.e. Priority Groups A and B). The lowest priority is F.

FRCaST Tool Guide – Operating Instructions (11 page pdf)

This Tool Guide – Operating Instructions document should be read in conjunction with the FRCaST Tool Support Notes, which provides details on the screening process and basis of FRCaST. This Tool Guide document is intended to provide a comprehensive set of instructions to allow screening of chemicals to be undertaken, with minimal discussion on the rationale of approach taken.

Screened Chemicals List (xlsx) with 727 chemicals

Editor: In the Screened List there are 176 chemicals with high Priority A & or B ratings for Health & or Environmental Risks.

For the current approval and controls for the chemicals on the Screened Chemicals List search the NZ EPA Databases.

From: www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/chemical-reassessment-programme/screened-chemicals-list/

• ECHA Proposes 96 Substances for Evaluation

10 Oct 2018: ECHA proposes 96 substances for evaluation by Member States under the Community rolling action plan (CoRAP) for 2019-2021. 28 substances are planned to be evaluated in 2019, while 43 are currently listed for evaluation in 2020 and 25 for 2021.

In particular, it is important that the use & exposure scenarios as well as the exposure estimations are up to date and clearly documented within the registrants' chemical safety reports.

Editor: Some of the chemicals that caught my attention are: Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate; Vinyl Acetate; Chromium(III) Oxide; Diethyl Ether; Cerium Dioxide; Xylene; Propyl Acetate; Carbon Black.

Draft (10 Oct 2018) CoRAP 2019–2021 [30 page pdf]

From: https://echa.europa.eu/-/member-states-to-evaluate-96-substances-in-2019-2021

• ECHA RAC Conclusions: Classific'n & Labelling

19 Sept 2018: ECHA Risk Assessment C'tee (RAC) concludes on 14 opinions on Harmonised Classification and Labelling.

Annex to news release (19 Sept 2018) [6 page pdf]

Editor: The chemicals that caught my attention are: Trimethoxy(Methyl)Silane; Sodium N-(Hydroxymethyl) Glycinate; 2-Butoxyethanol; Geraniol; Dioctyltin Dilaurate; Pyrithione Zinc; Butanone Oxime.

From: https://echa.europa.eu/-/rac-concludes-on-14-opinions-on-harmonised-classification-and-labelling

• Canadian Chemicals Management Plan Website

This Government of Canada website enables you to see the chemicals being currently assessed Canadian Authorities and look back at previous assessments in 2018.

04 Aug 18: Benzophenone
18 Aug 18: Fatty Acids and Derivatives Group
01 Sept 18: Ethylene Glycol Ethers Group
06 Sept 18: Microbeads in Toiletries: Test Methods
15 Sept 18: Nitro Musks Group
18 Aug 18: Commercial Naphthenic Acids Group
25 Aug 18: Sector-specific Inorganic UVCBs Group
01 Sept 18: Furan Compounds Group
15 Sept 18: Antimony-containing Substances Group
28 Sept 18: Acrylates and Methacrylates Group
06 Oct 18: Base Oils (Distillates; Residual Oils; Naphthenic Oils; Lubricating Oils; Foots Oil)

From: www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/latest-news.html

• UK: Ban on Combustible Cladding: Wider Scope?

1 Oct 2018: A ban on combustible cladding in the UK should apply to ALL new high-rise buildings, the UK chartered body for safety and health professionals (The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)) said.

The above comment was in response to: UK Housing Secretary James Brokenshire announced at the UK Conservative Party conference that new high-rise residential buildings, hospitals, registered care homes and student accommodation will be covered by the ban.

From: www.iosh.co.uk/News/Cladding-ban-IOSH-response.aspx

For additional views on Combustible Cladding also see:

www.constructionenquirer.com/2018/10/02/government-bans-combustible-cladding-above-18m/

www.fbu.org.uk/news/2018/10/01/cladding-announcement-does-not-go-far-enough-says-firefighters%E2%80%99-union

• NZ WorkSafe: Chemical Use – Worker loses Eye

21 Sept 2018: A fine of NZ$219,375 was imposed. Reparation of $60,000 was ordered. North Island Mussels Limited was sentenced under sections of the NZ Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

A worker had to have his eye removed after an incident involving a corrosive cleaning product at a Tauranga mussel processing plant. *North Island Mussels Limited* was sentenced in the Tauranga District Court today following the January 2017 incident which left their worker with life changing injuries.

The worker was decanting a cleaning product when a piece of tubing flicked him in the eye. The corrosive product and the impact of the tubing left him with damage so significant that his eye had to be removed. The resulting scarring also meant the victim could not be fitted with a prosthetic eye.

From: https://worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/complacency-over-chemical-use-leaves-worker-without-an-eye/

• Harmful Cleaning Product Sprays: Bad for Lungs

16 Feb 2018: Regular use of cleaning sprays has an impact on lung health comparable with smoking a pack of cigarettes every day, according to a new study.

The research followed more than 6,000 people over a 20 year period and found women in particular suffered significant health problems after long-term use of these products.

Lung function decline in women working as cleaners or regularly using cleaning products at home was comparable to smoking 20 cigarettes a day over 10 to 20 years.

Scientists advise that harmful sprays could be replaced with simple microfibre cloths and water

From: www.thoracic.org/about/newsroom/press-releases/journal/women-who-clean-at-home-or-at-work-face-increased-lung-function-decline.php

From: www.thoracic.org/about/newsroom/press-releases/resources/women-cleaners-lung-function.pdf (19p)

From: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/cleaning-products-lungs-damage-cigarettes-smoking-20-day-scientists-warning-a8214051.html

(THE INDEPENDENT in the UK at www.independent.co.uk/)

• Safety Alert: Engineered Stone Benchtop Workers

Qld 18 Sept 2018: Qld Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister Grace issued an urgent safety warning for workers and employers in Queensland's Engineered Stone Benchtop manufacturing industry.

Ms Grace has reinforced that dry cutting of Engineered Stone is prohibited. "Any employer engaging in dry cutting of this product must stop immediately," Ms Grace said.

"Enforcement action will be taken against any employer who fails to adequately to protect its workers.

"Due to the high levels of Silica in Engineered Stone which can be breathed in as dust when cut dry, it is absolutely paramount that this warning is taken seriously.

"Last night I was advised by senior officials from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) and WorkCover Queensland that there has been a sudden spike in the number of confirmed cases of Silicosis for workers in this industry.

"Silicosis is an aggressive form of Pneumoconiosis – a debilitating respiratory disease – which can be fatal.

"WHSQ recently conducted a compliance campaign involving an audit of 10 Engineered Stone Benchtop manufacturers which uncovered disturbing and unsafe work practices – including dry cutting of stone, poor ventilation of work areas and a lack of personal protection equipment."

Ms Grace said the audits also included health checks for workers. "To date, WorkCover Queensland has received 26 workers' compensation claims for Silicosis, including 22 claims lodged within the past three weeks," she said.

From: http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2018/9/18/safety-alert-issued-for-engineered-stone-benchtop-workers

Worksafe Qld Safety Alert (18 Sept 2018):
Immediate Action Required to Prevent Exposure to Silica for Engineered Stone Benchtop Workers

Webpage Document: This Alert is to highlight the significant health risks caused by exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) for workers in Engineered Stone Benchtop manufacturing, finishing and installation industries.

Workers may be exposed to Crystalline Silica while cutting, grinding, sanding and polishing stone bench tops and during the installation process. Generally exposure to RCS occurs during manufacture of the stone benchtop rather than during installation due to less cuts and fabrication taking place.

From: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/alerts/whsq/2018/prevent-exposure-to-silica-for-engineered-stone-benchtop-workers

Chemical Management

• NTC: New "Chain of Responsibility" HVNL Laws

1 Oct 2018: Amendments to Chain of Responsibility (CoR) duties in the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) take effect.

The priority was to create greater clarity and consistency of CoR laws while reinforcing that all parties who influence heavy vehicle safety must act responsibly. Operators, consignors, consignees and loading managers all have a role.

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Included in HVNL changes that took effect on 1 Oct 2018 are the loading performance standards, which have been transferred from the Load Restraint Guide for heavy vehicles into the HVNL. The Load Restraint Guide will continue to provide guidance on appropriate methods for restraining loads. Future maintenance of the Guide will be by the NHVR.

New Primary Duty laws

On 1 October 2018, the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) was amended to provide that every party in the heavy vehicle transport supply chain has a duty to ensure the safety of their transport activities. In practical terms, this primary duty represents an obligation to eliminate or minimise potential harm or loss (risk) by doing all that is reasonably practicable to ensure safety. As a party in the supply chain, the best way to do this is to have safety management systems and controls in place, such as business practices, training, procedures and review processes that:

- identify, assess, evaluate, and control risk
- manage compliance with speed, fatigue, mass, dimension, loading and vehicle standards requirements through identified best practice
- involve regular reporting, including to executive officers
- document or record actions taken to manage safety.

There is a series of four CoR information sessions videos which were developed following feedback during the 2018 round of information sessions.

They cover: safety duties, adopting a Safety Management System, tools & templates, & Codes of Practice & accreditation schemes.

1. Safety Duties and CoR (11m 49s)
2. Safety Management Systems (SMS) (11m 56s)
3. Safety Mgmt Systems (SMS) Tools & Templates (7m 5s)
4. Codes of Practice and Accreditation Schemes (7m 21s)

There are a further 5 videos to help you understand CoR.

From: www.ntc.gov.au/about-ntc/news/media-releases/ntc-and-nhvr-mark-commencement-date-of-new-chain-of-responsibility-laws/
From: www.nhvr.gov.au/

• International Limit Values for Chemical Agents

GESTIS—International Limit Values for Chemical Agents.

This April 2018 (Exposure Standards) database at http://limitvalue.ifa.dguv.de/ is provided by IFA - an Institute for Research and Testing of the German Social Accident Insurance in Germany.

Alerted by: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/exposure-standards

• Update: AU Hazardous Chemical Classification Guide

17 August 2018: Safe Work Australia updated the National Guide to Classifying Hazardous Chemicals, providing clear, simple and practical information to help businesses classify the chemicals they use.

Safe Work Australia Director, Chemicals Policy Dr Paul Taylor said: "The (Safe Work Australia National) Guide contains more GHS information and a number of worked examples to help business classify their chemicals."

"Small to medium businesses will find the Guide particularly handy – it provides links to comprehensive chemical databases and goes into detail on areas that PCBUs have told us they need more information on."

Download from: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/classifying-hazardous-chemicals-national-guide (55 pages) (pdf) (docx)

From: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/media-centre/news/update-hazardous-chemical-classification-guide

• UN GHS AC.10/C.4 Working Documents - 2018

Editor: I have included one of the current documents to encourage everyone to review these and take part.

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2018/34 - (IPPIC) Aspiration hazard - viscosity criterion for classification of mixtures (4p) (pdf) (docx)
Submitted by: **I**nternational **P**aint & **P**rinting **I**nk **C**ouncil Sept18

There is no reference to test methods in GHS Chapter 3.10 Aspiration Hazard.

Editor: There is an interesting discussion about test methods.

From: www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c42018.html

• Updated Vic Asbestos Compliance Codes: Oct 2018

WorkSafe Victoria Asbestos Compliance Code information:

Compliance Code: Managing Asbestos in Workplaces (124p pdf)

The Code information in this Compliance Code is particularly relevant if you have management or control of a workplace, or plant in a workplace, where asbestos is present, or you are an employer at a workplace where asbestos is present. It is also relevant for employers engaged in asbestos-related activities, and employers or self-employed persons performing demolition or refurbishment at a workplace where is asbestos is present. Additionally, it may be useful for employees and health and safety representatives. It uses examples and tools you can apply to your own situation.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/compliance-code-managing-asbestos-workplaces

Compliance Code: Managing Asbestos in Workplaces – Response to Public Comment (18 page pdf)

This document covers the consultation process, the feedback received, and the changes WorkSafe Victoria made as a result. It summarises the matters raised in public comment submissions and WorkSafe's responses to these, including how they have informed the final Compliance code: Managing Asbestos in Workplaces.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/compliance-code-managing-asbestos-workplaces-response-public-comment

Compliance Code: Removing Asbestos in Workplaces (160p pdf)

The information in this Compliance Code is particularly relevant if you are a licensed asbestos removalist, or an employer or self-employed person carrying out limited removal work. It is also relevant for people who commission Asbestos removal work, those who manage or control workplaces where removal work is performed, and employees and health and safety representatives of workplaces where removal work is carried out. It uses examples and tools you can apply to your own situation.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/compliance-code-removing-asbestos-workplaces

Compliance Code: Removing Asbestos in Workplaces – Response to Public Comment (41 page pdf)

This document covers the consultation process, the feedback received, and the changes WorkSafe Victoria made as a result. It summarises the matters raised in public comment submissions and WorkSafe's responses to these, including how they have informed the final Compliance code: Removing asbestos in workplaces.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/compliance-code-removing-asbestos-workplaces-response-public-comment

***Asbestos:** Find information about Asbestos in the workplace.*
www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos

• NZ WorkSafe: Reporting Notifiable MHF Incidents

21 June 2018 Bulletin: NZ WorkSafe's position on reporting notifiable incidents for failure of Pressure Safety Valves (PSV) when identified as Safety Critical Elements (SCE) at Major Hazard Facilities.

NZ WorkSafe's position:

A PSV can be identified as a safety-critical element at a Major Hazard Facility. Failure of a PSV includes, but is not limited to, lifting at a pressure higher than its design set pressure in service or on test, within allowable tolerances. WorkSafe considers the allowable tolerance for a PSV to begin lifting to be:

- within +15 kPa of the marked set pressure up to and including 500 kPa, and - +3% of the marked set pressure above 500 kPa.

NZ Worksafe considers a failure on test or in service above these thresholds is a failure that will require intervention to ensure that the PSV performs as designed and as such is considered a notifiable incident.

Reporting notifiable incidents for failure of Pressure Safety Valves when identified as Safety Critical Elements at Major Hazard Facilities (2 page pdf)

Editor: This pdf duplicates all the content on the website

From: https://worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/reporting-notifiable-incidents-for-failure-of-pressure-safety-valves/

• NZ WorkSafe: NZ MHF Public Information

9 Oct 2018: Following designation of a Major Hazard Facility, NZ WorkSafe must provide prescribed information to the public on our website in accordance with Regulation 68 of the Health & Safety at Work (Major Hazard Facilities) Regs 2016.

NZ WorkSafe is not required to disclose information that may lead to a threat to the security of a major hazard facility, therefore there may be some major hazard facilities which are not listed here.

The latest public information is available in the website table.

As of the 9 Oct 2018 there are 123 MHF's in the table (50 in the MHF Upper Tier and 73 in the MHF Lower Tier). They are grouped into Civil Defence Regions: Northland; Auckland; Waikato; Bay of Plenty; Taranaki; Manawatu-Wanganui; Hawke's Bay; Wellington; Nelson-Tasman; Canterbury; Otago; & Southland. The Operator and the Address for each MHF are listed in the Table.

From: https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/major-hazard-facilities/mhf-public-information/

• NZ EPA: Novelty Fireworks Process Simplified

1 Oct 2018: Novelty fireworks like Christmas crackers, caps for cap guns and party poppers will no longer need Explosives Import Certificates in NZ from 1 October 2018.

Explosives Import Certificates are still required for all Hazardous Substances which require a Controlled Substances Licence, like demolition explosives or commercial fireworks.

Hazardous Substances (Importers and Manufacturers) Notice 2015 (EPA Consolidation as of 6 Sept 2018) (10 page pdf)

Hazardous Substances (Importers and Manufacturers) Amendment Notice 2018 (10 page pdf)

From: www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/latest-news/epa-simplifies-novelty-fireworks-process/

From: www.epa.govt.nz/public-consultations/decided/a-follow-up-consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-import-certificate-requirements-for-explosives/

• NZ EPA Hazardous Substances Update: 8/18, 9/18

Aug 2018: **a/** NZ EPA Call for Neonicotinoid information; **b/** Glyphosate – the NZ EPA's role.
(For both see Ag Chemicals Notes Section for specific Notes).

Sept 2018: **a/** The NZ EPA has partnered with Wellington Lions and Women's Pride teams to help raise awareness of the need for care with everyday chemicals – from cleaning agents, solvents, paints and thinners, to garden products such as insecticides and plant sprays; **b/** The NZ EPA is seeking information on three Neonicotinoid pesticides; Clothianidin, Imidacloprid, and Thiamethoxam, and their use in New Zealand; **c/** The requirements for some explosives Import Certificates are changing.

From: www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/newsletters/hazardous-substances-update/

• ECHA News & Newsletter (Sept 2018)

7 Sept 2018 News: New Study finds knowledge gaps in risk assessment of Nano pigments. 81 Nano-sized pigments are currently used in the EU market. The findings show that the risks of Nano-pigments cannot adequately be assessed due to missing information on exposure, the absence of reliable Nano-specific toxicological data, and a general lack of public-domain data on their uses.

According to the study, available toxicological data is often inconsistent, and reported results often contradictory - with the exception of a limited number of well-tested substances where general conclusions can still be drawn. The upcoming revision of information requirements for Nanomaterials registered under REACH will improve the availability of data also for Nano-pigments.

Making sports pitches and playgrounds safer. There is a concern that they contain chemicals (such as PAHs) that may cause health risks. (13 Sept 18 Newsletter).

Are the new REACH information requirements for nanos relevant for you? (13 Sept 18 Newsletter). To bridge this knowledge gap on Nanomaterials, the REACH annexes that specify what information is required from companies placing chemicals on the market have been revised, legally obliging industry to also provide data for substances in Nanoform. If adopted, the new changes will enter into force in Jan 2020.

The future for hazardous mixtures in the EU (13 Sept 18 NL). A new label element called the unique Formula Identifier (UFI) links the product with the information provided by industry, for example, the product trade name and its composition. The UFI is a unique code for each mixture composition which helps to identify the mixture and allows accurate and rapid medical advice to be given when there is a poisoning incident. The UFIs are generated with a tool available on ECHA's Poison Centres website and added to the labels.

New Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation Guidelines to improve your Export Notifications. (13 Sept 18 Newsletter)

From: https://echa.europa.eu/news

• CSB: Pryor Trust Fatal Gas Well Blowout & Fire

Accident: Pryor Trust Fatal Gas Well Blowout and Fire

During drilling operations at a gas well in Pittsburg County Oklahoma, on 22 Jan 2018 a large explosion fatally injured five workers. The CSB's investigation is currently ongoing.

16 Aug 2018: Interim Animation of Pryor Trust Gas Well Blowout and Fire (YouTube Video 3min 18sec)

From: www.csb.gov/pryor-trust-fatal-gas-well-blowout-and-fire/

• CSB Releases Laboratory Incident Data (2001-18)

24 Aug 2018: The USA CSB laboratory dataset includes chemical incidents that occurred in public and private laboratories from January 2001 through July 2018. The incidents occurred in a variety of organizations and settings, including private research laboratories, universities, high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, the National Laboratories, state-run laboratories and educational demonstrations

Lab Incident Data: www.csb.gov/assets/1/17/CSB_Laboratory_Incident_Data.pdf?16376 (8 page pdf).

There are 4 incidents that had fatalities.

From: https://www.csb.gov/media-room/ & a search

• USA OSHA Quick Takes e-News: Aug18-Oct18

4 Sept 2018: **1/** Virginia Cites Contractor for Exposing Workers to Respirable Crystalline Silica Hazards while using jackhammers to remove concrete from bridge piers; **2/** New USA OSHA webpage Provides Updates on Protecting Workers from Legionnaire's Disease (Legionellosis Safety and Health Topics page); **3/** Hazard Alert: Flashlight Recalled for Potential Explosion Hazard (Koehler-Bright Star WorkSafe Model 2224 LED 3-D cell flashlight, was marketed as safe for hazardous environments). For information see the Recall Notice (14 Aug 2018).

18 Sept 2018: 1/ Alabama Woodworking Company Cited for Exposing Employees to Fire and Explosion Hazards. The company was cited for allowing combustible wood dust to accumulate, failing to ensure employees used protective eyewear and respirators, and failing to implement a respiratory protection and confined space program.

2 Oct 2018: 1/ Regional Emphasis Program Focuses on Reducing Employee Exposure to Ammonium Nitrate & Anhydrous Ammonia refrigeration storage systems; 2/ Free Webinar on Respiratory Protection Targets Temporary Worker Safety (Webinar Website)

16 Oct 2018: 1/ Wisconsin Refinery Cited for Failing to Control the use and release of highly Hazardous Chemicals, which cause an explosion and fire. 2/ NIOSH Fact Sheet Addresses Opioid Overdoses in the Workplace, after a finding that between 2013 and 2016, overdose deaths from non-medical use of drugs and alcohol increased by 38 percent annually. USA NIOSH has released a new fact sheet, *Using Naloxone to Reverse Opioid Overdose in the Workplace*. It provides a series of steps for employers to consider when deciding whether to make the overdose reversal medication available in the workplace.

From: www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

• Exempted Chemicals: Editor is still Concerned

Exempted Chemicals:
General Rules & Categorisation Guidelines - Comments

***Comment a/*: There is a lot of work** to obtain and document information to meet the General Rules and Categorisation Guidelines, particularly for the Exempted Chemicals. I suggest that the costs to create and maintain these documents over time will be expensive and that the specialists (who I suggest will need to be specialised toxicologists) who can prepare them will need to be like Environmental Auditors, as they will need to be able to sign off that they have met the requirements. There is quite a significant liability for consultants to do this for other entities, that will only be realised when the Industrial Chemical Authority arrives to do a detailed audit, maybe several years after being prepared and there is no longer an association with the consultant.

Comment b/: I suggest a simplified approach be decided for the Exempted Chemicals where an abbreviated set of information is able to be provided by a lower level chemical specialist (such as qualified chemist) where the chemical name, the CAS No., the presentation of the chemical and the likely uses, are provided to the Authority AND the Authority is paid to keep track of these chemicals and then alerts the importers where an increased hazard of the Exempted Chemical decides a review is needed.

This then provides a simplified route of introduction, where the expertise of the Authority is paid for and utilised by the importer, particularly for small trading businesses that don't have easy access to such specialist expertise.

Comment c/: As the data behind the Reports will normally be confidential, how does the Authority expect to obtain access to the confidential documentation behind the Exempted Chemical Reports? This information is typically held in highly protected databases (such as SAP). It is very unlikely that access by the Authority to the underlying data will be allowed.

Comment d/: We need to put in place an industrial chemicals system that can also be reasonably implemented by New Zealand under the TTMRA, so Australia & New Zealand can eventually be one system to introduce Exempted Chemicals.

Australia originally agreed to align its industrial chemicals management system with NZ by 2019. The proposed reforms have NOT addressed this in any way.

IF we are more pragmatic about our Exempted Chemicals, and then pay and rely on the Industrial Chemical Authority to track increases in hazards, this would move Australia to a lower cost system. NZ also needs to manage its “non-hazardous” chemicals. Australia needs to put in place an industrial chemicals Exempted Chemicals system that can eventually be reasonably implemented by New Zealand to also manage its “non-hazardous” chemicals.

Comment d/: As a concerned specialist chemical regulatory consultant and also a concerned member of the community, we need an industrial chemicals system for Exempted Chemicals that will work for at least several decades, with minimum ongoing costs, whilst achieving proper management of ALL Exempted Chemicals in both Australia and NZ and capturing Exempted Chemicals that increase in hazard..

Request for Feedback: Please review my comments and contact me by email: Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au or 0403 072 092. I consider it is important for us all to alert Federal Parliament politicians to this issue before their final votes.

• NICNAS Chemical Gazettes

No. C 09, September 2018 (takes you to the initial webpage)

Alkenes, C12-14, hydroformylation products, distn. lights

Editor: I assume “Distn. Lights” means “Light Distillate”.

No. C 10, October 2018 (takes you to the initial webpage)

Editor: There are amendments to the AICS and deletions from the AICS that are always worth checking. The AICS list prior to the changes was the legal list, even though the list has now been changed. Such “error” corrections may cause problems.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events/chemical-gazette

• Final Report: Secondary Notification Assessment

Secondary Notification assessment on CAS No. 157905-74-3: Ethanaminium, 2-Hydroxy-N,N-bis(2-Hydroxyethyl)-N-Methyl-, Esters with C16-18 and C18-Unsatd. Fatty Acids, Me Sulfates.

Originally notified in 2007 for use in fabric softeners and facial cleansers. In 2017, NICNAS was notified that the introduction volume and concentration of the notified chemical in fabric softeners available to the public significantly exceed those previously assessed. New toxicity data was available, which warranted a review of the hazard classification of the chemical.

The maximum reported import volume of the chemical is up to 504 tonnes per annum, compared to an annual introduction of up to 100 tonnes in the original new chemical assessment. The chemical is used as a component of fabric softeners at a concentration of up 21.1%, compared to the originally assessed concentration of up to 5%.

Recommendations to Regulatory Bodies:

- Skin Irritation (Category 2): H315 – Causes skin irritation
- Acute Aqu. Toxicity (Category 2): H401 – Toxic to aquatic life
- Chronic Aquatic Toxicity (Category 2):
  H411 – Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects

Concentration ≥ 10%: Causes skin irritation

1% ≤ Concentration < 10%: Causes mild skin irritation

Final Report Oct 2018 STD/1258S (docx file 56 pages):

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events/chemical-gazette/numbers/2018/Chemical-Gazette-No.-C-10,-October-2018/final-report-secondary-notification-assessment-on-ethanaminium,-2-hydroxy-n,n-bis2-hydroxyethyl-n-methyl-,-esters-with-c16-18-and-c18-unsatd.-fatty-acids,-me-sulfates-salts

• NICNAS Reform Consultations: close 26 Oct 2018

27 Sept 2018: NICNAS Reforms consultation on Guidance (for 2 matters) for the proposed new Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS). *Feedback is wanted.*

1/ Using AICIS Approved Chemical Names (AACN) for protecting Confidentiality.

This guidance is for:

- businesses who want to protect their chemical's identity
- members of the public who wish to understand what an AICIS Approved Chemical Name (AACN) is

NICNAS are seeking feedback on the:

- clarity of the guidance and
- approach to masking a chemical name

An AACN is a generic or masked chemical name. AICIS will publish it instead of the chemical's full name to protect a chemical's identity. AICIS will use an AACN if they have approved an application to protect a chemical's identity as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This occurs under Part 6 Division 4 (Confidentiality and disclosure) of the Industrial Chemicals Act and associated Rules.

Similar systems of generic naming are also used in other jurisdictions such as the USA, Canada and the EU. This AICIS guidance is based on the chemical masking schemes used for industrial chemicals in Canada and the USA.

When you apply to us for CBI protection of your chemical's identity, AICIS will expect you to include a suggestion of a proposed AACN. If you don't suggest one, AICIS will create one for you (if AICIS approve your CBI application). AICIS will do this by changing only one part of the chemical's name. AICIS call this an AACN with one level of masking.

Masking Chemical Names: How Masking Levels work

One level of masking hides one feature of a chemical's name. This includes repeats of that feature.

Two levels of masking hide two features, and so on.

You do not need to justify one level of masking but for any higher masking, you must justify why this is needed. The exception to this is if you are proposing an AACN that is the same as a masked name from an overseas jurisdiction that uses a similar system of masking chemical names.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/reforms/Using-AICIS-approved-chemical-names-for-protecting-confidentiality

2/ Assessment Certificate Applications under the Reforms

NICNAS are seeking your feedback on the amount and types of information that you will be required to provide when applying for an assessment certificate for an unlisted chemical introduction under the proposed new scheme AICIS.

Information in this Consultation paper includes:

a/ when you will be required to apply for assessment certificate

b/ information we will need on:

- chemical identity
- physico-chemical properties
- introduction, use, exposure and release
- hazard and fate

c/ how the information we need will vary depending on the circumstances of your introduction

d/ information waivers - when they apply

e/ additional information that we will need for:

- specified classes of introduction
- certain chemicals at the nanoscale
- certain fluorinated organic chemicals
- introductions involving a designated kind of release into the environment

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/reforms/Assessment-certificate-applications-under-the-reforms

• Cosmetics Standard 2007 "sunsetted" 1 Oct 2018

3 Oct 2018: The Cosmetics Standard 2007 "sunsetted" on 1 Oct 2018. The content of the Cosmetics Standard has been reproduced in the **new Therapeutic Goods (Excluded Goods) Determination 2018 (Determination)**, a new instrument under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, which commenced on 1 Oct 2018.

The Cosmetics Standard ceased to have effect on 1 Oct 2018, due to "sunset" provisions in the Legislation Act 2003.

Cosmetic products that were previously covered by the Cosmetics Standard **will continue to be excluded from the operation of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 provided** those goods (to the extent that they are therapeutic goods) are exported, imported or supplied in a manner that is consistent with the terms of their exclusion under the Determination.

The new Determination reproduces the relevant content of the Cosmetics Standard to maintain the regulatory status quo in relation to these products. To the extent that these products are also therapeutic goods, the TGA will continue to have oversight of those goods which do not meet the terms of their exclusion.

Read about the TGA's new Excluded Goods Determination (27 Sept 18) (https://www.tga.gov.au/section-7aa-instrument).

Antiperspirants and ear candles are now excluded from the operation of the Therapeutic Goods Act. This outcome is a partial implementation of the outcomes of the options for 'future regulation of low risk products' and announced as agreed by Government on 21 June 2018.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events/news-and-notices/news-and-notices-content/new-tga-excluded-goods-determination-reproduces-the-content-of-the-sunsetted-cosmetics-standard

• NICNAS: Are you Making and Selling Soap?

18 Sept 2018: NICNAS have prepared a simple Guide (4 page pdf that duplicates the webpage information) for new soap makers which includes: soap making processes and how to determine if you need to register with NICNAS, search the Chemical Inventory, and other obligations & frequently asked questions. This is because most soap ingredients are regulated as industrial chemicals in Australia.

You need to register your business with NICNAS if you:

- make soaps in Australia by a process involving a chemical reaction — for example saponification using lye
- import soaps from overseas — this applies to packaged products ready for sale & soap that will be packaged locally
- import chemical ingredients into Australia for soap making

Note: You register your business with NICNAS, not your products or ingredients.

Guide: www.nicnas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/83379/Are-you-making-or-selling-soap-FACT-SHEET-Oct-2018.pdf

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/cosmetics-and-soaps/soaps-and-soap-making/are-you-making-and-selling-soap

• NICNAS: Naturally-Occurring Chemicals

27 August 2018: NICNAS examples of chemicals considered to meet (or not meet) the definition of a Naturally-Occurring chemical.

Essential Oils;	Chemicals used in Construction;	Mineral Ores;
Argan Oil;	Beeswax;	Plant Extracts.

NICNAS Webpage: What is a Naturally-Occurring chemical? describes in detail how to decide this for a specific chemical.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events/news-and-notices/news-and-notices-content/examples-of-naturally-occurring-chemicals

• Excluded (Non-Industrial) Use Chemicals on AICS

As part of the IMAP Tranche 24 (now closed for comment) work, NICNAS updated the Excluded Use Chemicals list at the end of June 2018. Read more about NICNAS's approach to identifying them and how NICNAS defines them.

To see what has been added, check the NICNAS lists of Excluded Use chemicals in the [Excel 139KB] spreadsheets.
www.nicnas.gov.au/__data/assets/excel_doc/0005/46715/Excluded-use-chemicals-Tranches-20-21-22-23-24-June2018.xlsx

There are 3 spreadsheets with (No. of Entries in brackets):

Schedule 4, Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 Chemicals (1045) with 12 Tranche 24 (S4) chemicals added.

Probable Agricultural and Veterinary Excluded Use Chemicals (512) with 11 Tranche 24 (S2,S4,S5,S6,S7) chemicals added.

Probable Therapeutic Excluded Use Chemicals (199) with 44 Tranche 24 (S2,S3,S4,S5,S6,S7 & N/A(5)) chemicals added.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/chemical-information/imap-assessments/how-chemicals-are-assessed/excluded-non-industrial-use-chemicals-on-aics

Editor: It could be some of the AgVet chemicals might be used in trace levels at <0.1% as biocides in industrial chemicals.

Scheduled Poisons

• The Poisons Standard (SUSMP No. 22) Oct 2018

Poisons Standard October 2018 (SUSMP No. 22)

685 page Standard commenced 1 October 18. The SUSMP:

– is a record of decisions regarding the classification of medicines and chemicals into Schedules for inclusion in relevant legislation of the States and Territories;

– includes model provisions about containers and labels, and recommendations about other controls on medicines and chemicals.

Editor: The Index, starting at page 366 is 306 pages long!

Changes are detailed in the Explanatory Statement (3p pdf) supporting Poisons Standard October 2018.
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L01344/Download

The Poisons Standard October 2018 incorporates a number of changes compared to the Poisons Standard June 2018. These amendments principally involve changes to existing entries, and the inclusion of a number of specified substances in the Poisons Standard for the first time.

Amended Existing Substances include:
• Eprinomectin, • Moxidectin, • Mefentrifluconazole, • Vinyl Acetate, • Diclofenac, • Fluticasone, • Cannabidiol; & • Quinine & its Salts

The added New Substances are:
• Cyprinid Herpesvirus-3, • Safinamide and • Tilmanocept.

A new Appendix K entry for • Sodium Oxybate was created.
(Appendix K - Drugs Required to be Labelled with a Sedation Warning)

Appendix J has also been updated. As part of the Appendix J review, the IJWGPC examined the contemporary use patterns and availability of the Schedule 7 Poisons listed in Appendix J. The IJWGPC consulted widely and subsequently recommended a number of proposals to update Appendix J and facilitate consistent controls over the availability and use of the high risk Poisons listed in Appendix J.
(Appendix J – Schedule 7 Poisons requiring Additional Controls on Availability and Use)

From: www.tga.gov.au/publication/poisons-standard-susmp

• Aliphatic Allyl Esters: Submission from Accord

13 Sept 2018: Public Submissions on Scheduling Matters referred to the ACMS #24 and Joint ACMS-ACCS #19 meetings held in June 2018

Aliphatic Allyl Esters: Submission Received from: Accord Australasia Limited (10 May 2018, 2 page pdf). In response to the Delegates' proposed Amendments to the Poisons Standard published on 12 April 2018. Originally alerted via NICNAS in IMAP Tranche 22 as "Aliphatic Allyl Esters: Human Health Tier II Assessment"

www.nicnas.gov.au/chemical-information/imap-assessments/imap-group-assessment-report?assessment_id=3475 (Aliphatic Allyl Esters)

Current: Aliphatic Allyl Esters (9 CAS No.s are listed) are captured by the Schedule 7 and Appendix J entries for Allyl Alcohol in the Poisons Standard.

Proposed to amend the current Schedule 7 entry: for Allyl Alcohol to Exclude Allyl Esters as its Derivatives and to allow low levels of Allyl Alcohol as an Impurity in preparations containing Allyl Esters at 5 per cent or less as follows:

ALLYL ALCOHOL except

a. in preparations containing 5 per cent or less of allyl esters with 0.1 per cent or less of free allyl alcohol by weight of allyl ester; or

b. when separately specified in these Schedules.

10 Sept 2018: To have a Schedule 6 - New Entry:

ALLYL ESTERS in preparations containing 0.1% or less of Free Allyl Alcohol by weight of Allyl Ester except in preparations containing 5% or less of Allyl Esters with 0.1% or less of Free Allyl Alcohol by weight of Allyl Esters.

Proposed implementation date for both: 1 February 2019

From the Accord Submission 10 May 2018:
The proposed amendment as currently worded may result in the inadvertent regulation of substances other than those that have been listed above i.e. that have been identified to be of concern in the IMAP assessment. We would therefore urge consideration of an approach that scheduled only these 9 substances that have been identified as being of concern i.e. listing by CAS number.

From: www.tga.gov.au/scheduling-submission/public-submissions-scheduling-matters-referred-acms-24-and-joint-acms-accs-19-meetings-held-june-2018

And: www.tga.gov.au/book-page/23-aliphatic-allyl-esters

• Public Submissions: Interim Scheduling Matters

23 Aug 2018: On Interim Scheduling Matters referred to the ACMS & ACMS-ACCS meetings in March 2018.

Public Submissions on scheduling proposals referred to the March 2018 meeting of the Joint ACMS-ACCS #18 (pdf,400kb). There are two **Vinyl Acetate** Submissions on pages 5-7 from Chemistry Australia (1 Feb 2018 2 pages) & Accord (2 Feb 2018 1p).

Vinyl Acetate
Submission (1 July 2018): Chemistry Australia (1 page pdf)

"Chemistry Australia welcomes and supports the interim decision taken by the delegate on Vinyl Acetate Monomer. We consider that a thorough analysis was taken and a pragmatic outcome was achieved to ensure a balanced regulatory framework is maintained on Vinyl Acetate."

From: www.tga.gov.au/scheduling-submission/public-submissions-scheduling-matters-referred-acms-23-accs-22-and-joint-acms-accs-18-meetings-held-march-2018

• Amend S6&S4 Entries Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO)

10 Sept 2018: An application was submitted by the APVMA to amend the Poisons Standard with respect to Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO). The application proposed to amend the Schedule 6 entry for in the Poisons Standard by introducing a new exemption concentration cut-off.

Schedule 6 - Amend Entry

DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE (excluding dimethyl sulfone):

- when not for therapeutic use and containing 10 per cent or less of Dimethyl Sulfoxide; or
- for the treatment of animals: (current 3 scheduled scenarios)

Risks: DMSO is a carrier/universal solvent that enhances skin penetration of other substances and thus renders internal organs permeable to drugs and chemicals, leading to enhanced therapeutic and/or toxic responses.

DMSO is an eye and a skin irritant in undiluted form (>66%).

DMSO enhanced dermal penetration of other compounds and may thereby enhance toxicity of these compounds.

DMSO is not a skin sensitiser and it not expected to be genotoxic, carcinogenic, nor to have reproductive or developmental toxicity.

From: www.tga.gov.au/book-page/22-dimethyl-sulfoxide-dmso

• Scheduling Delegate's Final Substance Decisions

28 Sept 2018: Revised final decisions amending, or not amending, the current Poisons Standard to correct for minor administrative errors, September 2018.

Only non-therapeutic and non-veterinary chemicals follow:

2.2 Vinyl Acetate (see the Note immediately following)

3.1 Mefentrifluconazole

From: www.tga.gov.au/revised-final-decisions-amending-or-not-amending-current-poisons-standard-september-2018

• Vinyl Acetate: Scheduling Delegate's Final Decision

Schedule 6 – Amend (1 Oct 2018) Entry

VINYL ACETATE MONOMER
(excluding its derivatives) **except**:

a. in preparations for therapeutic use; or
b. in cosmetic preparations containing 0.01 per cent or less of Vinyl Acetate as residual monomer in a polymer; or
c. in other preparations containing 1 per cent or less of Vinyl Acetate.

Delegate's Reasons: As no new evidence has been received to alter the interim decision for vinyl acetate, the delegate has confirmed that the final decision and reasons for the final decision are **identical to the interim decision.**

From: www.tga.gov.au/book-page/22-vinyl-acetate-0

Editor: An important issue for DIY product formulators:

None of your DIY products can be intended for body contact applications or where users allow your product to dry on them.

This means understanding how your market intends to use your products that contain >0.01% to <1% Vinyl Acetate.

I suggest a clear alert needs to be on labels such as: "Remove splashes immediately and promptly wash the skin."

• Naphthalene: proposed as Poisons Schedule S7

"NAPHTHALENE (excluding its derivatives) except in liquid hydrocarbons as an impurity" at present is a Sched S6 Poison."

Proposed to be:

Schedule 7 - New Entry: NAPHTHALENE (excluding its derivatives) except in liquid hydrocarbons as an impurity.

http://www.tga.gov.au/consultation-invitation/consultation-referral-proposed-amendments-current-poisons-standard-acms-joint-accs-acms-or-accs-meeting-november-2018

Comment Closed: 28 Sept 2018.

Editor: **Several issues are raised by this proposed change**

1/ When is an impurity an ingredient?

There are many Aromatic Hydrocarbon solvents that contain 5-10% Naphthalene and final products (such as Pesticides) that also contain it at this sort of concentration. I technically do not regard this standard composition Naphthalene ingredient as an "impurity".

2/ Assuming Hydrocarbon Solvents with Naphthalene them can come under the exclusion, at what point do final products, not sold domestically as Hydrocarbon solvents (such as Pesticide products dissolved in the Aromatic Hydrocarbon Solvent) get covered by the current exclusion. At the moment such products are typically Scheduled as S5 or S6 so it is not an issue, BUT IF Naphthalene becomes an S7 Dangerous Poison it will become an issue.

3/ Is the change only intended to cover the solid forms of Naphthalene that can be left in clothing cupboards to control insects, and the change will prohibit the domestic use where unprotected adults & unprotected children could be exposed?

• Schedule 5 Amendments: Boric Acid & its Salts

Current Scheduling Decision (effective from 1 June 2019).

On the 10 April 2018 the Delegate made a final decision to amend the Schedule 5 entry for Boric Acid (on 1 June 2019) to align it with European Union concentrations for cosmetics and to create new entries in Schedule 5 for Salts, to address risks identified by the NICNAS IMAP assessment.

Reasons for Proposal: All products captured by the Schedule 5 entry for Boric Acid should be labelled with appropriate warning statements as dictated by the toxicological profile for Boric Acid (i.e. specifically warnings for Repeated Use, Ingestion and Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity).

Addition of the words 'hygiene' and 'NOT TO BE SWALLOWED' will provide clarification regarding oral preparations containing Boric Acid.

The proposed warning statements, including 'not to be used on peeling or irritated skin,' are intended to be consistent with European labelling requirements for cosmetic and personal hygiene products.

From: www.tga.gov.au/consultation-invitation/consultation-referral-proposed-amendments-current-poisons-standard-acms-joint-accs-acms-or-accs-meeting-november-2018

• Proposed Qld Medicines & Poisons Reg Scheme 2018

The draft Queensland Medicines and Poisons regulatory scheme (including pest management) was open for consultation until 16th October 2018.

Indicative drafts of the Queensland Bills and Regulations are provided as an opportunity for key stakeholders to assist in the development of legislation that regulates medicines and poisons in Queensland.

The Bill applies to medicines, poisons and pest management. It contains sections on key concepts and definitions, offences, authorisations and substance authorities, application and assessment processes, Substance Management Plans (SMP), administrative action, monitoring and enforcement, emerging risks, recall orders and public warnings. It includes provisions about confidentiality, registers and databases. It also sets out savings and transitional arrangements.

The five key objectives are to:

1. Protect the public from harm
2. Prioritise expertise and training
3. Reduce red tape by modernising and simplifying the legislation
4. Improve flexibility for users of the system
5. Improve consistency with national laws

There are 13 Key Proposals under the draft Bill.

The Key Proposals that got the Editor's attention are:

- Substance authority holders will be able to streamline administrative processes and have one licence for multiple locations, rather than needing multiple licences.
- Introduces new terminology to be consistent with national terminology.
- Introduces prescribed codes, guidelines, protocols and Standards that reflect industry good practice.

There are 35 documents available to download.
The documents that got the Editor's attention are:

Consultation Draft of the Medicines & Poisons Bill (166p pdf)

Consultation Draft of the Qld Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation (127 page pdf)

Consultation Draft of the Qld Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Pest Management) Regulation (70 page pdf)

Qld Medicines and Poisons Consultation Paper (41 page pdf)

Information Sheet for Industrial Users of Poisons (2 page pdf)

Information Sheet on Substance Management Plans (4p pdf)

Information Sheet for Poisons Wholesaling (3 page pdf)

From:
www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/gi/consultation/5052/view.html

Food Chemical Issues

• A1102 – L-Carnitine in Food (Nutritive Substance)

The purpose of this Application is to permit the sale of L-Carnitine in a variety of food categories including dairy products (excluding butter and butter fat), confectionery, cereal and cereal products, food intended for particular nutritional uses, non-alcoholic beverages and gels.

The purpose of using L-Carnitine as an ingredient in foods is to maintain the normal Carnitine status of the body, particularly in those individuals consuming foods with minimal L-Carnitine content and/or inadequate supply of micronutrients caused by certain forms of nutrition or changed eating habits.

Call for Submissions – 13 September 2018 (pdf) (word)

Supporting Doc 1 – Risk & Technical assessment (pdf) (word)

Supporting Doc 2 – Assessment of Health effects (pdf) (word)

Supporting Doc 3 – Assessment against Policy Guidelines (pdf) (word)

Admin Assessment Report - 31 Oct 2014 (pdf) (word)

Executive Summary (1 page pdf)

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1102-L-carnitineInFood.aspx

• A1149: Steviol Glycosides in Fruit Drinks

9 Oct 2018: This Application is to seek approval to amend Schedule 15 relating to Standard 1.3.1 of the AU/NZ Food Standards Code to include the addition of Steviol Glycosides in Fruit Drinks at a level of 200 mg/kg Steviol equivalents.

The Application also confirms there is a consumer preference for Steviol Glycosides as plant-based intense sweeteners compared with other permitted intense sweeteners used in fruit drinks. e.g. Aspartame, Acesulphame Potassium, Alitame and Aspartame-Acesulphame Salt.

Call for Submissions - 9 Oct 2018 – 14 pages (pdf) | (word)

Supporting Doc 1 – Food Technology, Hazard and Dietary Assessment – 9 Oct 2018 - 30 page (pdf) | (word)

Executive Summary – June 2017 (6 page pdf)

Application - June 2017 (69 page pdf)

Email Submissions by 6 Nov 2018:
Submissions@foodstandards.gov.au

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1149Addition-of-Steviol-Glycosides-in-Fruit-Drinks.aspx

• A1161: Potassium Polyasparatate Food Additive

13 Sept 2018: Call for Submissions. This Application is to permit the use of Potassium Polyaspartate as a Food Additive in wine at a maximum permitted limit of 100mg/L.

The technological function is as a stabiliser by preventing the growth of Potassium Bitartrate crystals.

There is no international Codex standard for wine, nor permission in the Codex general standard for food additives for Potassium Polyaspartate in wine. The EU permits Potassium Polyaspartate for use as a stabiliser against Tartrate crystallisation in wine at levels of no more than 100 mg/L (European Commission, 2017).

Application (13 Sept 2018) (15 page pdf)

Executive Summary (pdf 462 kb)

Administrative Assessment Report 15 May 2018 (pdf) (docx)

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1161.aspx

• A1169: Alpha-Glucosidase (Enzyme) Processing Aid

This Application is to consider whether to permit the use of Alpha-Glucosidase enzyme from A Recombinant Strain of Trichoderma Reesei as a Processing Aid.

Administrative Assessment Report – 17 Aug 2018 (2 page pdf)

Executive Summary (pdf)

Seeking permission for a new GM microbial source for permitted Enzyme as a Processing Aid.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1169.aspx

• A1170: Rebaudioside MD as a Steviol Glycoside

This Application is to seek approval for a Steviol Glycoside mixture (Rebaudioside MD - Reb MD) for use as an intense sweetener, produced from a genetically modified Saccharomyces Cerevisiae.

Executive Summary 17 Aug 2018 (3 page pdf)

This purified Steviol Glycoside product, RebMD, is primarily comprised of Rebaudiosides M and D and may contain a mixture of the following additional Glycosides in various concentrations, which are present in the leaves of the Stevia Rebaudiana (S. Rebaudiana) Bertoni plant: Rebaudiosides A, B, C, F, Stevioside, Steviolbioside, Rubusoside, and Dulcoside A. RebMD contains not less than 95% total Steviol Glycosides, determined as the sum of the 10 aforementioned Steviol Glycosides.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1170.aspx

Agricultural Chemicals

• Minister's Statement on Reguln of Agri-Chemicals

9 Oct 2018: The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources backs the APVMA. He is confident the APVMA is competent and independent. He has taken steps to further protect its independence by introducing legislation to have a skills based board to protect the transparency and accountability of the APVMA and its function.

The weight of the objective scientific evidence shows when used in accordance with label instructions, Glyphosate can be used safely.

He calls on all sides of politics to back my legislation to give the APVMA an independent, skills based board which further strengthens the APVMA.

From: http://minister.agriculture.gov.au/littleproud/Pages/Media-Releases/statement-on-regulation-of-agrichemicals.aspx

• Glyphosate Weed Killer & Cancer: ABC Four Corners

8 Oct 2018 – **ABC Four Corners: The Monsanto Papers**

When it was launched four decades ago, Roundup was hailed as a miracle product, a revolutionary herbicide that would transform farming and keep home gardeners happy too. And it came with the promise that it was safe.

Now a landmark USA court case has made headlines worldwide, with a jury declaring Roundup was a substantial factor in causing a school ground keeper's terminal cancer and that the company had failed to warn of the risk posed by the product.

ABC Four Corners traces the company's influence campaign from the US all the way back to Australia, where Roundup is used on farms and in household gardens across the country.

The iView Video is 45 minutes in length

From:
www.abc.net.au/4corners/the-monsanto-papers/10352384

8 Oct 2018: **Cancer Council Australia calls for an Australian Review amid Roundup Cancer Concerns**

Australia's peak cancer body, Cancer Council Australia, is calling for an independent review into the world's most popular weedkiller, which has been linked to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. CCA is concerned there has not been an independent or formal review of the chemical Glyphosate in more than two decades.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-08/cancer-council-calls-for-review-amid-roundup-cancer-concerns/10337806

• APVMA Response to 4 Corner's re: Glyphosate

8 Oct 2018: Some extracts -

The ABC Four Corners episode that aired 8 October 2018 has questioned the safety of Glyphosate products registered for use in Australia following a decision in the Californian Superior Court to award damages to a man who alleged that Glyphosate-based weed-killers caused his cancer.

The APVMA considered the IARC report in 2016, along with an examination of many other scientific trials and studies, and like other regulators, the APVMA determined that glyphosate is safe to use according to label directions.

The manner in which the APVMA is funded bears no influence on our independent regulatory activities that continue to protect the health of Australia's people, our agricultural industry, farmers, the environment and animals.

*Information about the **APVMA's Examination of Glyphosate** is online at: https://apvma.gov.au/node/13891 (13 Sept 18)*

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/32991

• NZ EPA: Glyphosate – The NZ EPA's Role

Aug 2018: The NZ EPA set controls (Rules) to ensure HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES such as Glyphosate, can be used in ways that safeguard people and the environment.

In the case of Glyphosate, the NZ EPA's current assessment controls advise that following the label instructions on all Glyphosate products provides adequate protection for users. This is consistent with other Regulators worldwide.

Glyphosate is on the NZ EPA Chief Executive Initiated Reassessment (CEIR) Programme list, which means that the NZ EPA are actively monitoring its status and international developments.

From: http://createsend.com/t/r-7FA5678B53CF4ADE2540EF23F30FEDED (Aug 18 Update)

And: www.epa.govt.nz/everyday-environment/gardening-products/?accordion-anchor=551

• NZ EPA calls for Neonicotinoid Information

13 Aug 2018: The NZ EPA is calling for information about three Neonicotinoid pesticides to understand how and where they are being used within New Zealand.

The three are Clothianidin, Imidacloprid and Thiamethoxam. Neonicotinoid pesticides can harm bees and other pollinators if not used correctly.

Neonicotinoids are systemic insecticides. This means they move around plant tissues to protect the entire plant from insects. They are used to control insects that can damage some fruit, ornamental, cereal and vegetable crops. They are also used as a seed treatment in maize or cereals (which are wind pollinated) to help crops become established. Neonicotinoids have been available for use in New Zealand and Australia for more than 20 years.

This call follows recently updated risk assessments published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in February 2018.

The NZ EPA wants to know how they're being used, the frequency and scale of their use, and the specific mitigation measures that are being adopted on application.

European Food Safety Authority Report and Announcement

at: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/180228

NZ EPA's Call for Information & Submission Form are at:

www.epa.govt.nz/public-consultations/open-consultations/call-for-information-on-clothianidin-imidacloprid-and-thiamethoxam/

Please Comment by 26 Oct 2018 / 30 Dec 2018 to

Submissions@epa.govt.nz

From: www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/latest-news/epa-calls-for-neonicotinoid-information/

• NZ Worksafe & NZ EPA: 1080 Pesticide Controls

1 Oct 2018: The use of 1080 (Sodium Fluoroacetate) Pesticide is strictly controlled in New Zealand.

a/ The NZ EPA is responsible for approving hazardous substances for use in New Zealand, including 1080 products.

The NZ EPA sets controls on 1080, such as labelling and packaging, notification and permission requirements and methods of application in the field.

The NZ EPA, Ministry of Health Public Health Units, and the Department of Conservation (DOC) handle permissions for 1080 drops. For information about how DOC uses 1080 pesticide, see their website.

b/ NZ WorkSafe enforce the rules relating to the use, handling and storage of hazardous substances, including 1080 and importation of pure form of 1080, in workplace settings. Regulations on hazardous substances under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) set out rules that must be followed by organisations using 1080 pellets

NZ EPA & NZ WorkSafe's roles and responsibilities (2p pdf)

Editor: This pdf duplicates part of the content on the website

From: https://worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/worksafe-new-zealand-and-1080/

• APVMA: Reduce 2,4-D Spray Drift Incidents

4 Oct 2018: To reduce the likelihood of spray drift damage, as of 3 Oct 2018, the new APVMA 2,4-D label instructions at (https://apvma.gov.au/node/32951), came into effect and old labels have been suspended. **Users of 2,4-D must comply with the new label instructions, even if they are using products with the old labels.**

These changes affect about 220 products, and the **new instructions for use include**:

- a requirement not to spray in inversion conditions and additional information on recognising inversion conditions

- downwind mandatory no spray zones for both aquatic and terrestrial off target vegetation (including sensitive crops, gardens, landscaping vegetation, protected native vegetation or protected animal habitat)
- a requirement to use nozzles producing droplets no smaller than the Very Coarse spray quality category
- mandatory record keeping requirements, and
- advisory statements about spray application over summer.

Products containing 2,4-D continue to be under review by the APVMA.

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/32941

And: https://apvma.gov.au/node/32951 Suspension of Approval of the Label for Containers for 2,4-D Products Notice (Special Ag & Vet Gazette 4 Oct 2018

• APVMA: 'Repack' a Registered Reference Product

29 Aug 2018: Registering a new product that is the same as a Registered Reference Product is also known as a 'Repack'.

The new product **must be the same formulation with the same ingredients as the reference product, be in the same containers and be manufactured by a manufacturer of the reference product.** The use pattern, label claims and use instructions for the new product must be the same as those of the reference product.

The legislated definition of 'the same' can be found in the Legislation section of this page.

There are also **APVMA Tailored Guidance materials for other variations** as well at: https://apvma.gov.au/node/27441. When registering a new product or making a variation, there is now access to current and clear guidance for that application type before you enter our online services portal. The tailored guidance materials are an *alternative pathway to* the **existing decision tree,** which is still available.

From: https://apvma.gov.au/taxonomy/term/17901

• APVMA: Methiocarb Proposed Regulatory Decisions

27 Aug 2018: The APVMA has concluded that the use of Methiocarb according to its current instructions for use **does not meet the safety criteria** listed in sections 5A of the Agvet Code for continued registration and approval.

The proposed Regulatory Decisions are that Methiocarb active approvals and product **registrations can continue provided the product labels are updated** to delete, add or amend certain use patterns, amend safety directions and first aid instructions, add restraint statements and amend withholding periods.

Methiocarb Proposed Regulatory Decisions Report - August 2018 (37 pages): pdf docx "The reconsideration of the active constituent Methiocarb, registration of products containing Methiocarb and approvals of their associated labels."

Methiocarb is a Carbamate, non-systemic pesticide that has been registered for use in Australia for over 30 years. It kills insects, slugs and snails by interfering with the activity of Acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme in the nervous system.

Submissions closing date 30 Nov 2018
Email submissions to: ChemicalReview@apvma.gov.au

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/32341

• APVMA: Draft Risk Assessment Manuals (3)

4 Oct 2018: The APVMA have released the draft Risk Assessment Manuals for Residues, Environment and Human Health for *public comment*.

These documents reflect current practice in each assessment area at the APVMA and are intended as Guidance for APVMA staff stakeholders, industry and the general public.

Human Health Risk Assessment Manual v1.0
https://apvma.gov.au/node/32911 (23 pages) docx

Environment Risk Assessment Manual v1.0
https://apvma.gov.au/node/32906 (69 pages) docx

Residues & Trade Risk Assessment Manual v1.0
https://apvma.gov.au/node/32916 (24 pages) docx

The consultation period is now open and will close on **1 November 2018**.

From: Regulatory Update #279 (5 Oct 2018) - Consultations
https://apvma.gov.au/node/32976

• Submissions re: proposed Agvet Chem Legislation

Editor: There are 14 submissions. I have included a selection.

Accord Australasia Ltd (4 page pdf). "While the aim of the Consultation is to streamline regulatory requirements for a more efficient and effective regulatory system to reduce the compliance burden on industry, disappointingly the proposed implementation strategies for the reforms will not achieve this goal."

Competitive Advantage (14 page pdf) *Editor:* A detailed, very useful to read submission from an AgVet specialist consultant.

CropLife Australia (13 page pdf). "The proposed additional legislative changes presented in the Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Regulations) Bill 2018 again fail to deliver the urgent and targeted reform required to streamline APVMA regulatory functions that will assist the APVMA during its transition to Armidale."

Grain Producers Australia (GPA) (14 page pdf). "While GPA is responding positively to initiatives and some of the key changes in the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment exposure draft (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2018 the key deficiency of the proposed changes is that it does not address the declining commercial pesticide investment into Australia."

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (3p pdf)

From: www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/ag-vet-chemicals/better-regulation-of-ag-vet-chemicals/streamlining/public-consultation

• Parkinsonia Aculeate Bioherbicide containing 3 Fungi

Editor: This Agricultural Bioherbicide caught my attention as it based in infecting the woody weed Parkinsonia Aculeate on grazing lands with the 3 fungi: *Lasiodiplodia Pseudotheobromae, Neoscytalidium Novaehollandiae, and Macrophomina Phaseolina.*

25 Sept 2018: The APVMA is considering an application for the approval of the actives Lasiodiplodia Pseudotheobromae, Neoscytalidium Novaehollandiae, and Macrophomina Phaseolina and the registration of Di-Bak Parkinsonia Bioherbicide.

The three Active constituents, belong to the family Botryosphaeriaceae are Fungi isolated from plants afflicted with the naturally occurring disease known as Parkinsonia dieback. The product consists of sterile grain inoculated with the three active constituents, encased in a Gelatine capsule. The concentration of each active constituent is 16 Colony Forming Unit (±1) per capsule. The product is to be inserted into a hole drilled in the stem of the Parkinsonia Tree and sealed to enhance infection while minimising exposure to end-users and the environment. The three active constituents are known to be native to and widely distributed throughout the Australian environment.

The use of the product is in non-food producing situations. Based on the toxicological data evaluated the product is considered (by the APVMA) to have low pathogenic potential.

The 3 Fungi concentrates are Schedule S5 Poisons.

When used as a herbicide in capsule preparations at a concentration of 16 CFU or less per capsule they are exempt from being Schedule Poisons.

Environmental fate and effects studies, as well as relevant efficacy studies, were reviewed to assess the fate and behaviour of each fungal strain in the environment and their effects on non-target organisms. Particular consideration was given to environmental exposure relative to natural background levels. *Editor: For details see 25 Sept 2018 Ag & Vet Chem Gazette*

Based on available information, the APVMA is satisfied that the product is not, or would not be, likely to have an unintended effect that is harmful to animals, plants or things or to the environment, when used according to Label Directions.

Comment Closes 23 Oct 2018.
Submissions: Case Management and Administration Unit, APVMA. Ph: 02 6210 4701, Email: Enquiries@apvma.gov.au

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/32896 and the 25 Sept 2018 Ag & Vet Chem Gazette https://apvma.gov.au/node/32891

Dangerous Goods

• Vic: D.Goods (Transport by Road or Rail) Regs

Victoria's Dangerous Goods (Transport by Road or Rail) Regulations 2018 (DG TRR Regulations) (199 pages) commence on 25 October 2018.

Statutory Rule: 2018-155sr Oct 2018 (Authorised pdf) (docx)

The new Vic DG TRR Regulations are mainly the same but they do reflect changes that have been made nationally for the transport of Dangerous Goods.

The changes affect those that:
- hold or require a dangerous goods vehicle or driver's licence
- transport empty dangerous goods packaging
- transport dangerous goods in limited quantities
- transport constituents of a bulk ammonium nitrate-based explosives to manufacturing sites
- transport cylinders
- are involved in packaging design (both bulk tanker and non-bulk tanker)
- want to seek an exemption or administrative determination or approval

They reduce the regulatory burden for the transport of lower risk Dangerous Goods by removing duplicate compliance requirements for Explosive component transport.

Reconciliation Table (39 page pdf) - Dangerous Goods (Transport by Road and Rail) Regulations 2018 with the changes to the Regulation numbering for the transport of Dangerous Goods compared to the 2008 Regulations.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/news/2018-10/victorias-new-dangerous-goods-transport-road-or-rail-regulations

• ADG Code 7.6 final format version: Now end Nov

NTC DG website: http://www.ntc.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/safety/australian-dangerous-goods-code/

Note: An ADG Code 7.6 Code was released 25 Sept 2018 then removed a day or two later as it had formatting errors.

Also added in late Sept 2018 to the previous downloadable version (that still has a blank track changes column):

"3.4.12.3 Clause 3.4.12.2 does not apply to a personal care product that is contained in an aerosol."

Editor: I am informed that Aerosol Personal Care Products where intended by Competent Authorities Panel (CAP) to be excluded under 3.4.12 in the ADG Code 7.6

• DG Personal Care Product in Consumer Packaging

Editor: These are the key paragraphs in the ADG Code 7.6 about a Dangerous Goods Personal Care Product in Consumer Packaging.

3.4.10.1 The following Dangerous Goods can be transported using the Concessional Limited Quantities Transport Document:

a) a limited quantity dangerous good (1.2.1.2.5) that is of a kind generally used for personal care or household purposes (other than UN 2067, UN 2071 and UN 1942); or

b) a domestic consumable dangerous good (defined in 1.2.1).

3.4.12 PERSONAL CARE PRODUCT IN CONSUMER PACKAGING

3.4.12.2 Other than this clause and Part 3.4 clauses 3.4.1 and 3.4.2, no other provisions of this Code apply to the transport of dangerous goods packed in limited quantities (1.2.1.2.5) that are personal care products.

And Now Added to ADG Code 7.6 in late Sept 2018:

3.4.12.3 Clause 3.4.12.2 does not apply to a personal care product that is contained in an aerosol.

• Competent Authorities Panel Rules from 1 July 18

When making decisions on the operation of the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (the Code) and the Dangerous Goods legislation the Competent Authorities Panel (CAP) must have regard to inter-modal liaison and jurisdictional harmonisation.

The Panel has a pivotal role in ensuring that the integrity and effectiveness of the national scheme for the transport of Dangerous Goods is maintained. It operates as a forum for important decisions allowing nationally consistent application of the model legislation and optimising mutual recognition arrangements across jurisdiction borders.

The CAP Rules are as amended and approved by the Transport and Infrastructure Council on 18 May 2018, to take effect from 1 July 2018.

Competent Authority Panel Rules (July 2018) (16 page pdf)

www.ntc.gov.au/Media/Reports/(BC77942A-FD57-B488-B5EF-F51468CECDB8).pdf (16 page pdf)

Found on the "Summary of Proposed Amendments" webpage.
www.ntc.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/safety/australian-dangerous-goods-code/summary-of-proposed-amendments/

• Dangerous, Hazardous & Harmful Cargoes Handbook

The updated AMSA Handbook, 3rd Edition – August 2018 is finally available. It is applicable to the 2016 IMDG Code, but will still be reasonably applicable to the 2018 IMDG Code which we will be required to work to from January 2019.

Cost including GST and postage is $25
Phone or email the AMSA Office on 02 6279 5000 (8am-5pm) & AMSAConnect@amsa.gov.au

From: www.amsa.gov.au/qualifications-training/safety-and-navigation-training/dangerous-hazardous-and-harmful-cargoes

AMSA Public'n Order (dot file): www.amsa.gov.au/file/4007/download?token=MgmSN5SY

Editor: The Word Document still refers to the previous 7/2011 edition but they only have the 8/2018 edition available to send.

Editor: There is also a security problem for your credit card details, as they want you to write down your **CCV number** on their form, which then is passed internally to another section.

I have liased with the Quality Co-ordinator, but it is NOT fixed.

Editor: This is a very useful training handbook to help those not familiar with the IMDG Code to understand and use it, plus an effective refresher handbook for regular users. Please feedback any corrections you find to the above email address

• NSW EPA: DG Tanker Vehicle Inspection Manual

21 Aug 2018: Dangerous Goods tank vehicles must be maintained so they are safe and comply with legislative requirements. In conjunction with industry, the NSW EPA has prepared a new Inspection Manual to assist operators, repairers and regulators ensure that tank vehicles meet the required standards, helping to protect the safety of drivers, other road users and the community.

DG Tanker Vehicle Inspection Manual (Aug 2018 44 page pdf)

From: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/news/2018/dangerous-goods-tank-vehicle-inspection-manual

• ACT Safety Alert: Acetylene Gas Explosion

2 Aug 2018: Worksafe ACT Safety Alert 065: Gas Explosion. (doc file) or (pdf file)

The Incident: A tragic death occurred outside a South side Canberra school late on 2 August 2018 following a Gas Explosion sourced from a work vehicle. Preliminary investigations indicate that an Acetylene gas bottle leaked into a compartment at the back of a work Ute and an ignition source has caused an explosion tragically killing the driver who was standing next to the vehicle.

Staff and Training: Ensure persons using or transporting gas cylinders are appropriately trained and instructed on the proper handling, storage and transport of gas cylinders including emergency procedures.

From: www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2998#!tabs-3

• SA Safety Alert: Transport of Flammable Gas Cylinders

1 Aug 2018: Serious burn injuries from ignited gas from an LPG barbeque cylinder in a car boot.

The Incident: A person received serious burn injuries when an LPG barbeque cylinder, kept in a car boot on a hot day (34°C) for about one hour, released gas which was subsequently ignited when the boot door was opened and the boot light came on.

From: www.safework.sa.gov.au/news/transport-flammable-gas-cylinders# (There is only webpage information available)

• WA Dangerous Goods Information Sheets

5 Sept 2018: WA Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Amendment Regulations 2018 - information sheet (5 page pdf)

This information sheet summarises the amendments made to the WA Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007 (the Regulations) which took effect on 1 September 2018.

The major changes in Edition 7.6 of the ADG Code are listed in Tables A and B.

8 Oct 2018: Transporting Dangerous Goods in Limited Quantities (changes in the ADG7.6) - Information Sheet
(7 page pdf)

Summary of the changes to the Code in regards to Dangerous Goods transported in Limited Quantities. It should be used in conjunction with ADG7.6.

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Dangerous-Goods/Dangerous-Goods-Publication-11093.aspx

• Esso Longford Gas Plant Explosion 20 Years Ago

Workers from Esso's Longford gas plant (in East Gippsland Victoria) are still coming to terms with a catastrophic explosion 20 years ago that killed two men and left many others both mentally and physically scarred.

The blast on September 25, 1998, killed Peter Wilson and John Lowery. Eight workers were injured and the disaster left Victoria without gas supplies for 10 days.

A Royal Commission cleared Mr Ward of any wrongdoing, and laid the blame squarely at Esso's door.

In 2001 the Victorian Supreme Court fined the company $2 million — the largest handed out for such an accident in Australia at the time.

From: www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-25/20-years-since-deadly-longford-gas-plant-explosion/10299988

25 Sept 2018 Vic CFA marks the 20th anniversary of the fatal explosion at the Esso Longford Gas Plant. Two people died & eight people were seriously injured in the incident, resulting in the cessation of all gas supply from the Longford facilities.

From: https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/-/longford-20-years-on

• Vic MFB: Chemical Incident Reports

www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases.html

30 Aug 2018: Factory fire in West Footscray
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/Factory-fire-in-West-Footscray.html

31 Aug 2018: Firefighters have spent the night battling a significant fire at a West Footscray factory.
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/West-Footscray-fire-under-control.html

1 Sep 2018: West Footscray fire update. After three days gathering evidence at the site MFB specialist fire investigators have made the determination today to refer the investigation to Victoria Police.
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/West-Footscray-fire-update-.html

7 Sept 2018: MFB HAZMAT crews responded to a chemical leak at Melbourne airport just before 10am this morning.
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/HAZMAT-called-to-Melbourne-Airport.html

7 Sept 2018: MFB's specialist HAZMAT technicians were called to a chemical spill at Mackenzie Road West Melbourne just before 12 noon, following reports of a small amount of chemical leaking from a shipping container which was being stored on a ship.
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/HAZMAT-incident-in-West-Melbourne-.html

8 Sept 2018: MFB's specialist HAZMAT technicians were called to a cargo premises on Apac Drive at Melbourne Airport just before 8am after unknown Dangerous Goods were spilled.
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/Specialist-HAZMAT-firefighters-called-to-chemical-spill-at-Melbourne-Airport.html

24 Sept 2018: MFB & CFA Crews called to chemical spill (20L HCL solution) in Mordialloc
www.mfb.vic.gov.au/News/Media-releases/Crews-called-to-chemical-spill-in-Mordialloc-.html

• NSW Fire & Rescue: Chemical Incident Reports

18 Oct 2018 - #FRNSW firefighters who battled to contain a dangerous chemical fire at Jemalong in 2015 were recognised at a ceremony. https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1052694322397687809

25 Sept 2018 - This is the scene that #FRNSW firefighters faced in Kempsey this morning, after fire engulfed a panel beaters shop. A neighbouring service station was closed.
https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1044402145234059264

From: www.fire.nsw.gov.au/ "What We're Doing" Reports

• Vic CFA: Chemical Related Incidents & Issues

https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/media-room

15 Aug 2018: Exposure to smoke not just part of the job https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/-/exposure-to-smoke-not-just-part-of-the-job

27 Sept 2018: Dry Conditions Spark Haystack Concerns - e.g. Spontaneous Combustion from too high moisture levels https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/-/dry-conditions-spark-haystack-concerns?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Flatest-news

• Melbourne: Inner West blitz on Dangerous Goods continues - 6 Sept 2018 & 31 Aug 2018

A WorkSafe Vic and Vic EPA blitz on industrial sites in the West Footscray area is continuing, with 78 sites visited and 68 contraventions identified in relation to the handling and storage of dangerous goods.

The blitz was in response to community concerns following last week's factory fire near Somerville Road.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/news/2018-09/inner-west-blitz-dangerous-goods-continues and

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/news/2018-08/blitz-dangerous-chemicals-will-target-inner-west

• Vic EPA: West Footscray-Tottenham fire recovery

www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/current-issues/industrial-fire-in-west-footscray

The EPA Vic have so far found a range of chemicals in the Stony Creek water including:

detergents; industrial solvents, such as phenol and a group of volatile industrial solvent compounds called BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene); PFAS; fire combustion by-products (Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons).

6 Sept 2018 Inner west blitz (by Worksafe Vic & EPA Vic) on dangerous goods continues
www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2018/september/06/worksafe-blitz

7 Sept 2018 West Footscray Industrial Fire Update
www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2018/september/07/west-footscray-industrial-fire-update

21 Sept 2018 West Footscray fire community update
www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2018/september/21/west-footscray-fire-community-update-21-september-2018

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

• Updating the Aust 2009 National Waste Policy

Sept 2018: Australians generate around 64 million tonnes of waste every year and that figure is growing. To better support our economy, protect the health of our communities, and reduce environmental impacts, we need to set a sustainable path for Australia's recyclable waste.

Preparation of this discussion paper was coordinated by the Australian Government, with input from State and Territory government officials, the Australian Local Government Association, business and industry associations and non-government organisations.

This discussion paper was to seek input on priority issues to be considered in future Australian waste management and resource recovery. Feedback will inform updates to the 2009 National Waste Policy for consideration by environment ministers later this year (2018).

Discussion paper: Updating the 2009 National Waste Policy (Sept 2018) 29 pages (PDF), (DOCX)

"Updating the 2009 National Waste Policy will reflect a new way to think about waste.

By applying the principles of a circular economy, we can support better and repeated use of our resources.

A circular economy retains the value of materials in the economy for as long as possible, reducing the unsustainable depletion of natural resources and the impacts of material use and waste generation on the environment."

Comment Closed on 5th Oct 2018.

From: www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/consultation-on-updating-national-waste-policy

Editor: In 1985 I remember attending a Vic EPA Community & Industry weekend workshop, where the community said we want a "Cradle to Cradle" system, not "Cradle to Grave"! I wonder what Australia will achieve in the next 33 years?

• NPI: Review of the National Pollutant Inventory

June 2018: The discussion paper invited public comment to inform the review of the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI). The *terms of reference for the review* are broad and could lead to major changes in the NPI.

The NEP Council agreed to review the NPI focussing on identifying whether the right substances were being reported, the most valuable information was being collected and whether its collection was cost effective.

Review of the National Pollutant Inventory – Discussion Paper (67 pages) (PDF) (DOCX)

Do the NPI NEPM *Environmental Outcomes* remain relevant? If not, how might they be changed?

Do you think the NPI or other PRTRs *Enhance Environmental Quality*? If so, to what extent? Can you provide any examples?

Increasing Understanding of Substance Emissions & Transfers: Does the NPI sufficiently raise awareness of and encourage public, industry, government and academic users to engage with and use its data to improve environmental outcomes through greater understanding? If not, why not?

What data could be collected and published through the NPI to make it more useful for you or other users?

Would more interpretation or analysis of the data assist users, and if so in what form?

Encouraging Cleaner Production Techniques: Does your organisation generate emissions? If so, how do you use NPI data? How can NPI data be more useful to you, your organisation or your industry? Do you/would you use the data on the emission reduction techniques facilities implement? How?

Is the NPI a useful resource for ***Tracking Environmental Progress*****?** How can the data it collects or the way the data is presented be more useful for tracking environmental progress?

Right-To-Know: Do you think the community expects to have emissions and transfer data for potentially harmful substances publicly available? How can the NPI better satisfy community expectations in this area?

Assisting Government in Identifying Priorities for Environmental Decision Making: Does your Government agency use the NPI in program and policy development? How can the NPI be more useful in identifying priorities for environmental decision making?

On balance, to what extent do you think the NPI contributes, and what is its potential to contribute, to achievement of its desired *Environmental Outcomes?*

Are there any substances you would like to see on the NPI ***Substance List?*** Are there any current substances you would like to see removed? Do you think a TAP should be formed to re-examine the *Substance List?* To what extent do you agree the NPI substance list should be further harmonised with international lists, for example through the OECD's recommended harmonisation processes? Should the NPI substance list be able to be changed more easily than having to change the NPI NEPM legislative instrument?

Questions (9) - *User experience:*

Questions (6) - *Reporters & thresholds:*

Questions (3) - *Interaction with other government programs*:

Questions (6) - *Accuracy of reporting/compliance & validation:*

Questions (3) - *Current funding model*

Sustainable Resourcing Models*:* Should NPI facility reporters and/or NPI data users be asked to contribute to improvements to the NPI through a cost recovery model? If a user pays system were introduced, would you still access the data? Why/why not? Would the centralisation of data collection activities currently performed by the States and Territories result in the NPI delivering program efficiencies? Or false economies? Are there any costs or benefits not listed?

National Pollutant Inventory Review 2017 (now 2018) **Terms of Reference** (1 page) (PDF) (DOCX)

Submission about experience with the NPI or ideas for the future of the program were requested from all types of users and providers of NPI data, ranging from individuals and academic experts through to stakeholders in government, industry and non-government organisations.

Submissions closed on the 10 August 2018.

From: www.npi.gov.au/resource/review-national-pollutant-inventory-discussion-paper

• EIA*: Illegal CFC-11 Production in China

17 Aug 2018: "China has identified illegal use and production of CFC-11 in a series of actions undertaken in response to our report Blowing It (July 2018), which recently revealed that companies making polyurethane foams in China continued to use the banned ozone depleting substance."

"….an investigation of the 19 PU foam enterprises had been undertaken. Although no CFC use was found in 12 enterprises, CFC-11 was detected in one enterprise and six remain under further investigation. In addition, authorities uncovered two enterprises producing CFC-11 and CFC-12."

From: https://eia-international.org/illegal-cfc-11-production-response-china-embassy-letter/

CFC-11 Illegal Production and Use in China: Blowing It

9 July 2018: "In the wake of startling evidence of unexplained emissions of the ozone-destroying chemical CFC-11 in the atmosphere, this report reveals compelling evidence that illegal production and use of CFC-11 in China is the cause.

We obtained evidence from 18 different companies in 10 Chinese provinces, confirming their use of CFC-11 as a blowing agent for the manufacture of foams utilised to insulate buildings and appliances."

***Blowing It**: https://drive.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/Blowing-It-final.pdf (16 page pdf - only viewable/readable in your internet browser)*

From: https://eia-international.org/report/blowing-it/

*** EIA:** Environmental Investigation Agency (USA and UK) *https://eia-international.org/*

• Four Tonnes of PFAS Contaminate Katherine

24 Sept 2018: Experts estimate there is more than four tonnes of PFAS sludge contaminating the groundwater and soils in the Katherine region.

Consultants to the Department of Defence confirmed in this updated report the majority of PFAS is transported off the Tindal RAAF Base by PFAS impacted groundwater.

The PFAS contamination through the Katherine investigation area was estimated to be more than 3000 kilograms, the consultants said.

A further 1000kg of PFAS is potentially accessible for removal from the key source areas on RAAF Base Tindal.

The estimate of dispersed mass in the system (3500 kg) is also similar to the mass that would be estimated based on 30 years since the start of source release at a flux of 100 kg/year leaving the Base. All mass estimates and mass flux estimates are based on assumptions and simplifications and should be viewed as approximate values.

PFAS was used in fire fighting foams in training at Tindal for 16 years from 1988.

"Defence are currently installing two water treatment plants to remove PFAS from the groundwater in the Tindall Aquifer. The treatment plants are located on Base as they will work more efficiently to treat the contaminated groundwater near source sites, such as the Fire Station and Fire Training Area," the Report said.

"The treatment plants will extract contaminated water from the aquifer, treat it to remove PFAS and then re-inject it into the aquifer."

From: www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5677600/four-tonnes-of-pfas-contaminate-katherine-report/

From: www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Tindal/publications.asp

www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Tindal/Reports/201809SupplementaryDSIExecutiveSummary.pdf (15 pages)

www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Tindal/Reports/201809SupplementaryDSIReport.pdf (185 pages)

www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Tindal/Reports/201809SupplementaryDSIAppendices.pdf (6117 pages)

Alerted by Dangerous Goods-Hazmat Group: https://groups.io/g/hazmat (688 members as at 8 Oct 2018)

• NSW EPA: Fines Chemical Manufacturer

24 Aug 2018: Manufacturer of specialty chemicals, Chemcolour Industries Australia Pty Ltd, has been fined $15000 by the NSW EPA for alleged poor chemical storage and handling practices at its St Marys premises.

From: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/media-releases/2018/epamedia180824-epa-fines-chemical-manufacturer

• Vic EPA: Recycling Fire

17 Sept 2018 Cardinia Environmental Recycling fire leads to a fine: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2018/september/17/cardinia-environmental-recycling-fire-leads-to-a-fine

• Vic EPA: After a Fire: Cleaning up Smoke-affected

30 Aug 2018: Publication 1711 - After a fire: cleaning up a smoke-affected home. If your home has been damaged by fire or smells of smoke from bushfires you should follow these instructions.

Publication 1711 (1 page pdf)

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2018/august/1711

• Vic EPA Re: Melbourne Airport PFAS Report

20 Sep 2018: Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA Vic) has conducted a preliminary risk assessment of data provided by Melbourne Airport about levels of PFAS at the airport and in surrounding waterways including Arundel Creek, Steele Creek, Deep Creek, Jackson Creek and Maribyrnong River.

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/news-and-updates/news/2018/september/20/melb-airport-pfas

Standards & Codes

• Standards – https://infostore.saiglobal.com/

https://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Default.aspx?SearchType=power

ISO 16111:2018: Transportable Gas Storage Devices - Hydrogen Absorbed in Reversible Metal Hydride. Published 16 Aug 2018, 43 pages, pdf (Personal-No Copy/No Paste & Print Once): $238.87; Hardcopy: $265.41.

• Drafts – https://infostore.saiglobal.com/

https://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Default.aspx?SearchType=power

DR AS/NZS 1604.1:2018: Preservative-Treated Wood-Based Products - Products and Treatment. Draft published 24 Sept 2018, 73 pages, pdf: Free; Hardcopy: $48.97.

DR AS/NZS 1604.2:2018: Preservative-Treated Wood-Based Products - Verification Requirements. This Standard specifies minimum requirements for verifying the conformance of preservative-treated wood-based products to AS/NZS 1604.1. Draft published 24 Sept 2018, 21 pages, pdf: Free; Hardcopy: $29.47.

DR AS/NZS 1604.3:2018: Preservative-Treated Wood-Based Products - Test Methods. This Standard specifies general requirements for testing and analysing preservatives and preservative treated wood-based products. Draft published 24 Sept 2018,110 pages, pdf: Free; Hardcopy: $64.53.

ISO/DIS 19749: Nanotechnologies - Measurements of Particle Size and Shape Distributions by Scanning Electron Microscopy. Draft published 30 Aug 2018,72 pages, pdf (personal use): $87.69; Hardcopy: $97.43.

ISO/DIS 21363: Nanotechnologies - Measurements of Particle Size and Shape Distributions by Transmission Electron Microscopy. Draft published 4 Sept 2018,74 pages, pdf (personal use): $87.69; Hardcopy: $97.43.

https://www.hub.standards.org.au/hub/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action

Note: Comment must be via the Hub. Any emails or forms sent to Standards Australia by fax or mail will not be considered by the Committee when it reviews the Public Comment received.

• NFPA News (Codes Newsletter)

Newly Published NFPA Codes

NFPA News September 2018 (6 page pdf)

Standards Council Issues Tentative Interim Amendments on:

NFPA 30B-2019: Code for the Manufacture and Storage of Aerosol Products. www.nfpa.org/30B

NFPA News October 2018 (6 page pdf)

Proposed Tentative Interim Amendments on:

NFPA59-2018: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code. www.nfpa.org/59

• Estimation of Fireball Dimensions from NFPA 68

Fire Protection Research Foundation report: "Estimation of Fireball Dimensions from NFPA 68". Authors: Gregorio M. Mesa and Scott R. Rockwell. Ph.D. Date Issued: April 2018.
(52 page Technical Notes pdf)

The current equation (from NFPA 68:2018 eq. 8.9.2) to estimate fireball dimension is only valid for KSt ≤ 300 bar m/s (KSt ≤ 200 bar m/s for (NFPA 68:2013)), Pmax ≤ 9 bar and Pstat ≤ 0.1 bar.

There are many common dusts with properties outside of these ranges (such as Aluminium, Corn, Rice Flour, (Poly) Methyl Acrylate, and Cellulose) and extension of the fireball equation beyond these ranges is needed to allow end users to properly define safe zones around explosion vents.

Some of the main factors that can affect fireball dimensions are obstructions, vent size, ignition position, internal pressure, location of ignition source, dust concentration, volume of enclosure, and vent location.

Further, it needs to be noted that EN 14491:2012 - Dust explosion venting protective systems provides a slightly different method for estimating fireball dimensions and has different limits.

From: www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Research-reports/Hazardous-materials/Estimation-of-Fireball-Dimensions-from-NFPA-68

All NFPA documents are at: www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards

Those open for input / comment are found at NFPA News: www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/resources/nfpa-news

Standards Seeking Public Input: *For a complete listing of NFPA standards accepting Public Input, please go to www.nfpa.org/publicinput (takes you to the various Committees)*

Standards Seeking Public Comment: *For a complete listing of NFPA standards accepting Public Comment, please go to www.nfpa.org/publiccomment (takes you to the various Committees)*

*As part of its commitment to enhancing public safety, NFPA makes its codes & standards available for **free online**.*

Seminars, Conferences, Courses

• HAZOP Study for Teams, 30 Oct 2018, Perth

Perth, 30 Oct – 1 Nov 2018: Explores best practice in HAZOP Leadership and Management. Learn about the application of the technique and how to plan and manage study programmes more effectively. Learn how best to lead study teams to ensure maximum effectiveness and successful project execution.

Cost: Non-Members $3990, IChemE Members $3465. *Email: austcourses@icheme.org, ph: 03-9642-4494*

From: www.icheme.org and search on "Perth"

• Regulation: Industry & Academia 14 Nov 2018

Be Ready for Industry – a joint initiative between RACI-Vic and Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) where Science meets Business. Our journey continues in understanding and exploring the requirements of Regulation. Join us to discuss the regulatory issues with notable speakers. 1/ Gary Bowman, 2/ Peter Vitali, 3/ Fiona Fleming

From: www.raci.org.au/events/event/industry-meets-academia-be-more-ready-for-industry-regulation

• Inherent Safety in Design & Oper'n Development

Melbourne, 20-21 Nov 2019: Understand the potential benefits to health and safety, process efficiency, the environment, and profitability resulting from inherently safer design and operations in new and existing process plants.

Cost: Non-Members $3080, IChemE Members $2640. *Email: austcourses@icheme.org, ph: 03-9642-4494*

From: www.icheme.org and search on "Melbourne"

• Laboratory Mgmt Conference, 12-14 Nov 2018

For laboratory managers, laboratory designers and architects.

Preston, Melbourne. Workshops 12th Nov $700. Conference (2 days) $1100. Includes lunch & the networking function.

Info: ScienceIndustry.com.au/index.php/news/almc2018/Speakers

Science Industry Australia. Ph: 61 3 9872 5111; Email: AdminSIA@scienceindustry.com.au

From: www.labmanagers.org.au/ and *http://scienceindustry.com.au/index.php/news/almc2018*

• LABCON 2018, Tues 20th - Fri 23rd Nov 2018, Melb

Conference specifically for Laboratory Technicians organised by the Laboratory Technicians' Association of Victoria.

Cost (non-member): $435 for 2 days (W&Th) including Dinner. Tues & Fri Workshops: $97 each

Brochure: www.ltav.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/LABCON2018-Registration.pdf (16p)

From: www.ltav.org.au/event/labcon-2018/

• DGAG Meeting, MFB Burnley, 28 Nov 2018 Melb

Dangerous Goods Advisory Group meeting, Wed 28th Nov 2018, 5.30pm for 6pm - 8.15pm meeting at MFB Burnley Complex. No Cost to attendees. There will be tea / coffee and biscuits and for those interested will go for a meal after.

For those who would like to be added to my Dangerous Advisory Group / Chemical Hazard Communication Network email meeting issues list, please email me at: Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au. You don't have to be in Melbourne, to be on this email meetings & issues alert list.

• AIOH 2018 Conference, 1-5 Dec 2018, Melbourne

Occupational Hygiene: Challenges, Opportunities & Solutions. The Occupational Hygiene profession is being challenged by a changing workplace base, new technologies and a more holistic approach to workers' health. Registrations open soon.

From: www.aioh.org.au/aioh2018/aioh2018

• Lab Safety Training Courses

a/ Safety in Laboratories and Laboratory Construction & Design Explained (3 Days); **b/** Safety in School Laboratories – Chemical and Laboratory Safety (1 Day); **c/** Laboratory Safety: Ergonomics & Manual Handling (1/2 D); **d/** Laboratory Safety: Introduction to Nanomaterials and Work Health and Safety (1 Day); **e/** Ergonomics and Manual Handling (1/2 Day); **f/** Risk Management and Risk Assessment; **g/** Safety Leadership

From: www.labsafety.com.au/training-courses

Haztech Environmental: Chemical Hazard Classifications done & reviewed. SDSs prepared & reviewed. Labels prepared & reviewed. Chemical Management & Safety Regulatory Compliance: checked for NICNAS, APVMA, FSANZ, TGA; prepared & reviewed for Dangerous Goods & Combustible Liquids, Workplace Hazardous Chemicals / 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 28 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, Website: www.haztech.com.au.

Hazmat & Environment Notes" publication times are approx: end March, early June, mid Aug, mid Oct, and early Dec.
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