



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

December 2006

The AIDGC
Board
wishes all
Members
the best
Christmas
ever - a
happy
holiday to
you and
yours!

NATIONAL CODES OF PRACTICE - DRAFT LABELLING & SAFETY DATA SHEET

On December 5, 2006, the Australian Safety & Compensation Council (ASCC) released an additional series of hazardous chemicals guidance documents for public comment. The new documents are:

- ❖ Draft National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals
- ❖ Draft National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Safety Data Sheets

Public Discussion Paper for both draft codes of practice.

The comment period closes on March 1, 2007

The drafts can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/OpenComment/WorkplaceHazardousChemicalsPublicComment.htm>

Safety is No Accident High Pressure Water Systems

The use of high pressure water systems with flexible appendages to clean pipes has recently caused at least one fatality. Other incident investigations have shown a lack of hazard controls in place and a lack of awareness surrounding the hazards posed by losing control of the equipment.

http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/bulletins/worksafe/assets/pdf/ws0507.pdf

An informative slide show that can be viewed and/or be downloaded from the following site.

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/media/fss/pressureWasher/slideshow.htm>

Please relay links that you would like to share via What's Happening to jdbaker@ozemail.com.au

Please note that any hyperlinks spilling over onto two lines will have to be copied onto your internet browser address. You just can't 'click and go'.

Australian Standards Committees

AIDGC Member, Elizabeth Harangozo has recently been appointed Engineers Australia's representative on the Australian Standards Committees that produce most of the Dangerous Goods standards.

She is currently on two standards' committees:

SF-037 which produces the Confined Space Standard AS/NZS 2865 (2006 revision due out prior to Christmas) and

CH-009 which produces many standards relating to safe handling, storage and transport of chemicals under normal and emergency conditions. Of particular note to the AIDGC are the standards:

AS 4326 The storage and handling of oxidizing agents

AS 2714 The storage and handling of organic peroxides

AS 3780 the storage and handling of corrosive substances

AS/NZS 4452 The storage and handling of toxic substances

AS 1894 the storage and handling of non-flammable cryogenic and refrigerated liquids

the AS 1678 series of emergency procedure guides for the new ADG code and HB 76 the initial emergency response guide for DG's'.

AS/NZS 2927 The storage and handling of liquefied chlorine gas

AS 2507 the storage and handling of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

AS/NZS 4081 the storage and handling of liquid and liquefied polyfunctional isocyanates

AS 4332 The storage and handling of gases in cylinders

AS/NZS 4681 The storage and handling of Class 9 DG's.

She also has a nomination pending for ME-017 which produces AS 1940 Storage and Handling of Combustible and Flammable Liquids.

Elizabeth would welcome any comments by members relating to these standards and her email address is: Elizabeth.Harangozo@engsa.com

She hopes to be able to act as a conduit between experienced Members of the AIDGC and the Australian Standards organization.

Board Member and Chair of the Technical Sub-Committee, Peter Hunt also sits on Australian Standards Committees - CH-009-09, Class 9 (AS/NZS 4681) CH-009-10, Pesticides/ agricultural and veterinary chemicals (AS 2507).

Accidents while Servicing Large Tyres Training Slide Show

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/multimedia/slideshows.asp>

UNIVERSITY OF N.S.W. CHEMICAL SPILL

Two people have been taken to hospital with breathing difficulties after a chemical spill at the University of NSW in Sydney. Thirty people were evacuated from a science building at the University in Randwick, in Sydney's eastern suburbs, about 2.50pm (AEDT), a NSW Fire Brigades spokesman said. A small amount of lithium aluminium hydride – which reacts violently with water – was spilled. Five people with breathing difficulties were treated by ambulance.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20749649-29277,00.html>

HazMat and THAT Survey

Ross Underwood has been preparing a talk on behalf of AIDGC for next year's HAZMAT in Sydney that will have a large audience of potential clients. The AIDGC has been asked for our Member consultants' views on the current legislation and their experiences working with clients since the legislation changed in 2005. The Board in approving the proposal to survey members as part of the process for gathering comments, recognizing that we need to have as many people respond to the survey as possible. The survey (which can be completed anonymously) does not seek to collect any commercially sensitive information. The findings of the survey are intended to be consolidated in a way that protects everyone's privacy.

In order for us to prepare our consolidated opinions for HAZMAT in a relevant and timely manner, could you please help us by completing your survey and forwarding it to Ross either by email to sets@ozemail.com.au or by fax. to 02)9876 3827, by Australia Day, 2007. Given that Ross expects to be overseas at the time of the HAZMAT Conference Peter Hunt has kindly volunteered to present the material that Ross will be preparing.

The survey is underway, so give us your view!

Continuing Professional Development

The information and material for you to record your industry experiences and personal training has been loaded onto the AIDGC website. You would be aware that the recording of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is on an 'honour system'. To protect the AIDGC's claim that all members of the AIDGC undertake CPD activities, the AIDGC Board has instituted a system of sample auditing.

To avoid any embarrassment if you are one of the members that are asked to substantiate your CPD activities and you haven't been keeping tabs on what you have been doing, it is recommended that you start to keep a written record of those activities that qualify, in the form suggested on the website.

POTENTIAL TRAINING VIDEOS (DOWNLOADABLE)

Start the selected video then follow download instructions.

- ❖ ASCO – 3 killed, one injured – dangers of acetylene accumulation and explosion.
- ❖ Praxair Flammable Gas Cylinder Fire - flying flammable gas cylinder projectiles in a major fire that became uncontrollable in about 90 seconds.
- ❖ Sodium Hydrosulphide - toxic hydrogen sulphide again.

http://www.csb.gov/index.cfm?folder=video_archive&page=index

Website Upgrade

John Baker has completed a major upgrade to our website including an accessibility option for all members to the Members' Only page. All the notes from the annual Conferences and Seminars and interesting and important links – enjoy over Christmas.

FILM OF BUNCEFIELD INFERNO

Firefighters have released a film they made inside the burning Buncefield oil depot as part of a report on the lessons learned from the disaster. The report contains a list of recommendations on how to deal with large-scale emergencies.

<http://www2.hemelhempsteadtoday.co.uk/Buncefieldvideo/Buncefieldsml.wmv>

<http://tinyurl.com/ye4y4g>

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA NEWS ITEMS

You pull your car into a farm service store and tell the attendant to fill it up - with anhydrous ammonia. The notion apparently isn't as far-fetched as it seems. Serious minds are thinking that ammonia might actually be the best candidate for freeing America from its dependence on imported oil.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061210/OPINION01/612100312/1035/OPINION>



A tank containing 1400 litres of **anhydrous ammonia** tipped over forcing authorities to evacuate 14 people and two commercial buildings. The tank, which was being pulled by a farm vehicle.

<http://www.kstp.com/article/stories/S20171.html?cat=1>

Anhydrous Ammonia Safety

Anhydrous ammonia is an important source of nitrogen fertilizer for crops. The improper handling of anhydrous ammonia can have catastrophic results on both plants and farm workers. Common injuries are severe burns to eyes, skin and the respiratory tract.

<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/agriam.htm>

Keeping in Touch

If you have any suggestions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the AIDGC Executive Officer robyn@f1.net.au or leave a message with the AIDGC paging service 02 9430 6739 and I will return your call.