



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

February 2008

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Robert Evans
- Botany
Industrial
Park

Jessica Mayhew
- Petrolink

Ian Mitchell
- Petrolink

Luke Bone
- Petrolink

WorkCover NSW - New Publications Pricing Policy

This new pricing policy means that WorkCover is returning to a "one publication free" policy. For more information, visit:

www.workcovernsw.gov.au

WA Dangerous Goods Legislation

The WA Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004 has been awaiting gazettal of its subordinate legislation (regulations) before it could come into effect.

Following the public consultation period and response to public comments, the drafts were amended and the following regulations gazetted on 31 December 2007:

- Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (General) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Goods in Ports) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Security Risk Substances) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007

Their anticipated proclamation date (date they come into effect) is 1st March 2008. WA Acts and Regulations may be downloaded free from:

<http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/Index.html>

Safework SA 2008 National Conference

**Monday 17th
and Tuesday
18th March**

Managing Major Hazards

If you haven't received
your email copy of
their program, please
contact

robbynhogan@unwired.com.au

Input Invited from Dangerous Goods Driver Trainers

There is considerable confusion over the future accreditation status of trainers, particularly those that are currently accredited by the EPA to present driver training.

At a recent WorkCover briefing for WorkCover accredited trainers of the Construction Industry Induction Certificate and of the OH&S Consultation Course, the issue also arose in relation to WorkCover accredited trainers. The situation was further clouded by WorkCover alluding to future arrangements where their current accredited courses would be VETAB accredited and would be presented either by (or under the auspices of) Registered Training Organizations (called RTOs).

Existing understanding is that there is currently no VETAB accredited course for drivers of dangerous goods vehicles (and not much incentive for anyone to develop and submit a course to VETAB for approval since the 'ownership' of any course so submitted passes over to VETAB and commercial 'rights' to exclusively present or license it cannot be retained by the developer).

This is clearly both a 'dog's breakfast' and a likely source of concern for people currently deriving income from presenting driver training.

Ross Underwood, Dean Hawthorn & Brett McPhee are part of a group who has started to look at these issues. Ross has already started to make inquiries of an RTO to assess their interest in forming a strategic partnership and offering us some preliminary advice.

If anyone can offer any comment or helpful suggestions, or at least describe the issues that they are most concerned about in regard to the future direction of training, could you please contact Ross, Dean or Brett by phone or email:

Ross Underwood

Email: sets@ozemail.com.au

Telephone: 02) 9876 6828

Dean Hawthorn

Email: dean@hawthornconsulting.com.au

Telephone: 02) 9651 7153

Brett McPhee

Email: Kab415@optusnet.com.au

Telephone: 02) 4869 1119

Hazmat 2008

**Will be held in
Melbourne on
May 15 and 16.**

If you haven't received
your email copy of
their brochure, please
contact

robynhogan@unwired.com.au

CONFERENCE PAPERS

**We'll let you know
when they are
available to be
downloaded from
the Members'
Only pages on our
website.**

HazMat 2008 Conference and Exhibition

The HazMat 2008 conference has been designed by the key chemical industry and professional associations to help keep companies, authorities and the community up-to-date raise issues and provide relevant networking opportunities.

The conference will have two key topic areas, the first day will focus on Australian and international chemical management, whereas day two will delve into dangerous goods, risk assessment, training and emergency response.

HazMat 2008 will also feature an exhibition by many groups within the hazardous materials industry, promoting their products and services. Delegates are able to peruse the exhibitions and have their questions answered throughout the two day conference.

For the draft conference program go to:

<http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/index.php>

More updates in the next issue of "What's Happening".

Control of Chemicals of Security Concern Draft COAG Report

Attorney-General Robert McClelland has today [12 Feb 2008] welcomed the release of a draft report on the control of chemicals of security concern for public consultation and comment.

The report is the outcome of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Review of Hazardous Materials, which has examined the regulation, reporting and security surrounding the illegal or unauthorized use of chemicals for terrorist purposes.

Mr. McClelland said the draft report was an important step towards ensuring dangerous chemicals do not fall into the wrong hands.

"The report proposes a national framework to manage the risks associated with the potential use of various chemicals by terrorists," Mr. McClelland said.

"The national framework is designed to strike the right balance between making Australia a safer place, while not strangling industry, including our hard working farmers, in red-tape."

Mr. McClelland praised the strong cooperation between the States and Territories and the Commonwealth in advancing this initiative.

"Industry representatives have been engaged throughout the development of the report. I encourage industry and members of the general public to actively take part in the consultation process following today's release of the draft report to ensure we have the best security outcomes."

The public has until the 4th of April 2008 to review and comment on the draft report. The report will then be finalized for COAG consideration.

Consultation sessions are scheduled to take place in

all States and Territories to assist the public in providing feedback on the report.

Copies of the draft report can be obtained by registering on the website of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at:

<http://www.pmc.gov.au>

Of interest to members of AIDGC, 93 pure or concentrated chemicals with a potential security concern are listed. Included, for example, are several pesticide active ingredients, anhydrous ammonia, chlorine gas, several acids (hydrochloric, nitric, perchloric and sulphuric), two chlorates (sodium and potassium), several nitrates (mercuric, potassium and sodium) and hydrogen peroxide.

Chemical Safety — Tank Decontamination Crucial **Tasmanian WorkCover Safety Alert No 1-2008**



Details

A cleaning contractor was pressurizing a pump-action spray pack which had a cleaning agent in it, when a chemical reaction occurred, causing the spray pack to explode.

The explosion resulted in the contractor receiving serious injuries: including amputation of several fingers from their left hand, and deep and serious chemical burns to the lower half of their body.

Contributing factors

An investigation into this accident found:

- the day before the accident, the contractor used the spray pack, containing acid wash, to clean a stainless steel milk vat at a dairy
- the spray pack was neither emptied nor decontaminated between jobs

Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members provide a range of products and services to the Dangerous Goods Industry. Their contact details are:

Basset Consulting Engineers –
Tim Dean
(07) 3510 4000 or
0439 371 063

Leighton O'Brien
MassTech –
Darrell Barton
03) 9813 5122

Store-Safe Pty Ltd –
Grant Breeze
02) 9569 2122

AJM Environmental –
Adrian Minshull
02) 9542 2366

Vanguard Solutions
Fred Soale
08) 9420 5322

- the following day (the day of the accident), the contractor filled the same spray pack with a different chemical, sodium hypochlorite, to clean an area of concrete. The spray pack was then sealed and pumped to its maximum pressure before it exploded.

It was estimated that the explosion occurred only 13 seconds after filling the spray pack.

The investigation also found containers of hazardous substances in the contractor's truck which were not clearly labeled.

Recommendations

- Make sure containers used for chemical applications are fully decontaminated after use.
- Make sure chemical containers are properly labeled.
- Make sure material safety data sheets (MSDS) for the hazardous substances and dangerous goods brought into the workplace by contractors are provided to the OHS officer and first aid officer. This information is vital for formulating emergency plans and procedures.
- Make sure correct separation distances between incompatible hazardous substances or dangerous goods are maintained.

<http://www.workcover.tas.gov.au/attach/sa0651-08che.pdf>

Standards Watch

AS 4897-2008 - Design, Installation & Operation of Underground Petroleum Storage Systems

Sets out requirements for the design and installation of underground petroleum storage systems for the storage of petroleum products or used oil and provides requirements for the operation, maintenance, testing, repair and re-use of new and existing underground petroleum storage systems. This Standard is based upon the former Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) CP4-2002.

<http://www.saiglobal.com:80/shop/Script/Details.asp?DocN=AS0733785360AT>

AS/NZS 60079.29.1:2008 - Explosive Atmospheres Gas detectors - Performance Requirements of Detectors for Flammable Gases

Specifies general requirements for construction, testing and performance, and describes the test methods that apply to portable, transportable and fixed apparatus for the detection and measurement of flammable gas or vapour concentrations with air. The apparatus, or parts thereof, are intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres and in mines. Supersedes AS/NZS 61779.1-5:2000.

<http://www.saiglobal.com/shop/script/details.asp?DocN=AS0733785522AT>

Safety Alert - Safety is No Accident

Fire & Explosion Risks at Wineries

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/OHS/SafetyAlerts/fire_and_explosion_risks_at_wineries.htm

Fact Sheet LP Gas Cylinders Safe Handling, Storage and Disposal

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/8BBB9064-63C5-4F94-99D9-E85F0DD57033/0/lp_gas_cylinders_safe_handling_storage_disposal_fact_sheet_5424.pdf

In the News

BP Fine Over Refinery Blast May Be \$US2b

Lawyers for victims of the 2005 BP Texas City refinery explosion contend that the fines could be as much as \$US 2 billion, dwarfing the \$US 50 million being proposed in a plea agreement.

<http://www.corporatecrimereporter.com/bp013108.htm>

Toxic Chemical Leak Halts Trains in Southern Highlands

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/toxic-chemical-leak-halts-trains/2008/02/15/1202760536065.html>

Explosion in Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) Transfer Pump

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/alerts/ureaammoniumnitrate.htm>

Sugar Company Explosion and Fire

http://www.csb.gov/index.cfm?folder=news_releases&page=news&NEWS_ID=417

Auckland Worker Splashed With Chemical

The man was splashed with sodium cyanide solution which then mixed with another chemical causing fumes in the electro-plating factory.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/536641/1577711>

OH&S Code of Practice

The Occupational Health and Safety Code of Practice 2008, covering Australian Government employment, is currently awaiting Minister's approval. It will replace all codes of practice previously approved under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991.

http://www.comcare.gov.au/safety/ohs_code_of_practice_2007

This month, thanks go to John Baker, Ross Underwood, Peter Hunt, Chris Flannery and Brett McPhee for their contributions.

Any internet links that you would like to share with members, please first send to jdbaker@ozemail.com.au

Workplace Fatalities Show Need for OHS Harmonization

The need for nationally consistent OHS standards across all Australian jurisdictions must be a leading priority, reports ACEA.

<http://www.industrysearch.com.au:80/news/viewrecord.aspx?id=30379>

\$48 Million Plant Ceases Biodiesel Production

Just six months after Australia's first biodiesel shipment left Darwin, the factory has ceased fuel production due to rising costs and switched to the production of pharmaceutical glycerine.

http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2008/02/06/3280_nt-business.html

Bug Found Which Breaks Down Arsenite

This bug provides hope of developing an efficient biological method for cleaning up thousands of arsenic and DDT stock dip sites, places where arsenic-treated timber posts have been made or used, sites of old railway lines, as well as old gold-mining regions where arsenic is flushed from tailings into surface and groundwater thereby posing a risk to anyone who drinks the water.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/080220/2/15wj2.html>

Man Doused with Sulphuric Acid

This incident occurred when the off-loading hose broke as a truck driver and a plant employee were off-loading 93% sulphuric acid from a tanker into a tank at a power plant. The truck driver suffered chemical burns to over 90 percent of his body.

<http://www.herald-coaster.com/articles/2007/12/10/news/news01.txt>

Caustic Potash Spill on Brisbane Motorway

The Gateway Motorway was closed in both directions after 900 litres of a potassium hydroxide solution spilt from a truck onto the road in peak hour traffic. The QFRS used a neutralizing agent and built a mini-dam to stop run-off from the scene.

<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,22903521-3102,00.html>

Probe After Airline Pumps Wrong Gas into Jet

The Australian Safety Transport Bureau confirmed that Qantas engineers accidentally put nitrogen into the emergency oxygen tanks of a Boeing 747 passenger jet at Melbourne Airport via a mislabeled Nitrogen supply rig.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/probe-after-qantas-pumps-wrong-gas-into-jets/2007/12/15/1197568332267.html>

Keep in Touch

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

CASE STUDIES

Lightning Strikes Stationary Truck

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/204047/SA08-03-Lightning-strikes-stationary-truck.pdf

RESOURCES

Fire Pump Room Features

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb-2008-6.pdf>

Eccentric Reducers

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb-2008-4.pdf>

Emergency Egress Lighting

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb-2007-52.pdf>

Emergency Procedures

Storm Damaged Bonded Asbestos Roof

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/83CB635D-734D-4C4D-B40A-CB5DF78F30F0/0/emergency_procedures_storm_damaged_bonded_asbestos_material_fact_sheet_5486.pdf

In the Factory

4 Killed In Molasses Tank

Four men working at a cattle feed factory died and another fell ill following entry into an underground tank which was half-filled with molasses and had been kept shut for over a month.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1080214/jsp/frontpage/story_8901272.jsp

Recent Victorian WorkSafe Prosecution

An employer was convicted of failure to conduct a risk/hazard identification consequent to a fire and explosion which occurred at an oil recycling facility, with a fine of \$60,000 plus costs.

<http://www1.worksafe.vic.gov.au/vwa/vwa097-002.nsf/content/LSID159882>