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A Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone

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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Hazardous Chemicals

• EPA USA: Methylene Chloride & Paint/Coating Removal

22 Nov 2019: EPA USA Bans All Retail Distribution of Methylene Chloride to Consumers for Paint and Coating Removal

From 23 Nov 2019, it will be unlawful for any person or retailer to sell or distribute paint removal products containing methylene chloride for consumer use, including e-commerce sales. The EPA USA is encouraging all consumers to stop using Methylene Chloride products that they may have already purchased for paint and coating removal. A variety of effective, less harmful substitutes are readily available for paint removal.

Learn more about Methylene Chloride:
www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-methylene-chloride

EPA USA found risks to consumers using methylene chloride to be unreasonable due to acute human lethality. Acute (short-term) exposures to Methylene Chloride fumes can rapidly cause dizziness, loss of consciousness, and death due to Nervous System depression. EPA USA is particularly concerned about the fatalities to consumers from using Methylene Chloride in enclosed spaces.

From: www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-bans-all-retail-distribution-methylene-chloride-consumers-paint-and-coating-removal

• EPA USA: PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA, & PFDA

8 Nov 2019: The EPA USA announced the availability of the Systematic Review Protocol for the PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFDA IRIS Assessments for a 45-day public comment period as announced in an 8 Nov 2019, Federal Register Notice.

These five toxicity assessments are being developed according to the scope and methods outlined in this protocol built upon several other PFAS assessments that have already been developed by the EPA USA. It includes a summary of why these specific PFAS were prioritized for evaluation, description of the objectives and specific aims of the assessments, draft PECO (Populations, Exposures, Comparators, and Outcomes) criteria, and identification of key areas of scientific complexity.

Downloads:

Systematic Review Protocol for the PFBA, Pfhxa, Pfhxs, PFNA, & PFDA IRIS Assessments (pdf) (197 pages, 3 Mb)

Docket Id#: EPA-HQ-ORD-2019-0275

www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-08/pdf/2019-24350.pdf *Comment by 23 Dec 2019*

From: https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=345065

Also see 26 Nov 2019: The EPA USA is working "aggressively" to develop regulations around a concerning group of chemicals, known as "forever chemicals," because they don't break down naturally in the environment.

The group of chemicals, technically known as PFAS, are used in a variety of products ranging from non-stick and waterproofing products to military-grade firefighting foam.

Some types of the chemicals have been linked to health problems such as kidney disease or some kinds of cancer.

The EPA USA announced a proposal on Monday 25 Nov 2019, that would require USA facilities using the chemicals to track and report how much they release.

The EPA USA is asking the public for input on potentially adding certain Per- and PolyFluoroAlkyl Substances (PFAS) to the list of chemicals companies are required to report to the agency as part of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

From: www.epa.gov/newsreleases/working-aggressively-address-forever-chemicals-wheeler-says

And: www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-important-step-advance-pfas-action-plan-requests-public-input-adding-pfas

• EPA USA: Lead & Copper Rule proposed Updates

10 Oct 2019: The EPA USA announced a proposed rule that significantly improves the actions that water systems must take to reduce Lead in the nation's drinking water. *It represents the first major overhaul of the Lead and Copper Rule since 1991 and marks a critical step in advancing the Trump Administration's Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures.*

This proposal will: **1/** Require more water systems to act sooner to reduce lead levels and protect public health.
2/ Improve transparency and communication.
3/ Better protect children and the most at-risk communities.

USA: National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions:

From: www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300-0001

From: www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-updates-lead-and-copper-rule-better-protect-children-and-risk-1

• EPA NSW: Asbestos Lurking in Homes

24 Nov 2019: A new campaign is warning NSW residents to be vigilant when renovating or building because Asbestos lurks in homes in more places than you'd think, the EPA NSW announced.

Over 3000 products containing asbestos were used in Australian homes and workplaces before asbestos was banned in 2003.

Everyday products that could contain asbestos include:
– roofs, eaves, downpipes and insulation
– interior walls (often with a non-asbestos covering on the outside)
– kitchen splashbacks
– under lino, some carpets and tiles (and the cement compounds used to fix tiles)
– lagging around pipes, inside fuse boxes or as part of ventilation shafts
– fences, garden sheds and small outdoor constructions like chicken coops
– as part of bonded cement compounds that make up walls, which can be disturbed when sanded in preparation for painting.

The Asbestos Finder on the asbestos.nsw.gov.au website, launched to coincide with National Asbestos Awareness Week, allows users to search for products that may contain Asbestos or by locations where Asbestos may be found.

From: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/media-releases/2019/epamedia191124-new-campaign-warns-of-asbestos-lurking-in-homes

• Worksafe NZ: Chemical Related News

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

- Asbestos Management Plans

25 Nov 2019: New Easy-to-Use Asbestos Tool for Businesses to develop their asbestos management plans. A plan sets out where any identified asbestos or asbestos-containing material (ACM) is present, its condition and how it will be managed.

Template (13p docx, Nov 19) Overview Page (1p pdf, Apr 19)

From: https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/

And: https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/asbestos-management-plans/

- Respirable Crystalline Silica and Accelerated Silicosis

5 Nov 2019: Video (4 minutes) Worksafe NZ Head of Health and Technical Services, Catherine Epps, talks through the emerging issue of Respirable Crystalline Silica. Find out more about what the issue is, what you can do to manage the risk, and where to go for more information.

From: https://worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/update-on-rcs-dust-and-accelerated-silicosis/

- Recreational Vehicle (RV) Water Heaters Running on LPG

4 Nov 2019: This NZ Safety Alert highlights the significant health and safety risk to owners and users of caravans, motor homes or camper trailers which have certain models of suburban RV water heaters running on LPG.

The South Australia authority for gas has identified a fault in a type of gas water heater in which carbon monoxide was found to be entering a motorhome's cabin. A recall of these water heaters is being considered in Australia.

Under certain conditions, these water heaters can generate elevated levels of Carbon Monoxide (CO) which, in some instances, may spill into the caravan, motor home or camper trailer. Carbon Monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas that can adversely affect a person's health when inhaled.

https://worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/suburban-recreational-vehicle-rv-water-heaters-running-on-lpg/

• Canadian Chemicals Management Plan Website

This Government of Canada website enables you to see the chemicals Implementation Table 2016-2020 and being currently assessed by Canadian Authorities and look back at previous assessments in 2011-2019.

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/chemicals-management-plan/implementation-table-at-a-glance-2016-2021.html

Recent Issue & Chemicals that caught the Editor's attention:

December 19: 1/ A summary of feedback from the Defining Vulnerable Populations Consultation published. [2019-12-05]

Socioeconomic factors were high on stakeholders' minds. A number of poverty-related issues were identified as important factors contributing to subpopulations' susceptibility and exposure to chemicals of concerns (for example, substandard housing, homelessness, poor nourishment, contaminated neighbourhoods, and limited consumer choice).

Stakeholders identified the impacts of geographical location in affecting the vulnerabilities of those living in the vicinity of commercial or industrial facilities. More generally, a number of respondents noted the relationship between a healthy environment and human health. In addition, cumulative exposures, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and multiple chemicals sensitivities were also identified as issues of interest. Stakeholders expect the Government of Canada to take an evidence-based approach to the development of a policy framework based on firm scientific evidence.

The unique exposure risks of Indigenous communities were also highlighted, particularly as they pertain to drinking water and country or traditional foods.

2/ Draft Screening Assessments:

The *Draft Screening Assessment for 1-Nitropropane* was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on 5 Feb 2020. [2019-12-07]

The *Draft Screening Assessment for Corn, Steep Liquor* was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on 5 Feb 2020. [2019-12-07]

The *Draft Screening Assessment for Dicyclopentadiene (DCPD)* was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on 5 Feb 2020. [2019-12-07]

The Draft Screening Assessment for Lotus, Corniculatus Extract was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on 5 Feb 2020. [2019-12-07]

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

• ECHA: SVHC Hazardous Substances in Products

18 Nov 2019: 15 participating countries have found that 12% of inspected products contain Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs). 88% of suppliers of these products are failing to communicate sufficient information to their customers about SVHCs in products they supply.

In this project, 405 companies across 15 countries were inspected and 682 articles were checked between Oct 2017 to Dec 2018. 84 (12%) of the 682 articles were found to contain substances listed as being of High Concern to human health or the environment (Candidate List (CL) substances) in concentrations >0.1% w/w.

The products selected included: clothing, footwear and home textiles; wires, cables & electronic accessories; plastic or textile floorings; wall coverings; and other plastic & rubber products.

The project targeted a few CL substances. Phthalates (mostly DEHP) were found the most (in 51 out of 84 articles) followed by SCCP (Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins), ADCA (Azodicarbonamide) & Lead. Phthalates & SCCP were found in soft plastic materials. ADCA was found in foamed material such as yoga mats & the softer inside lining of hockey helmets.

For the 12% of articles placed on the EU market containing Candidate List substances, the results of the project show a high rate of non-compliance. This situation hinders the safe use of Candidate List substances in produced and imported articles, in particular those used by consumers.

The results show that the information through the supply chain can improve significantly. A way to do this is to:

- strengthen the communication with suppliers;

- set clear demands the suppliers about CL substances; and

- do random chemical analysis.

Final report on the Forum Pilot Project on Substances in Articles (6 Nov 2019 54 page pdf) Video (6 minutes)

From: https://echa.europa.eu/-/companies-need-to-improve-communication-of-hazardous-substances-in-products

Editor's Comment: In Australia we don't have clear regulations for managing and communicating such chemicals. As I see it, the ACCC should be regulating these chemicals in products.

• ECHA proposes 74 Substances for Evaluation

23 Oct 2019: ECHA proposes 74 substances for evaluation by Member States under the Community rolling action plan (CoRAP) for 2020-2022.

At present, 14 substances are planned to be evaluated in 2020, while 60 substances are listed for evaluation in 2021 and 2022. The 14 will start once the relevant dossier updates are made before March 2020.

Draft CoRAP 2020–2022 [23 page pdf]

Consumer Use Substances (caught the Editor's attention):

2020: Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate; Tetraphenyl m-Phenylene bis (Phosphate);

2021: 2,6,10-Trimethyl Dodecane; Xylene; Reaction mass of Ethylbenzene and m-Xylene and p-Xylene; Benzaldehyde; 3-Methylbutan-1-ol; Acetic Acid, Oxo-, Sodium Salt, Reaction Products with Ethylenediamine and Phenol, Iron Sodium Salts; EDDHMAFEK EC No. 405-420-1; Iron(III) Chloride, Complex with Reaction Products of 2,2'-(Ethane-1,2-Diyldiimino)Diacetic Acid, Formaldehyde, Phenol and Potassium Hydroxide; Dioctyltin Oxide;

2022: Reaction Products of Phosphoryl Trichloride and Methyloxirane; Diethyl Ether; Reaction Products of C3 Alcohols and C3 Alkenes obtained as by-products from the manufacture of Propan-2-ol by Hydration of Propylene; Diphenyl(2,4,6-Trimethylbenzoyl)Phosphine Oxide; p-(2,3-Epoxypropoxy)-N,N-bis(2,3-Epoxypropyl)Aniline; Carbon Black; Betaines, C12-14 (even numbered)-Alkyldimethyl; Esterification products of 1,3-Dioxo-2-Benzofuran-5-Carboxylic Acid with Nonan-1-ol; Propyl Acetate; Oxirane, Mono[(C12-14-Alkyloxy)Methyl] derivs.; Octene, Hydroformylation products, Low-Boiling.

From: https://echa.europa.eu/-/member-states-to-evaluate-74-substances-in-2020-2022

• ECHA 1 Jan 20: Nanoform Substances in Europe

Nov 2019 ECHA Newsletter: Guest column: Solvay's view on new requirements for nanomaterials to apply to companies producing or importing nanoforms in Europe from 1 Jan 2020.

The concepts of *nanoform* and *sets of similar nanoforms* will dictate the new regulatory requirement level for companies submitting REACH dossiers for nanomaterials. Both have the potential to be powerful risk management elements. These concepts should increase transparency by structuring the information and providing focus on the most relevant properties for hazard assessment.

The updated legal framework is intended to be suitable for the current generation of nanomaterials, which are already on the market, and therefore regularly registered under REACH and other relevant legislation. But it is also intended for future generations of nanomaterials, which are expected to unveil the full potential of this key enabling technology.

For the companies looking for advice, we recommend ECHA's webinar recording (12 Nov 2019, 53 minutes) on the revised REACH information requirements for nanomaterials.

Master presentation - all slides in one [102 slides pdf] - *Jenny Holmqvist, Tuomas Aitasalo, Abdelqader Sumrein, Anna Daszynska, Askar Nurassilov - ECHA*

Amendment of the REACH annexes to address Nanoforms of substances (EC Environment webpage)

From:
https://newsletter.echa.europa.eu/home/-/newsletter/entry/guest-column-solvay-s-view-on-new-requirements-for-nanomaterials

Updated guidance for registering substances in nanoform

3 Dec 2019: Two guidance documents have been updated with advice for companies preparing registration dossiers that cover nanoforms.

A new Appendix for nanoforms to the Guidance on Registration and Substance Identification (34 page Dec 2019 pdf) has been developed. The document explains the term nanoform, provides advice on how to build and justify sets of nanoforms and explains what characterisation information needs to be reported.

The Appendix R.6-1 for nanoforms applicable to the Guidance on QSARs and Grouping of Chemicals (30 page Dec 2019 pdf) has been updated to reflect the advice of the above-mentioned guidance. The update also clarifies the differences between creating a set of nanoforms and read-across for justifying the use of hazard data between different (sets of) nanoforms of a substance.

https://echa.europa.eu/-/updated-guidance-for-registering-substances-in-nanoform

• EU: 5th Indicative Occ. Exposure Limit Values

31 Oct 2019: EU Commission Directive 2019/1831 of 24 Oct 2019 establishing a fifth list of indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values pursuant to Council Directive 98/24/EC.

Html Pdf Official Journal (31 pages)

Member States shall establish national occupational exposure limit values for the chemical agents listed in the Annex, taking into account the EU limit values.

From: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2019.279.01.0031.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2019%3A279%3ATOC

Editor: These 10 ELVs are additions and changes only. They are not binding on member states but must be taken into consideration in setting national occupational exposure limits.

Chemical Management

• Workplace Exposure Std Drafts: Release Schedule

Oct 2019 Update: Safe Work Australia is evaluating the *Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants* to ensure they are based on the highest quality, contemporary evidence and supported by a rigorous scientific approach.

The anticipated schedule for public comment is available on Safe Work Australia's website. Public comment will be open for each release for a period of four weeks on Engage at:

https://engage.swa.gov.au/workplace-exposure-standards-review

Draft evaluation reports and recommendations for.

Release 6: o-Dichlorobenzene to 1,4-Dioxane: 25 Oct 2019

Release 7: Dioxathion to n-Ethylmorpholine: 8 Nov 2019

Release 8: Fenamiphos to Hydrogenated Terphelyls: 22Nov19

Release 9: Hydroquinone to Mesityl Oxide: 6 Dec 2019

Release 10: Methacrylic Acid to 4,4'-Methylene Dianiline: Jan20

Release 11: 5-Methylheptan-3-one to Osmium Tetroxide: Jan20

Release 12: Oxalic Acid to Picric Acid: 14 Feb 2020

Release 13: Pindone to Silicon Tetrahydride: 28 Feb 20

Release 14: Silver to Tetryl: 13 Mar 2020

Release 15: Thallium, sol. cpds to n-Valeraldehyde: 27 Mar20

Release 16: Vanadium to Zirconium cpds: 10 April 2020

From: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/release-schedule-review-workplace-exposure-standards

• Safework Australia - Storing Pool Chemicals

19 Sept 2019: If you store swimming pool chemicals – make sure they are kept in a cool, dry and well-ventilated space. See our 3 page information sheet Storage of swimming pool chemicals for more information.

Download: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1909/pool_chemicals_supplementary.pdf (3 page pdf)

From:www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/media-centre/news/new-resources-storing-pool-chemicals (18 Nov 2019 News)

From:www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/storage-swimming-pool-chemicals

• Qld: Industrial Gas & Liquid Supplier Fined $200K

21 Nov 2019: Prosecution by the Qld Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor followed an incident on 14 May 2018 at the defendant's Wacol plant workplace. At the time, a worker was manually discharging Carbon Dioxide from a 100-tonne tank, looking to reduce pressure.

The pressure in the vessel needed to be reduced through manual venting over a period of nearly one month as the refrigeration unit which previously maintained the pressure in the vessel had been shut down and no liquid Carbon Dioxide was being extracted from the tank for making dry ice. Manual venting wasn't a task the tank was designed for or a routine job done by workers. There were no procedures in place on how perform manual venting, nor was any instruction given to workers on how they should do it.

On the day of the incident, an experienced worker opened valves on the tank to allow Carbon Dioxide to flow through unsecured flexible hoses to reduce pressure. However, one of the unsecured hoses suddenly whipped upwards and struck him on the head. He sustained significant injuries, including a severe traumatic brain injury, and later died in hospital.

Post-incident, the defendant made changes such as implementing a work procedure for manually venting vessels. It also spent approximately $100,000 on inspecting similar tanks and making modifications to them.

From: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news/2019/industrial-gas-and-liquid-supplier-fined-$200000-after-incident-at-wacol-plant

• WA Work Health and Safety Legislation Reform

WHS - Consultation Package 22 August 2019 (Video 17m31s)

Plus (Mining industry) and (Electrical industry) videos.

The public comment period on the Work Health & Safety Regs for Western Australia closed on 26 Nov 2019.

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Proposal
4. December 2018 Review of the national model Work Health and Safety laws – Final Report
5. Commission for Occupational Safety and Health
6. Transition principles
7. Public consultation
8. Next steps - After the public consultation period ends
9. List of internet links in the Consultation Package

From: www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/work-health-and-safety-legislation-reform

• SafeWork NSW: Protection if using Sandstone & Silica

21 Oct 2019: Workers involved in the cutting of manufactured stone, sandstone and building products, as well as the tunnelling and domestic construction industries, will be better protected from dust diseases with the NSW Government today announcing a range of new measures to prevent exposure to Silica dust.

To reduce the possible exposure to Silica dust, the NSW Government will support SafeWork Australia's recommendation to reduce the Australian Workplace Exposure Standard from 0.1 to 0.05 mg/m3, and will also support SafeWork Australia undertaking further research on whether a reduction to 0.02 mg/m3 is achievable.

NSW will also boost safety rebates available to the manufactured stone fabrication industry, by introducing an industry specific safety rebate of $1000 until June 2020, to assist with improved safety controls.

The NSW Government developed a comprehensive five-year strategy to address silicosis after identifying it as a major concern more than two years ago. Site visits and education initiatives will increase every year until 30 June 2022 to reach the target of 9,000 interactions with NSW businesses working with silica by the end of SafeWork NSW's five-year Chemicals Strategy in 2022.

From: www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/safework-media-releases/new-initiatives-protect-workers-using-sandstone-and-silica-products

2 Dec 2019: No Stone unturned in NSW Major Strategy on Silicosis Risks

SafeWork NSW has visited every stone manufacturing business in the state and in addition has had 448 interactions with businesses in the tunnelling, domestic and civil construction, foundries, and building products industries.

SafeWork NSW has trained 184 inspectors to deliver education and compliance initiatives, held 48 industry forums, presentations and workshops, and instigated partnerships and research into better exposure prevention techniques.

Last financial year (2018-2019), a total of 3563 workers exposed to Silica underwent health monitoring provided by icare's Dust Diseases Care.

During inspector visits SafeWork NSW issued a total of 617 improvement and prohibition notices to ensure businesses comply with their work health and safety obligations around Silica exposure.

From: www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/safework-media-releases/no-stone-unturned-in-major-strategy-on-silicosis-risks

• SafeWork NSW: Paint manufacturer Upskill Order

28 Nov 2019: An industrial paint mixing and manufacturing company, MMP Industrial Pty Ltd, was ordered to provide essential safety training to key staff after a worker was seriously burnt during cleaning activities. MMP Industrial was also fined a total of $75750 for two breaches of the NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

The worker was using a highly flammable solvent, acetone, to clean a paint mixing vat when a static electrical charge caused a spontaneous ignition of the vapours.

The worker was standing half a metre from the vat when the explosion occurred and the incident was not reported to SafeWork NSW until seven days later.

Simple measures that could have prevented a worker being injured include: installing anti-static wheels on mixing vats, preventing acetone splash by decanting the hose on the side, reducing the flow rate on the hose and installing a switch that requires two people to operate the hose. And most importantly – providing comprehensive risk management training to all workers and senior staff.

From: www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/safework-media-releases/paint-manufacturer-ordered-to-upskill-senior-staff-in-safety

• Vic: Workplace Manslaughter enshrined in Law

27 Nov 2019: Under the new Victorian laws, employers who negligently cause a workplace death will face fines of up to $16.5 million and individuals will face up to 20 years in jail.

The offence will fall under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act) and will apply to employers, self-employed people and 'officers' of the company or organisation.

The new laws will also apply when an employer's negligent conduct causes the death of a non-employee —ensuring that all Victorians are safe in, and around, our workplaces.

• ACCC Consultation: Button Batteries in Toys

14 Nov 2019: Further ACCC Consultation Paper - Button Batteries in Toys for Children up to and including 36 Months.

In Feb 2017 the ACCC consulted on the five mandatory safety standards for children's toys. The ACCC are now seeking further views specifically on toys for children up to and including 36 months of age which contain button batteries, before finalising any recommendation on revising the mandatory standard.

The ACCC is now consulting on the option of including a requirement in a new mandatory standard for children's toys containing button batteries to be accompanied by a warning label on the product packaging and with the user instructions.

The ACCC is seeking views on permitting compliance with this requirement through reference to applicable voluntary Australian standards and trusted overseas standards made by an expert technical organisation.

ACCC Consultation Paper for Toys with Button Batteries
(Nov 2019, 18 pages) (pdf) (docx)

Comment Closes 13 Dec 2019.

From: https://consultation.accc.gov.au/product-safety/further-consultation-button-batteries-in-toys-1/

• EPA NZ: GHS Rev. 7 Adoption Consultation

29 Oct 2019: Consultation opened on changes to chemical classification and labelling.

The EPA NZ is proposing to internationally align New Zealand's hazardous substance classification system by adopting the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS).

Whilst current NZ classification system implemented in 2001 was considered world-leading at the time, the EPA NZ has identified a number of benefits in updating to a later version of the GHS. They include reducing complexity for stakeholders, international alignment that facilitates trade, and enhanced effectiveness of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO).

The EPA NZ proposes to adopt Revision 7 of the GHS, which was published in 2017.

Consultation Document (Oct 2019) (60 page pdf)

www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS_Consultation_Document_for_Public_Release.pdf

The EPA NZ believe that this Consultation Document will be of specific interest to applicants for new Hazardous Substances Approvals, producers of Safety Data Sheets, importers and manufacturers, industry organisations, other regulators - especially those that administer legislation that refers to the current HSNO classification system, relevant health sector bodies, and NGOs.

Submissions close on Thurs 9 Jan 2020.

Online Submission Form: https://submissions.epa.govt.nz/consultations/implementation-of-the-globally-harmonized-system-of-classification-and-labelling-revision-7/make-a-submission

From:
www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/latest-news/consultation-opens-on-changes-to-chemical-classification-and-labelling/

• MBIE NZ: H&S at Work (Haz. Subs.) Regs 2017

26 Nov 2019: The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment NZ consultation document outlines Proposed Minor Amendments to the **NZ Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017**.

You may be interested in these changes if your work involves the storage or handling of toxic or corrosive chemicals, storing LPG, paints or other flammable liquids, or diesel tank systems.

These amendments aim to correct a number of technical issues that have been noted under the Regulations. These issues make some requirements unclear, and are creating unintended compliance costs for some businesses without improving safety.

In most cases, MBIE NZ are suggesting these issues are addressed by restoring the requirements that were in place prior to the 2017 regulations. 39 amendments are proposed.

Consultation Document Library web page *Submissions are due by 15 Jan 2020.*

www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/7393-minor-amendments-to-hazardous-substances-regulations-consultation-document (32 page pdf)

From: www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/minor-amendments-to-the-health-and-safety-at-work-hazardous-substances-regulations-2017/

• ECHA Newsletter: Nov 2019

14 Nov 2019: ECHA Newsletter tells why compliance matters, gives tips to companies preparing their poison centre notifications and explains ECHA's vision for improving the flow and usability of safe use data throughout the supply chain.

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

And: https://echa.europa.eu/-/november-newsletter-published

• ECHA: Mapping the Chemical Universe

4 Dec 2019: ECHA has published a list of over 21000 REACH registered substances mapped in its 'chemical universe'. The substances have been divided into five pools based on the regulatory actions in place, initiated or considered for them. It also highlights that there are still thousands of substances for which possible actions have not yet been determined.

Each substance in the universe has been assigned to a pool that indicates the regulatory actions in place, initiated, ongoing or under consideration. The five pools are:

1. **Regulatory risk management ongoing:** substances with confirmed hazards for human health and the environment.
2. **Regulatory risk management under consideration**: substances that are currently being considered for regulatory risk management.
3. **Data generation:** substances that require additional information to conclude whether further regulatory action is needed.
4. **Currently no further actions proposed:** substances for which authorities have not proposed further regulatory action at the moment.
5. **Not yet assigned:** substances currently registered under REACH but not yet assigned to any of the other pools.

Universe of Registered Substances – Excel list of substances
On the linked website a Disclaimer must be read first.
There are 300 chemicals claiming Confidentiality out of 21723.
The rest are all linked to their ECHA Infocard URL.
Most are "5.Not yet assigned" to their 1. to 4. Positions.

How does the Chemical Universe Mapping work?
The linked website includes descriptions of the pools

Report: Mapping the Universe of Registered Substances to address Substances of Concern [April 2019, 54 page pdf]

From: https://echa.europa.eu/-/mapping-the-chemical-universe-list-of-substances-by-regulatory-action-published

• USA Chemical Safety Board (CSB) - Updates

16 Oct 2019: Chemical Safety Board Released **Factual Update and New Animation** Detailing the Events of the **Massive Explosion and Fire at the PES Refinery** in Philadelphia, PA.

The factual update notes that a pipe elbow, which had corroded to about half the thickness of a credit card, appears to have ruptured in the refinery's alkylation unit, releasing process fluid that included over 5000 pounds of Hydrofluoric Acid, or HF. The leaking process fluid formed a large ground-hugging vapor cloud. Two minutes later, the cloud ignited, causing a massive fire and explosions.

30 Oct 2019: Chemical Safety Board Released: **A Training Video for the Onshore Drilling Industry** detailing lessons learned from the 22 Jan 2018 Blowout and Fire at the Pryor Trust gas well that fatally injured 5 workers.

https://youtu.be/1zDcsjHyxr8 (21 minute video)

From: www.csb.gov/

• USA OSHA Quick Takes e-News: Oct 19-Nov 19

17 Oct 2019: **1/ Proposed Beryllium Rule:** OSHA is proposing revisions to its Beryllium Standards to better protect workers in the shipyard and construction industries.
2/ Confined Space Violations: Petroleum refiner and contractor fined $106,080 following a worker fatality.

4 Nov 2019: **1/ Radiation Safety:** OSHA's revised webpage provides information on how to recognize and control ionizing radiation hazards.

From: www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/ From: www.premier.vic.gov.au/workplace-manslaughter-enshrined-in-law/

NICNAS (Industrial Chemicals)

• NICNAS Chemical Gazettes

Chemical Gazette Nov 2019 (goes to the initial webpage)

Chemical Gazette Dec 2019 (goes to the initial webpage)

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

• Are there Industrial Uses of Certain Chemicals?

3 Dec 2019: On 1 July 2020 the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals (the new Inventory) will replace the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (the current Inventory). Section 80 of the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019 (IC Act) mandates that **the new Inventory must only contain industrial chemicals**.

At the moment, NICNAS believe that the current Inventory lists more than 1600 chemicals that are not — and are not likely to ever have been — industrial chemicals, and are (or have been) used solely as:

- an agricultural chemical
- a veterinary chemical
- a medicine or therapeutic, or
- a food or food additive

NICNAS intend to remove from the current Inventory all chemicals on the list that have no industrial use before the new scheme starts. They are known as "excluded use chemicals.

If you are aware of any chemicals on this list that have an industrial use, provide information by 31 March 2020 on industrial uses of certain chemicals on the Inventory at:

Submit Info at: www.nicnas.gov.au/forms/provide-information-on-industrial-uses-of-certain-chemicals-on-the-Inventory

The List of Excluded Use Chemicals is at:
www.nicnas.gov.au/forms/provide-information-on-industrial-uses-of-certain-chemicals-on-the-Inventory/list-of-excluded-use-chemicals

Scanning through the list of 1600+ I have found five that are on the ECHA Registered Substances Database as intermediates or processing aids:

Cyclopentolate	CAS 512-15-2	(Intermediate)
Tributylchloro Tin	CAS 1461-22-9	(Intermediate)
Cacodylic acid	CAS 75-60-5	(Intermediate)
Sucralfate	CAS 54182-58-0	(Processing Aid)
Sulfallate	CAS 95-06-7	(Processing Aid)

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events/chemical-gazette/numbers/2019/chemical-gazette-december-2019/request-for-information-on-industrial-uses-of-certain-chemicals-on-the-inventory

Editor: After scanning through the Excluded Use Chemicals list the only type of possible use I can think of is as a pesticidal / biocidal additive in an industrial chemical product.

• AICIS General Rules, Categorisation Guidelines, etc

2 Dec 2019: After extensive consultation, the:

Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019 are now final

This legislative package implements arrangements that (is expected to) see regulatory effort more proportionate to the level of risk to human health and safety and the environment from the introduction and use of industrial chemicals, while maintaining Australia's robust health, safety and environmental standards.

General Rules Legislation Web Page (125 page pdf, docx)

Explanatory Statement (57 page pdf, docx)

Industrial Chemicals Categorisation Guidelines — the final draft (28 Nov 2019) is now available

Categorisation Guidelines Download (78 page pdf, docx)

Transitional Rules are now final

Transitional Rules Legislation Web Page (55 page pdf, docx)

Explanatory Statement (36 page pdf, docx)

Transitional Rules Highlights:

- NICNAS exemption categories will continue to be available until 31 August 2022 for introduction of chemicals not listed on the AICIS Inventory. *

- NICNAS low volume and controlled use permits will remain in force until at least 30 June 2022.

The Executive Director of AICIS will sign-off on the Guidelines so they take effect from 1 July 2020.

For a Summary of the Key Changes in the Rules & Guidelines
www.nicnas.gov.au/New-scheme-1-July-2020/Key-information-about-the-new-scheme and to download them.

e.g. More information waivers have been added so now there's more reasons why you might not need to have information about certain hazards.

e.g. IF your FSANZ food additive chemical is:
A vegetable fat; vegetable wax; vegetable oil; animal fat; animal oil; or animal wax; you will not need to prove that your chemical does not have: toxicity to aquatic life; genetic toxicity; acute toxicity; or specific target organ toxicity.

e.g. There are still waivers for certain High Molecular Weight Polymers. This means that you might not need to prove that your High Molecular Weight Polymer is

Corrosive to the skin; sensitising to the skin; damaging to the eyes; PBT (persistent, bioaccumulative & toxic); toxic to aquatic life.

AICIS has a **High Hazards**. Consolidated List of Chemicals with (Excel spreadsheet). There are 4549 chemicals on it,

with many common chemicals, such as (in the 1st quarter if the spreadsheet chemical list): Ethyl Benzene; Toluene; Styrene; Boric Acid; p-Benzoquinone; Allyl Alcohol; Methyl Isobutyl Ketone; Resorcinol; Tetrahydrofuran; n-Hexane; Diethanolamine; 2-Butoxyethanol; Benzophenone; 1,4-Dioxane; Carbon Dioxide; Antimony Trioxide; Sodium Polysulphides; Zinc Sulphate; Heptane; Silica, Crystalline, Quartz (respirable).

This list of chemicals have hazard characteristics in Human Health Hazard Band C or Environment Hazard Bands D or C based on at least one of the information sources shown in Appendix 8.1 of the Guidelines

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events?a=90557

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/New-scheme-1-July-2020/Key-information-about-the-new-scheme

And: www.nicnas.gov.au/New-scheme-1-July-2020/Key-information-about-the-new-scheme/aicis-industrial-chemicals-categorisation-guidelines

• Transitioning from NICNAS to AICIS

2 Dec 2019: As we move towards the start of AICIS on 1 July 2020, the AICIS Authority aims to minimise any disruptions to industrial chemical importers and manufacturers.

NICNAS to AICIS — Registration

If you continue introducing industrial chemicals after 30 August 2020, you must renew your Registration online through AICIS Business Services by 1 Sept 2020. AICIS will provide instructions on how to renew your AICIS Registration as we approach the renewal period.

NICNAS to AICIS — The Inventory

NICNAS to AICIS — Secondary Notifications

Secondary Notification obligations will transition to the new Inventory and become a **Specific Information requirement**.

NICNAS to AICIS — Exemptions

It includes the existing ≤100kg Non Cosmetic Exemption and ≤100kg Cosmetic Exemption categories that can be used under AICIS until 31 August 2022. *

If you're currently introducing a chemical under a NICNAS Exemption Category, you do NOT submit an annual report at the end of this registration year at 31 Aug 2020.

But you must still keep records to demonstrate that you meet the criteria under the NICNAS Exemption provisions.

NICNAS to AICIS — Assessment Certificates

NICNAS to AICIS — Early Introduction Permits

NICNAS to AICIS — Low Volume Permits

NICNAS to AICIS — Commercial Evaluation Permits

NICNAS to AICIS — Controlled Use Permits

* And from 31 Aug 2020 time on, for new low risk chemicals under AICIS you should prepare the Exempted Chemical Introduction to be held in your business, or the Reported Chemical Introduction to be submitted to the AICIS Authority.

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/New-scheme-1-July-2020/Transitioning-from-NICNAS-to-AICIS

• Guidance on the New Scheme AICIS

AICIS: Annual Declaration for all introducers (from 1 July 2020)

All introducers will need to submit an annual declaration to confirm compliance.
Declarations are required for all 6 AICIS introduction categories.

From 1 July 2020, you'll need to keep records about your chemical introductions under AICIS. You'll use these to submit your 'annual declaration', which is first due by 30 November 2021 to cover the period 1 July 2020 – 31 August 2021.

Other Guidance includes:

AICIS -Exempted introduction declaration (from 1 July 2020)

AICIS -How and why we assess risk

AICIS -Using AICIS Approved Chemical Names for protecting confidentiality (from 1 July 2020)

NICNAS to AICIS — Commercial evaluation permits

NICNAS to AICIS — Controlled use permits

NICNAS to AICIS — Early introduction permits

NICNAS to AICIS — Early introduction permits

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/New-scheme-1-July-2020/New-Scheme-topic-guidance

• AICIS: NICNAS wants Feedback on what we Need

22 Nov 2019:

NICNAS want to help our stakeholders understand and comply with obligations under the new industrial chemicals laws that take effect from 1 July 2020. To ensure a smooth transition from NICNAS to AICIS, NICNAS will provide educational material and guidance on how the new scheme will work and your compliance obligations.

NICNAS want to deliver information that you're most interested in and in the format that suits you. Please let NICNAS know by answering the questions the website below.

Tick your topic(s) of interest* (15 topics)

Interest in attending a face-to-face seminar/workshop?*

Other preferred method(s) for learning about these topics*

From: www.nicnas.gov.au/news-and-events/tell-us-what-you-want-to-learn-about-aicis

Other Topics of Interest & Other Methods of Learning - Editor:

A Topic of Interest:

Record keeping for exempted introductions:

Editor: Now the CAS No. and exempted end use & conc'n scenario is required, IS the sign off for the specialist preparing it going to be simplified so that a knowledgeable specialist (like myself), but who does NOT have access to pay for Tox and Ecotox databases, nor has a qualified level Toxicology training, can prepare and sign off an Exempted Introduction chemical?

I regard the AICIS database will have access to the relevant Tox and Ecotox databases, and thus the AICIS database can be set up to alert when more evaluation is needed for an Exempted Introduction chemical by higher level specialist(s).

A Preferred Method for Learning about Topics:

Editor: There will also need to be several dedicated AICIS specialists available for several years for industry and community to phone or email, to discuss the issues and help resolve unusual / specialised situations / scenarios.

As these unusual / specialised situations / scenarios are decided, they need to be added to the AICIS website and alerted via the Chemical Gazette.

• ACCC: Cosmetics Ingredient Labelling – Review

14 Nov 2019: Review of the information standard - Cosmetics ingredient labelling.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) invited comment on the issues and policy options in the consultation paper on the review of the Information Standard on cosmetics ingredient labelling.

The purpose of this review is to assess the ongoing efficacy of the information standard in providing consumers and health care providers with ready access to information about ingredients contained in cosmetic products.

Policy options:

The ACCC is considering four policy options:

Option 1 - Keep the current information standard (status quo)

Option 2 - Amend the information standard

Option 3 - Allow overseas standards

Option 4 - Revoke the information standard.

The current information standard allows consumers to:

a/ avoid known allergens, irritants or potentially harmful chemicals; **b/** make value comparisons between products based on ingredients.

Based on overseas studies it is estimated that **about 10% cent of the general population experience side effects**, hypersensitivity or allergy-related irritation from cosmetics.

Unlike the provision of safety standards, Information Standards are not restricted to safety issues and can address a range of issues that are not safety related. **The information standard requires suppliers to include a list of ingredients with the cosmetic product**, which can inform consumer purchasing decisions. The Information Standard does not regulate the chemical ingredients used in cosmetic products.

Non-compliance has been detected in the online market and among some independent retailers that supply branded and unbranded products intended for the local market from which they are imported (e.g. Japan or China).

Another category of non-compliance was in the discount and variety sector which supplies toy and novelty products that, as a cosmetic, must meet the requirements of The Information Standard. These suppliers are mainly sole traders that supply a vast range of products including face paints, fake blood and temporary tattoos.

Issues: Children's Cosmetics: Suppliers may also consider that children's cosmetics are toys rather than cosmetics. In this instance, they may consult the regulations for toys and observe that, as cosmetic products are not captured there, there are no compliance requirements.

The ACCC are consulting on **an option to include an explanatory note into the information standard to make it clear that children's cosmetics** (e.g. makeup, face paints and temporary tattoos) **fall within the definition of a cosmetic product** & are required to display ingredient information.

Nanomaterials may be present in cosmetics under the following circumstances:

- Nanomaterials that are produced as an artefact of the manufacturing process and not intended to impart any functional or technical properties on the product.

- Manufactured nanomaterials intentionally produced, manufactured or engineered and included in a product to achieve a specific purpose (e.g. colorant or UV-filter).

In Europe and New Zealand nanomaterials are subject to the same disclosure requirements as any other cosmetic ingredient, only these must be identified with the word **'nano'** in brackets after the name of the ingredient. This is not currently a requirement in Australia, the USA or Canada.

Due to community interest, **the ACCC is considering introducing a requirement to identify nanomaterials** (if contained in the cosmetic product) **via ingredients labelling**.

The ACCC's preliminary assessment through consultation with NICNAS is that the nanomaterial definition in European regulations is consistent with the definition proposed to be included in domestic legislation.

However, as currently constructed the Information Standard **does not require online suppliers to list ingredient information on their online platform**, rather it applies when the product is actually supplied to the consumer (post their purchasing decision). With the increasing prevalence of online sales, the ACCC has identified that this is limiting the intent of the Information Standard to inform consumers prior to the point of purchase.

The ACCC is **considering introducing a new requirement in the Information Standard to require cosmetic suppliers to list ingredient information on their online platform.**

Further Issues are detailed in the ACCC Consultation Paper.
(19 pages) (pdf) (docx)

From: https://consultation.accc.gov.au/product-safety/review-of-the-standard-on-cosmetics-labelling/

Editor's Preferences:

Option 2 – Amend the information standard and/or Option 3 – Allow overseas standards, seem to be the best ways forward.

I prefer Nanomaterials to be disclosed, as they generally have different properties to the non-Nano forms.

Scheduled Poisons

• Poisons Standard Dec 2019

Poisons Standard December 2019 (SUSMP No. 26)

699 page Standard **commenced 1 Dec 2019**. 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 pdf page 388 is 312 pages long!

www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01471/Download

www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01471/8a020db8-27d7-447c-a3e7-0d98840c16fe (pdf)

Changes are detailed in the Explanatory Statement (html) (& 2 page pdf) supporting Poisons Standard December 2019.
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01471/Download

Note: I haven't included changes for pharmaceutical chemicals

The Poisons Standard December 2019 incorporates the introduction of a new substance to the Poisons Standard for the first time – Talazoparib in Schedule 4.

A small number of minor amendments were also included in this instrument, including editorial amendments to the current entries for Calcium Hydroxylapatite & # Dextropropoxyphene and to include index entries for Thymosin beta 4 (Thymosin β4), Fibroblast Growth Factors and TB-500.

The decision to introduce the new substance and to make the above minor amendments were delegate-only decisions that were not open to public consultation.

• Notice of a Final Decision to Amend / Not Amend

28 Nov 2019: *Editor: Comment on Chemicals only.*

2.1. Final Decision in relation to Arbutin

Main points in support of the proposed amendment were:

- to permit 500 mg or less of Arbutin in oral herbal preparations to be available for access and the removal of the cross reference of Arbutin to Hydroquinone.

- like to see restrictions lifted for registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners for herbs that have no danger when prepared correctly and combined with other herbs in a prepared Chinese Herbal Medicine Formula and prescribed by a registered practitioner.

Main points in opposition of the proposed amendment were:

- frustrating that the cosmetic use of Arbutin is captured within the Hydroquinone schedule entry as a 'derivative', but it is not being considered now when the substance is being carved out of the Hydroquinone schedule entry.

- risks and benefits of the use of Arbutin in cosmetic and topical dermal therapeutic products have not been considered by the regulatory system.

- Noted the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) conclusion on α-Arbutin & β-Arbutin cut-offs.

- Discussion section of the SCCS opinion for α-Arbutin notes that the total internal value of Hydroquinone (released from alpha-Arbutin) used for safety assessment related to Ochronosis and other end points is 42 times lower than the internal exposure resulting from the use of a product containing 1% Hydroquinone, a concentration at which Ochronosis may occur.
For β-Arbutin it is 174 times lower.

3.1. Final Decision in relation to lambda-Cyhalothrin

A Delegate of the Secretary has made a final decision to confirm not amend the current Poisons Standard in relation to lambda-Cyhalothrin. No public submissions were received.

3.3. Final Decision in relation to Broflanilide

Schedule 6 - New Entry

Schedule 5 - New Entry (Preparations containing ≤0.3%)

3.4. Final Decision in relation to Trifludimoxazin

Schedule 5 - New Entry

3.5. Final Decision in relation to Saflufenacil

Schedule 7 Saflufenacil except when included in Schedule 5.

Schedule 5 - Amend Entry - Saflufenacil in water dispersible granules or a water-based suspension concentrate.

4.2. Final Decision in relation to Thymol

Schedule 6 - Amend Entry - Thymol when packed and labelled use as a pesticide. Previously just "for the control of Varroa mites in bee hives".

From: www.tga.gov.au/scheduling-decision-final/notice-final-decisions-amend-or-not-amend-current-poisons-standard-november-2019

• TGA Review: Coumarin in Topical Listed Medicine

2 Dec 2019: Coumarin is a naturally occurring chemical found in a number of food products such as Cinnamon and Tonka Bean. Coumarin is currently permitted for use in listed medicine; however, it is only permitted for use as an active homoeopathic ingredient (with a maximum conc'n of 0.001%).

During a review of listed sunscreen products, the TGA became aware that Coumarin was being used as a fragrance in sunscreen and other topical listed medicines however was not on the Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination. The TGA conducted a preliminary safety review to determine whether coumarin was appropriate for use in listed medicines & sunscreens as a fragrance ingredient.

The review was unable to establish a safe concentration limit for the topical use of Coumarin, and identified some safety concerns such as liver injury, skin sensitisation, and populations at greater risk such as children and pregnant/breastfeeding women. In March 2019, the TGA sought comments from sponsors of medicines containing Coumarin, fragrance suppliers, dermatologists and industry associations to provide additional relevant information.

Safety Review: Coumarin for use in Topical Listed Medicines (Dec 2019, 38 pages pdf & docx)

The Safety Review establishes that the appropriate tolerable daily limit for coumarin exposure from all sources (including diet, cosmetic products and sunscreens) is 0.1 mg/kg bodyweight. The IFRA standard proposes a limit of 0.3% Coumarin in products for use on the body. A sunscreen containing Coumarin at this level would provide 6 mg/kg bodyweight of Coumarin (60-times the tolerable daily limit) when used as recommended[1] for a full-day. A sunscreen containing 0.001% Coumarin used in the same way would provide 0.02 mg/kg bodyweight (this is 20% of the tolerable daily limit). In the absence of a reliable estimation of Australian intake of Coumarin from dietary & cosmetic sources, this lower limit is considered to be more appropriate for low risk listed medicines. As such, the requirements for listed medicines will specify that topical products may not exceed a concentration of 0.001% Coumarin.

From: www.tga.gov.au/safety-review-coumarin-topical-listed-medicines

Food Chemical Issues

• FSANZ Regulatory Science Strategy 2019–2023

Oct 2019: FSANZ's role is to protect public health & safety by developing food standards that are informed by the best available scientific evidence, providing food standards information and by coordinating aspects of the food regulatory system.

Our scientific work is typically based around four broad streams of science: Nutrition science; Chemical risk assessment; Microbiology and biotechnology; Social science and economics.

Meeting the challenges – FSANZ's Strategic Objectives

Objective 1: Outstanding regulatory scientific capability

Objective 2: Modern scientific evidence base and application of best practice tools and methods

Objective 3: Work with and leverage from our domestic and international regulatory partners

Objective 4: Link and partner with key contributors such as academia, research institutions and industry

Objective 5: Communicate our science clearly and simply

Regulatory Science Strategy document (26p pdf docx)

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/publications/RegulatoryScienceStrategy201923/Pages/default.aspx

Editor: Objective 1: Outstanding Regulatory Scientific Capability, particularly interested me, as in our chemical management specialist advice field we don't even have a similar matrix of competencies expected for chemical management specialist advice professionals; let alone the other Objectives that FSANZ see as critical to maintain.

• A1191: Mono- & Di-Glycerides of Fatty Acids (471) as a surface coating

1 Nov 2019: This application is to extend the permission of the food additive mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (INS 471) as a surface coating glazing on fruit & vegetables to increase postharvest shelf life.

Executive Summary (1 page pdf)

Edible films and coatings, such as wax on various fruits, have been used by commercial growers for nearly a century to prevent loss of moisture and to create a shiny fruit surface for aesthetic purposes. However, not all fruits and vegetables are capable of withstanding the harsh process by which traditional waxes or resins, such as Carnauba wax & Shellac, are applied.

Edible coatings formulated with INS 471 (Mono- and Di-Glycerides of Fatty Acids), applied using a variety of different means, have been demonstrated to increase the postharvest shelf life of more than 30 categories of fruits and vegetables, including those with edible and non-edible peels.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/applications/Pages/A1191.aspx

• P1044: Plain English Allergen Labelling – 2nd Call

29 Nov 2019: Plain English Allergen Labelling: to standardise the use of plain English terminology for allergen declarations on food labels to be. clearer and more consistent, to help food allergen-sensitive consumers and food businesses.

The first call for submissions for this proposal P1044 was released in March 2018.

The Food Standards Code already requires the mandatory declaration of 11 foods or substances which can cause severe allergic and other reactions (for simplicity, these are collectively referred to as 'allergens'). However, it does not include requirements for how and where the declarations must be made on food labels.

This second call for submissions proposes draft amendments to the Food Standards Code. The purpose of these changes is to make allergen information clearer, more consistent and prominent for consumers.

2nd Call for Submissions - 29 Nov 2019 (49p) (pdf) | (word)

- Supporting Doc 1: Summary of submissions (pdf) | (word)
- Supporting Doc 2: Consumer Literature Review (pdf) (word)
- Supporting Doc 3: Safety Risk Assessment (pdf) | (word)
- Supporting Doc 4: Costs and Benefits (pdf) | (word)

Comment closes on **27 Feb 2020**.

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1044PlainEnglishAllergenLabelling.aspx

• P1054: Pure & Highly Concentrated Caffeine Products

1 Nov 2019: This urgent proposal is to amend the Code to prohibit the retail sale of pure & highly concentrated caffeine food products.

In September 2019 Minister Colbeck agreed to all recommendations made by FSANZ in its 30 Aug 2019 Report on the safety of Caffeine powders and high Caffeine content products.

Pure & Concentrated Caffeine Products – FSANZ review August 2019 Caffeine Report (41 pages) (pdf) | (word)

Recommendation One from the Report was the preparation of an urgent proposal to amend the Code to prohibit the retail sale of pure and highly concentrated caffeine food products.

Consultation on this proposal has now closed. Call for Submissions: 1 Nov 2019 (101 pages pdf | docx)

From: www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1054.aspx

Editor: Based on Oral LD50 Rat value of 368 mg/kg this is not classified as GHS Toxic, BUT based on the quoted human experience of <10g (Report page 22) being a lethal dose this would be <200 mg/kg for a 50kg person. If so, pure Caffeine should be GHS Toxic and be transported as Div'n 6.1 TOXIC Dangerous Goods.

Agricultural Chemicals

• APVMA: Chemical Review of Neonicotinoids

19 Nov 2019: The APVMA announced a chemical review of a group of systemic insecticides known as the Neonicotinoids.

Based on possible risks, including to pollinators, aquatic invertebrates, birds and small mammals, the reassessment will be environment-focussed. The review will also consider whether product labels carry adequate instructions to protect community and worker health.

There has been a number of reports linking Neonicotinoids with adverse environmental impacts, including on aquatic health and non-target and terrestrial invertebrates.

The APVMA and EPA NZ plan to work together to identify areas of possible collaboration over the course of this review.

Submissions close on **3 Feb 2020.**

For More Info: https://apvma.gov.au/node/57031

Neonicotinoids Reconsideration Work Plan (2 page pdf)

Active Constituents

– *Acetamiprid*	- *Clothianidin*	- *Dinotefuran*
– *Imidacloprid*	- *Thiacloprid*	- *Thiamethoxam*

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/57921

• APVMA: Reconsideration of 2,4-D

24 Oct 2019: The APVMA has released the Proposed Regulatory Decisions (114 page Special Gazette pdf | docx) and Review Technical Report (158 page pdf | docx) for the reconsideration of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid (2,4-D).

With the publication of the APVMA spray drift management guidelines earlier this year the proposed regulatory decisions for 2,4-D can now be finalised.

Submissions close on **31 Jan 2020.**

For More Info: https://apvma.gov.au/node/12351

2,4-D Reconsideration Work Plan (3 page pdf | docx)

Special APVMA Gazette 24 Oct 2019 (114 page pdf | docx)

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/56521

• APVMA: Broflanilide – New Insecticide Active

5 Nov 2019: An application for the approval of a new active constituent, Broflanilide which is a meta-Diamide insecticide for controlling social insects and non-social solitary or gregarious insects, such as, ants, wasps, termites and cockroaches.

Common Name: Broflanilide; CAS Name: 3-(Benzoylmethylamino)-N-[2-bromo-4-[1,2,2,2-tetrafluoro-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-2-fluorobenzamide; CAS No: 1207727-04-5; Formula: C25H14BrF11N2O2; MW: 663.3; Chemical Family: Meta-Diamide; Mode of Action: It is metabolized to Desmethyl-Broflanilide to act as a noncompetitive Resistant-to-Dieldrin (RDL) γ-AminoButyric Acid (GABA) receptor antagonist.

The APVMA has evaluated the chemistry aspects of Broflanilide active constituent (physico-chemical properties, identification, manufacturing process, quality control procedures, batch analysis results and analytical methods) and found them to be acceptable.

The APVMA has completed a toxicological evaluation of Broflanilide. No toxicologically significant impurities have been identified in technical Broflanilide.

A new entry will be made to the SUSMP Schedule 6 to include BROFLANILIDE except when included in Schedule 5. A new entry will be made to Schedule 5 to include BROFLANILIDE in preparations containing ≤0.3% of Broflanilide.

From: Ag&Vet Gazette, 5 Nov 2019 p24-26 (pdf | docx) *From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/57016*

• APVMA: Etofenprox – New Insecticide Active

19 Nov 2019: An application for the approval of a new active constituent, Etofenprox which is an insecticide proposed initially for use in stone fruit for control of Queensland fruit fly and Mediterranean fruit fly.

Common Name: Etofenprox; CAS Name: 1-[[2-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropoxy]methyl]-3-phenoxybenzene; CAS No: 80844-07-1; Formula: $C_{25}H_{28}O_3$; MW: 376.5; Chemical Family: Pyrethroid Ether; Mode of Action: It acts on the nervous system of insects by disturbing the function of neurons through interaction with the sodium channel. Etofenprox has a contact and stomach activity against a wide variety of insect pests, with fast knockdown.

The APVMA has evaluated the chemistry aspects of Etofenprox active constituent (physico-chemical properties, identification, manufacturing process, quality control procedures, batch analysis results and analytical methods) and found them to be acceptable.

The APVMA has completed a toxicological evaluation of Etofenprox. Other compounds of toxicological significance are not expected to occur in Etofenprox technical active constituent.

Etofenprox has been entered in Appendix B, Part 3 of the Poison Standard (substances Not requiring control by Scheduling), with an implementation date of 1 June 2018.

From: Ag&Vet Gazette, 19 Nov 2019 p18-19 (pdf | docx) *From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/57766*

• APVMA: Mesotrione – New Herbicide Active

19 Nov 2019: An application for the approval of a new active constituent, Mesotrione, for use in the control of broadleaf weeds in wheat, barley and durum wheat.

Common Name: Mesotrione; CAS Name: 2-[4-(methylsulfonyl)-2-nitrobenzoyl]-1,3-cyclohexanedione;
CAS No: 104206-82-8; Formula: $C_{14}H_{13}NO_7S$; MW: 339.3; Chemical Family: Benzoylcyclohexanedione;
Mode of Action: for use in the control of broadleaf weeds.

The APVMA has evaluated the chemistry aspects of active constituent Mesotrione (physico-chemical properties, identification, stability, manufacturing process, quality control procedures, batch analysis results and analytical methods) and found them to be acceptable.

The APVMA has considered the toxicological aspects of Mesotrione. Impurities of toxicological significance are not expected to occur in mesotrione as a result of the raw materials and the synthetic route used.

Mesotrione has been included in Schedule 5 of the Poison Standard, with no cut-off.

From: Ag&Vet Gazette, 19 Nov 2019 p20-21 (pdf | docx) *From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/57766*

• Qld WorkCover: Concern about Pesticide Hazards

29 Oct 2019 Qld eSAFE Article: Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has released new Guidance on pesticide hazards and the APVMA has released a Review of Glyphosate use.

Pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, are hazardous chemicals and are a health risk if safety precautions are not taken.

Common pesticides include: - Glyphosate - Paraquat - Organophosphates - Pyrethrin.

As with all hazardous chemicals, particularly those which may cause cancer, worker exposure must be minimised, including skin contact, breathing in vapour & mists, and accidental ingestion through poor hand hygiene. Exposure to herbicides & pesticides may cause serious health problems, so check each product's Label & Safety Data Sheet for possible harmful health effects.

Health Monitoring may be required where there is significant risk to workers' health because of exposure to pesticides such as organophosphates.

From: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/forms-and-resources/newsletter/esafe-newsletters/esafe-editions/esafe/october-2019/growing-concern-at-pesticide-hazards

• EC to Outlaw use of Insecticide Chlorpyrifos

6 Dec 2019 Deutsche Welle: The European Commission (EC) has said use of the pesticide Chlorpyrifos will be banned in the near future. The chemical treatment, used mainly for citrus fruits, has been linked with neurological problems.

Chlorpyrifos is already banned in Germany and six other EU countries, but it is still used on fruit plantations in much of southern Europe.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) said the risks of exposure to the chemical were of particular concern when it came to children's health.

In August, EFSA certified Chlorpyrifos as being likely to cause mutations in genes and harm the nervous system. The report cited "possible genotoxic effects as well as neurological effects during development."

Licensing for Chlorpyrifos runs out in January 2020, after which companies will have three months to dispose of stocks.

From: www.dw.com/en/brussels-to-outlaw-use-of-insecticide-chlorpyrifos/a-51558942

26 Nov 2019 from **EFSA Journal:** Updated statement on the available outcomes of the human health assessment in the context of the pesticides peer review of the active substance chlorpyrifos-methyl

31 July 2019 Statement (18 page pdf via Wiley Online Library) *From: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5908*

• APVMA: Draft Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

Consultation period was: 4 Nov 2019 to 2 Dec 2019

The APVMA charges for the efficient costs of the regulatory services it provides. Applicants pay fees for the APVMA to evaluate their applications, registrants pay a levy based on the wholesale value of chemical products sold. Current APVMA cost recovery arrangements were last revised in 2013.

The draft CRIS (58 pages) proposes future cost recovery arrangements for the APVMA. It focuses on ensuring appropriate and sustainable revenue to enable efficient and effective administration of agvet chemical regulation.

Draft Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (pdf | docx)

From: https://apvma.gov.au/node/56931

Editor: It is very interesting to read and compare the APVMA's complex cost recovery framework to the AICIS proposal.

Dangerous Goods

• Next Version of the ADG Code (7.7) is Drafted

4 Nov 2019: The ADG Code draft 7.7 aligns with Revision 21 of the United Nations (UN) Model Regulations and incorporates changes adopted by the UN along with other Australian-specific changes.

The draft 7.7 incorporates two key changes to bring Australian practices in line with accepted overseas practices and remove unnecessary burden on Australian businesses and the broader public.

Two of the Key Changes aim to:

1. simplify the requirements relating to the transport of dangerous goods in Limited Quantities by removing the Australian-specific sub-categories and aligning with the International agreement for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail;
2. provide a more consistent practice for Australian manufacturers by removing the additional requirements that only apply to inner packaging filled in Australia.

Editor: See *Explanatory Document* for key changes & details. The draft is available to comment on until **31 Dec 2019**

Log In or Register to post comments.

The draft Code and Explanatory Document are accessed at:
www.ntc.gov.au/transport-reform/ntc-projects/australian-dangerous-goods-code-maintenance

Explanatory Document for public exposure draft.pdf (6 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Intro and Part 1.pdf (68 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Part 2.pdf (132 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Part 3.pdf (514 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Part 4.pdf (179 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Part 5.pdf (65 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Part 6.pdf (211 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Parts 7, 8 and 9.pdf (30 pages)

Draft Code Edition 7.7 - Parts 10-13 & Appendices.pdf (90p)

Competent Authorities Panel Rules (July 2018) (16 pages)

• AU Emergency Response Guide: Hardcopy Price

Hardcopy Online Ordering: https://ntc.infoservices.com.au/

The cost for to an individual hardcopy is about $33 (which includes handling and postage).

For buying multiple copies (e.g. 3 copies) the cost is about $24.50 / hardcopy (which includes handling and postage).

For customers outside of Australia, please e-mail Sales@infoservices.com.au for a quotation and to confirm delivery arrangements.

The AU Emergency Response Guide (AERG) based on the Canutec Guide (which various Dangerous Goods specialists have worked on to replace HB 76) has been brought into a single AU electronic document.

The AERG may be used as an optional alternative to the Initial Emergency Response Guide (HB:76). Duty holders should decide which Guide best suits their specific need

Approval number V19-03 was issued by Worksafe Victoria and the approval was given national effect by the Competent Authorities Panel decision number CA2019/120.

The AU ERG is available to download **free of charge** from the National Transport Commission Dangerous Goods Code webpage: www.ntc.gov.au/codes-and-guidelines/australian-dangerous-goods-code

*Then scroll down & click on the **Read more** under **Resources** which then has a drop down list of Resources including:*

Australian Emergency Response Guide Book 2018 (386 page 2.1Mb **free** web **pdf** file)

Note: A Press file for printing hardcopies is also available from the NTC on request to:

Enquiries@ntc.gov.au Att'n: Legislative Maintenance *Note:* Modified copies are not approved emergency information.

• IATA DGR Manual 61st Edition 2020

The 61st Edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations incorporates all amendments made by the IATA Dangerous Goods Board and includes addenda issued by ICAO to the 2019–2020 edition of the Technical Instructions.

Order on-line via IATA: Regular Bound Manual USA$348; Spiral Bound Manual USA$359; + Shipping USA$43 (est.).

www.iata.org/publications/dgr/Pages/index.aspx

In Australia order via Marair Dangerous Goods Specialists P/L for AU$616 (incl. GST) +$20 delivery:
www.marair.com.au, email: Admin@marair.com.au
Melbourne ph: 1800-677-721 or 03-8318-4500.

• IATA DGR 61st Edition 2020: Significant Changes

Significant Changes and Amendments to the 61st Edition (2018) of the IATA *Dangerous Goods Regulations (3 pages)* can be downloaded from:

www.iata.org/publications/Pages/form-dgr-significant-changes.aspx It asks who are you, before you access it.

JS: https://go.updates.iata.org/l/123902/dgr-changes/849snx

Addendum to 61st DGR (12 page pdf) *There is a 3 minute Video about the IATA 61st DGR 2020.*

Changes that caught this Notes Editor's attention are:

2.3 - Dangerous Goods Carried by Passengers or Crew

2.3.5.1 - The restriction limiting aerosols in Division 2.2 for sporting or home use to checked baggage only has been removed. These aerosols may now be in either checked or carry-on baggage.

4.2 - List of Dangerous Goods - Addition of "environmentally hazardous substance" into Column D against UN 3077 & 3082 to identify that packages must bear the environmentally hazardous substance in addition to the Class 9 - Miscellaneous hazard label;

5 – Packing: Packing Instructions - The single packagings tables have been revised to better identify composite packagings. The revised tables now clearly identify exactly which composite packagings are permitted.

PI 650 - The text that describes the allowance for small quantities of substances in Classes 3, 8 or 9 to be in the primary receptacle has been revised to clarify that these substances must be permitted to be shipped as excepted quantities, not that they must meet the requirements for excepted quantities.

Appendix H - The guidance material on development & implementation of competency-based training for dangerous goods has been extensively revised based on engagement with, and input from regulatory authorities, training providers and member airlines.
Editor: Competency-based training comes into effect in 2021

Appendix I - A new appendix has been added to this edition of the DGR to provide the detail of the changes that will come into effect as of 1 Jan 2021 based on the adoption of the changes arising from the 21st revised edition of the UN Model Regs as well as the changes that have been agreed to date by the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel for inclusion into the 2021–2022 edition of the Technical Instructions

• WA Dangerous Goods Regs Amalgamation

Sept 2019: The WA Dept of Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety (DMIR&S) has embarked on a dangerous goods legislative project that will take most of 2020 to complete.

The aim is to amalgamate the following six sets of dangerous goods regulations into one new Dangerous Goods Safety Regulations 2020:

- Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (General) Regulations 2007

This will reduce the regulatory red tape for industry and encourage compliance by: reducing …; replacing …; removing …; correcting …; introducing …

Many parts of this project, including the single licence initiative and the repeal of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate) Regulations 2007, have already received the Minister's approval. Other parts will be submitted for approval when drafting instructions have been developed.

Not all of the matters to be consolidated have been identified at this stage, but are likely to include:

- all licensing requirements
- security of explosives and SSANs
- a single provision for reporting dangerous goods accidents, incidents and dangerous situations
- duties of manufacturers and importers to classify dangerous goods, ensure the integrity and labelling of dangerous goods packaging, and the provision of Safety Data Sheets and Technical Data Sheets (for explosives only)
- placarding of dangerous goods facilities
- emergency management and provision for emergency plans
- a single set of all common definitions under "terms used"
- risk control measures for dangerous goods & explosives sites
- risk assessments
- duties of persons at a dangerous goods/ explosives site.

The project is likely to take all of 2020 to complete and further consultations will occur as appropriate.

From: ThinkSafe Magazine - September 2019 Page:20

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/Resource-Safety-publications-16440.aspx

• WA Dangerous Goods Road Transport Decoder

The Dangerous Goods Road Transport Decoder App gives drivers and transport companies access to dangerous goods road transport information from their computers, smartphones and tablets.

The app is based on the requirements of the Western Australian regulations for the transport of explosives and dangerous goods, the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail, 7th Edition (ADG Code) and the Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, 3rd Edition (AEC3).

This app is limited to the transport requirements for roads open to the public The App follows two simple steps.

1/ Select the desired dangerous goods class label on the Home page; **2/** Select the container type that you are transporting. You will then be presented with a list of requirements that you can toggle off and on.

For computers, smartphones and tablets running iOS 9 and above; Android 6.0 and above; and Windows 8 and above.

Editor: It also works online on Chrome on my Windows 7 PC

Online or Download the App Version 1.0.5 (10Aug2018) from: https://decoderapp.dmirs.wa.gov.au/#/onboard

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Dangerous-Goods-Road-Transport-23299.aspx

• Vic: New Dangerous Goods Laws Pass Parliament

31 Oct 2019: Rogue operators who stockpile dangerous goods could face up to 10 years in jail after tough new laws passed Victorian Parliament today.

The Victorian Dangerous Goods Amendment (Penalty Reform) Bill 2019 ensures those who flout Dangerous Goods laws get a serious penalty.

The Andrews Labor Government announced earlier this year it would crack down on people who flout dangerous good laws following the discovery of millions of litres of waste chemicals stockpiled in northern suburbs warehouses.

A new offence has now been created that will see prison terms of up to ten years for those that recklessly engage in the manufacture, storage, transport, transfer, sale or use dangerous goods in a way that places, or may place, another person in danger of death.

Existing maximum penalties for endangering health and safety, property or the environment will be increased from four to five years imprisonment, and from $165K to $297K in fines for individuals.

Maximum fines for body corporates endangering health and safety will increase from $826K to $3.3M.

WorkSafe Vic is leading a government agency taskforce to remove waste chemicals from 13 sites in Epping, Campbellfield and Craigieburn. The clearing of these sites is well underway, with approximately 8.2 million litres of waste chemicals having been removed thus far.

From: www.premier.vic.gov.au/new-dangerous-goods-laws-pass-parliament/

• UN Manual of Tests & Criteria 7th Rev. Ed. in 2020

Editor: The UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, seventh revised edition is currently available as a hardcopy document to UN TDG & GHS Committee members.
It is a background document (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.7) on the Agendas for the Dec 2019 sessions of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

The UN Manual of Tests and Criteria 7th Revised Edition should soon be available to everyone as the hardcopy from https://shop.un.org/sources/ece by searching on
"Manual of Tests and Criteria" and costing around US$130 plus postage around US$60.

and then as a free pdf by June 2020 (& maybe earlier) via: www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/manual/manual_e.html

Environmental Notes on Chemicals

• Victoria: Tottenham Fire Site Clean Up Demand

21 Oct 2019:
Joint Clean Up statement from EPA Vic and WorkSafe Vic

Victoria's Environmental and Dangerous Goods watchdogs are demanding the owners and occupiers of last year's Tottenham fire site clean up the property.

EPA Vic and WorkSafe Vic have issued notices demanding the duty holders remove waste and chemicals from the site, contain any run-off, and render any residual Dangerous Goods harmless.

All demolition work must comply with construction and asbestos regulations. The clean up must be completed by August 2020.

EPA Vic's onsite investigations to date show there are still aerosols, solvents and paint residues on site.

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/joint-statement-from-environment-protection-authority-victoria-and-worksafe

• Worksafe Vic: Fire site Waste Chemicals Recovery

8 Nov 2019: Update on Tottenham Waste Chemicals fire site recovery.

WorkSafe Vic has exercised powers under the Dangerous Goods Act to directly oversee the removal of waste chemicals at the 2018 Tottenham fire site.

WorkSafe Vic will form a taskforce including the EPA Vic to clean up the site, with input from emergency services & local government.

Contractors will be engaged to manage the operation, and all demolition work will need to comply with construction and asbestos regulations.

The operation involves the removal of 7 to 15 thousand cubic metres of debris, including an estimated 7 to 10 million litres of residual chemicals that were not destroyed when the large warehouse caught fire on 30 August 2018.

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/news/2019-11/update-tottenham-fire-site-recovery

• EPA Vic Assessment of Tottenham Fire site Waste

20 Nov 2019: EPA Vic has published an assessment of onsite contamination following the fire in Tottenham that occurred in August 2018.

The EPA Vic informs "that chemicals remaining onsite pose no health risk while in the drums at the site, and measures to contain these substances are in place."

From: *www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/epa-assessment-of-tottenham-fire-site-waste-online*

Assessment and further information:
https://ref.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/current-issues/west-footscray-fire-2018-and-impacts-on-stony-creek/assessment-of-materials-on-site

A complex sampling program of the remaining drums located at the site was conducted between May and June 2019.

Waste from a representative sample of drums was analysed for nearly 400 individual chemicals. Laboratory analyses and interpretation were completed in October 2019. A mix of over one hundred hazardous and industrial chemical substances were identified inside the drums.

Chemicals tested for in this recent analysis included:

Hydrocarbons Solvents Pesticides Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Heavy Metals Asbestos.

Samples taken indicate waste remaining on-site contains:

large amounts of solvents (e.g. acetone, cyclohexane) hydrocarbons halogenated hydrocarbons poly- and monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Classes of chemicals identified include:

Alkanes, Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Monocyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (MAHs), Metals, Phenols (Non-Halogenated and Halogenated), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Pesticides (Terbutryn), PFAS (PFOS), Plasticisers (Phthalates, Monophenyl Ditolyl Phosphate II), Solvents (Acetone, Cyclohexane, MEK), Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds, and Volatile Organic Compounds.

• EPA Vic: New action on Kaniva illegal waste dump

4 Dec 2019: EPA Vic has taken new action over the illegal waste dump site 15 km south of Kaniva near Lemon Springs (in Western Victoria).

In Aug 2019 EPA Vic issued the owner of the site, Graham White, with a Clean Up Notice (CUN) requiring he secure the site, install signage and not attempt to excavate any of the dump sites on the property. The notice orders the carrying out of an Environmental Site Assessment, supervised by EPA Vic.

Exploratory excavation works showed 20 dispersed waste dumps contain a volume of waste of up to 8,000 cubic metres of solid and liquid waste. EPA estimates this volume at three to five million litres, which is likely to contain solvents, hydrocarbons and associated liquid waste. The total area covered by the dump sites is around 2 acres.

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/epa-asks-owner-to-show-cause-on-illegal-waste-property-in-kaniva (15 Nov 2019)

The property owner failed to show cause (since15 Nov 2019) so on Tuesday morning (3 Dec 2019), EPA Vic exercised powers under the Environment Protection Act 1970 taking management of the premises.

Dr Scott Pigdon, EPA Vic, North West Regional Manager, reiterated that risk on the site will be minimised and that EPA Vic will only excavate when conditions are appropriate.

From:
www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/epa-takes-new-action-on-kaniva-illegal-waste-dump

The Age 8 Dec 19: The Man who made a Toxic Waste Disaster

From: www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/the-man-who-made-a-toxic-waste-disaster-20191205-p53h1x.html

• EPA Vic: 2014 Hazelwood Mine Fire - Companies Guilty

20 Nov 2019: In July of this (2019) year, a jury found each of Hazelwood Pacific Pty Ltd, Australian Power Partners B.V., Hazelwood Churchill Pty Ltd and National Power Australia Investments Ltd guilty of polluting the atmosphere so as to make it noxious, poisonous, or offensive, polluting the atmosphere so as to make it harmful to health, welfare, safety or property and polluting the atmosphere so as to make it detrimental to any beneficial use.

The mine did not adequately assess the risk of fire, did not have an adequate reticulated water system, failed to slash vegetation around the mine and did not take action early enough to wet down areas around the mine.

The court will sentence the companies on a date to be fixed.

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/companies-found-guilty-over-2014-hazelwood-mine-fire

From: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/news/2019-11/hazelwood-power-guilty-after-devastating-mine-fire

From: www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/hazelwood-mine-operator-guilty-over-fire-20191120-p53cfi.html

From: www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-20/hazelwood-mine-fire-jury-returns-verdict/11696010

• EPA Vic: Hazelwood Mine Fire – Victim Impacts

29 Nov 19: Opportunity to provide Victim Impact statements.

In July of this year (2019), a Supreme Court jury found each of Hazelwood Pacific Pty Ltd, Australian Power Partners B.V., Hazelwood Churchill Pty Ltd and National Power Australia Investments Ltd guilty of pollution offences arising out of the 2014 Hazelwood Mine fire. This is in addition to a related entity, Hazelwood Power Corporation Pty Ltd, being found guilty by a separate jury of occupational health and safety offences in November in relation to the same incident.

The Hazelwood Mine fire began on 9 February 2014 and burned for 45 days. The fire sent smoke and ash over the town of Morwell and surrounding areas for much of that time.

The condition of the atmosphere was so changed as to make (or be reasonably expected to make) the atmosphere:

- noxious or poisonous or offensive to the senses of human beings;
- harmful or potentially harmful to the health, welfare, safety or property of human beings;
- detrimental to any beneficial use made of the atmosphere.

The plea hearing in relation to these matters is scheduled to be heard on 19 & 20 Dec 2019 by the Supreme Court sitting at the Latrobe Valley Court, in Morwell (134 Commercial Road).

Victim Impact Statements (about how the crime has affected them) are one of the things a judge takes into account when they decide what penalty to impose on the offender(s).

From: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/hazelwood-mine-fire-opportunity-to-provide-victim-impact-statements

• EPA NSW: Household Chemical CleanOut Dates

5 Dec 2019: Householders can plan their next visit to a Household Chemical CleanOut free event with dates for Sydney, the Hunter and Illawarra regions now available online.

The CleanOut service accepts household quantities of potentially hazardous products such as fluorescent lights, smoke detectors, gas bottles, solvents, poisons, hobby chemicals, household cleaners, pool chemicals, batteries, oils, paint, pesticides and fire extinguishers.

As a guide, this is a maximum container of 20L or 20 kg for each waste type.

The Chemical CleanOut program is coordinated by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and local government partners.

CleanOut dates for Jan to June 2020 at www.cleanout.com.au

In 2018/19 NSW householders disposed of 119061 kg of gas cylinders, 113939 kg of batteries and 147387 kg of oil at CleanOut events. More than 895000 kg of paint was collected and recycled in partnership with Paintback

From: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/media-releases/2019/epamedia191205-new-household-chemical-cleanout-dates-announced

• Sustainability Vic: Detox Your Home

A safe, free service to dispose of toxic, unwanted household chemicals. **Note:** Businesses should use a commercial waste disposal company.

Locations and registration for Detox your home events

1 Feb - Frankston; 8 Feb – Geelong; 15 Feb – Keilor Park;

22 Feb – Morwell & Wantirna Sth; 29 Feb – Warrnambool.

Permanent drop-off sites A large range of Council facilities.

Items accepted and not accepted

Safety and handling

Five steps to detox your home

Detox your home FAQs

The Detox your home program recovers and diverts these toxic chemicals from landfill.

Safely dispose of your toxic household wastes to:

- keep them out of our waterways
- reduce the risk of poisoning and keep our homes safe
- minimise environmental pollution and bushfire hazards.

The maximum acceptable weight or size of any single container is 20 kg or 20 L. Decanting is not permitted so bring chemicals in disposal containers.

From: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

• WA DMIRS: Mining - Minerals Dissolved in Brine

9 Oct 2019: Mining Lease Restricted to Minerals Dissolved in Brine. The WA Dept of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) has produced a new Guideline for proponents seeking to apply for a mining lease restricted to minerals derived from brine.

In mining terms, brine is groundwater, surface water or sea water that contains minerals in solution. These minerals can include potash, gypsum, halite (salt), iodine, lithium, magnesium and bromine.

Premium potash contains potassium and sulphur, which are key plant nutrients. Increasing global demand for high quality food is driving demand for premium potash fertilisers by producers as they significantly increase crop yields and improve the quality of the food being grown.

In Western Australia, many of the proposed brine mining projects are located on salt lakes in remote areas. The majority of the proposed projects require mining tenure over expansive areas that are 10 to 20 times larger than areas under tenure for the largest conventional mining operations in Western Australia.

On 24 May 2019, the WA Mining Regulations 1981 were amended to introduce a concessionary rental rate for mining leases restricted to minerals derived from brine. The concessionary rate is directed at supporting the establishment of the potash mining industry in Western Australia by reducing the fixed cost imposed by government to a level more comparable with other conventional mining operations.

Mining Lease Restricted to Minerals Dissolved in Brine (2p)

From: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/News/New-guidelines-for-minerals-25926.aspx

And: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Minerals/Mining-Lease-Restricted-to-25921.aspx

• NZ: Methyl Bromide Monitoring Programme

18 Nov 2019: Plans are being put in place (in NZ) to increase Methyl Bromide monitoring following a theoretical modelling report about how the log fumigant disperses into the environment after use.

This is additional monitoring, over and above the routine monitoring that industry is required to carry out every time Methyl Bromide fumigation occurs.

The NZ Ministry of Health is maintaining a watching brief on the monitoring programme and stresses there is no immediate public health concern.

Gayle Holmes, Acting General Manager of the EPA's Hazardous Substances Group, said:

"Our mathematical modelling report conflicts with that put forward by industry as part of the current reassessment process, and others undertaken when methyl bromide was last reassessed in 2010. It is also at odds with routine monitoring data which industry is required to undertake whenever methyl bromide is used at ports around New Zealand.

"Computer-based modelling is a tool that uses an array of mathematical assumptions which can differ from the actual measurements of air quality. Because the reports all reflect different outcomes, the EPA commissioned an independent peer review to further test the hypothesis of its own report. It confirms that more detailed data is necessary."

Decision-making committee's direction & minute: 4p pdf

Mathematical Air Dispersion Modelling Methyl Bromide Report commissioned by the EPA NZ: 55p pdf

Peer Review Report of the Air Dispersion Modelling: 21p pdf

Latest Information about the Reassessment process: webpage

From: www.epa.govt.nz/news-and-alerts/latest-news/agencies-join-forces-in-methyl-bromide-monitoring-programme/

• Analytical Technique: PFAS soil & water contamination

31 Oct 2019: Per and Poly- Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) - until their impacts on human and environmental health are fully understood they must be carefully monitored and managed.

One of the most common analytical techniques in PFAS soil and water contamination investigations is Total Oxidisable Precursor Assay (TOPA) which oxidises unknown precursor fluorinated compounds into detectable PFAS.. Marc Centner from ALS Environmental discussed the applications and limitations of TOPA laboratory analysis. The focus of analysis was 0.5% to 1.5% Fluorosurfactant products which are used to reverse engineer substances, such as Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) or Firefighting Foam, to identify partially Fluorinated substances such as Perfluoro Alkyl Butane which is a precursor to Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA).

Currently, approximately 4700 PFAS substances have been identified and approximately 90% of precursors making the risks of PFAS contamination difficult to estimate. It was found that in waste water treatment plants, precursors are more prevalent in influent waste streams than effluent because pre-treatment converts precursors into Carboxylic Acid by-products. As such, TOPA should be utilised when there is a semi-quantitative risk from precursors. TOPA does not mimic the natural environment, it cannot incorporate oxidation and loses mass and precursors during its conversion. It targets and identifies the maximum chain length PFAS.

Extracted from: https://landandgroundwater.com/story/pfas-a-discussion-on-topa-reliability-and-application

ALGA Individual Membership $165/yr, Benefits & Prices
https://landandgroundwater.com/page/individual_membership

Standards & Codes

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

https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Search/Standard/?sortKey=date-desc&productFamily=STANDARD

AS 4312:2019 - Atmospheric corrosivity zones in Australia and their effect on the corrosion of steel and other metals. Pub: 29 Oct 2019, 28p, pdf (Personal Use): $104.89; Hardcopy: $116.42.

ISO 35001:2019 - Biorisk Management for Laboratories and other Related Organisations. This document defines a process to identify, assess, control, and monitor the risks associated with hazardous biological materials. It is applicable to any laboratory or other organization that works with, stores, transports, and/or disposes of hazardous biological materials. Pub: 12 Nov 2019, 26p, pdf (Personal Use): $182.33; Hardcopy: $202.59.

• Draft Stds – https://infostore.saiglobal.com/

https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Search/Standard/?sortKey=date-desc&productFamily=STANDARD

DR AS/NZS 60079.10.1 Supp 1:2019: Explosive Atmospheres - Classification of areas - Explosive gas atmospheres - Commentary - Supplement to AS/NZS 60079.10.1:20XX (adoption of IEC 60079-10-1:20XX (ED. 3.0, MOD)). Pub: 1 Oct 2019, 134 pages, pdfs (Networkable / Personal Use): Free; Hardcopy: $65.82. Comment closes 3 Dec 2019.

Amendment No. 4 to AS/NZS 60335.2.31:2013. Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety – Part 2.31: Particular requirements for range hoods and other cooking fume extractors.

Add the following variation: 7.12 Replace the first dashed item in the first paragraph of the addition by the following:

Range hoods and other cooking fume extractors may adversely affect the safe operation of appliances burning gas or other fuels (including those in other rooms) due to back flow of combustion gases. These gases can potentially result in carbon monoxide poisoning. After installation of a range hood or other cooking fume extractor, the operation of flued gas appliances should be tested by a competent person to ensure that back flow of combustion gases does not occur.

https://shop.standards.govt.nz/default.htm?mod=drafts&action=browseDrafts&draftTypeId=2

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.

• Draft Standards Open for Public Comment

Standards Australia has updated its process for downloading a Draft Standard. Visitors are no longer required to download the draft from the SAI Global Store. All drafts are now available directly from Standards Australia by clicking on "Download draft". There is a simple "word" search function. In addition, Draft Standards will continue to be made available on the SAI Global Store, where there is their detailed search function.

https://sapc.standards.org.au/sapc/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action

Joint NZ/AU Draft Standards: https://shop.standards.govt.nz/default.htm?mod=drafts&action=browseDrafts&draftTypeId=2

• SAI Global pdfs now need DRM Software

DRM – Digital Rights Management. The DRM plugin is at:

https://plugin.fileopen.com/?type=Filter&name=FOPN_foweb

FileOpen develops a set of clients/plug-ins to enable authorized access to FileOpen-protected PDF and Microsoft Office documents.

https://www.fileopen.com/products/client-faq

Editor: My Adobe Acrobat Reader XI needed to be reinstalled so it would open & work. I regard FileOpen caused this!

• Stds Aust: Button Batteries to Receive New Guidance

6 Nov 2019: Leaders from the consumer, services and product industry came together at Standards Australia recently to agree on the development of a button battery standard.

This decision follows an increase of concerned communities as the use of button batteries continues to rise in Australia.

"While there are some standards that reference these batteries, there is not yet any holistic guidelines for products with button batteries," said Head of Stakeholder Engagement Daniel Chidgey.

"The goal of this proposed standard is to create a unified approach for safer use and distribution of these batteries which is an essential step in protecting consumers," said Ms Barbara Geens, Chair of the Industry Working Group on Button Batteries Safety.

From: www.standards.org.au/news/button-batteries-to-receive-new-guidance

• Renewable Energy Battery Storage Installations

23 Oct 2019: AS/NZS 5139 *Electrical installations-Safety of battery systems for use with power conversion equipment* outlines safety requirements for installation of renewable energy battery storage equipment. Published 11 Oct 2019

The Qld Electrical Safety Office investigated a fire in a battery installation in a home in Dec 2018 that caused significant damage. The battery installation was of poor design and there have been other fires in battery systems throughout Australia.

While such fires are not epidemic in Australia, they highlight a need for consistent application of requirements for battery storage installations.

This new standard provides information on the comprehensive range of requirements for these installations.

Designers and installers should consider using a pre-assembled integrated battery energy storage system (BESS) and pre-assembled battery system equipment (BS) that are shown to comply with the *Best Practice Guide: battery storage equipment - electrical safety requirements, V1.0 2018*

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au

From: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/forms-and-resources/newsletter/esafe-newsletters/esafe-editions/esafe-electrical/2019-bulletins/new-standard-for-renewable-energy-battery-storage-installations

• NZ Draft Stds - https://www.standards.govt.nz/

No recent (since mid Aug 2019) NZ Stds covering Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances were found as at 16 Oct 19.

• NFPA Codes, Reports, News

Newly Published NFPA Codes

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

NFPA News: now only appears accessible by being emailed. *http://ebm.cheetahmail.com/r/regf2?a=0&aid=272412627&n=210*

Standards Seeking Public Input

For a complete listing of NFPA standards accepting Public Input, please go to www.nfpa.org/publicinput

Standards Seeking Public Comment

For a complete listing of NFPA standards accepting Public Comment, please go to www.nfpa.org/publiccomment

Both of the above take 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

• Lab Safety Training Course 3–5 Feb 2020

Safety in Laboratories & Laboratory Construction & Design Explained (3 Days): Holmesglen Institute, Chadstone, Vic

Cost $1870. *Em: info@labsafety.com.au Mob: 0417-843-798* *From: www.labsafety.com.au/training-courses*

• DGAG Meeting, Port Melbourne, 5 Feb 2020, Melb

Dangerous Goods Advisory Group meeting, **Wed 5th Feb 2020**, 5.30pm for 6pm - 8.15pm meeting at Sandridge Trugo Community Centre (Port Melbourne). Corner Albert & Poolman Streets. $3-$5 cost to attendees (depending on numbers). There will be tea / coffee & biscuits, and those interested, go for a meal after.

Info: www.haztech.com.au/click-this-tab-for-a-list-of-all-meetings-conferences-seminars-workshops/

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.

• CHCN Meeting, Port Melbourne, 4 Mar 2020 Melb

Chemical Hazard Communication Network meeting, **Wed 4th March 2020,** 5.30pm for 6pm - 8.15pm meeting at Sandridge Trugo Community Centre (Port Melbourne). $3-$5 cost to attend (depending on numbers). Corner Albert & Poolman Sts.
There will be tea / coffee / biscuits & those interested, go for a meal after.*www.haztech.com.au/meetings/chem-haz-comm-network*

IF you would like to be added to my Dangerous Advisory Group / Chemical Hazard Communication Network meeting email issues list, please email Jeff.Simpson@haztech.com.au. You don't have to be in Melbourne, to be on this email list.

• Fundamentals of Process Safety, 30 Mar 20, Perth

Perth, 30 March 2020 (5 days):

Essential for anyone who is involved in the design, modification, operation and maintenance of a major hazard or process plant and references the management framework built on six functional areas or pillars developed by the IChemE Safety Centre.

Benefits staff at all levels in an organisation to develop or improve their knowledge of process safety, hazards, risk & their mgmt.

Cost: Non-Members $4090, IChemE Members $3565. *Email: austcourses@icheme.org, ph: 03-9642-4494*

From: www.icheme.org/career/training/courses/fundamentals-of-process-safety/30-march-3-april-2020-perth-australia/

• HAZOP Leadership & Mgmt, 5 May 2020, Perth

Perth, 5 May – 7 May 20209: 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 $4040, IChemE Members $3515. *Email: austcourses@icheme.org, ph: 03-9642-4494*

From: www.icheme.org/career/training/courses/hazop-leadership-and-management/7-9-may-2019-australia/

• Bulk Solids Handling for Chemical Engineers

Melbourne, 2 June 2020: Process Operations. The flow of bulk solids is complex and not well covered in undergraduate courses. Tailored specifically for chemical engineers and addresses this Blind Spot by providing a fundamental understanding of the science underpinning bulk solids flow behaviour together with simple, practical steps that can be taken to solve but ideally avoid common problems.

Cost: Non-Members $1220, IChemE Members $1100. *Email:* austcourses@icheme.org, ph: 03-9642-4494. *From: www.icheme.org/career/training/courses/bulk-solids-handling-for-chemical-engineers/2-june-2020-melbourne-australia/*

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

I can come and work in your office, which provides better access to data with improved security, plus good technical contact with relevant personnel. This allows the work to be done more quickly and comprehensively. *I also work from my home office*, in Ashburton, Victoria, where I maintain an extensive reference library, developed over 29 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.
Renewals are notified with your last issue. The date of your last issue of your subscription will be given on the top right corner of the envelope label, e.g. Nov 20 or normally in the Subject of the Email in which you receive the Hazmat Notes pdf file.

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