



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

March 2008

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Terry McKay
NSW**

**Anthony
Warwick
Queensland**

“National Standards” AIDGC Seminar

**April 22
6PM for 6.30PM
Ryde Eastwood
Leagues Club**

WorkCover at Work Around Australia

The Workplace Relations Minister's Council Comparative Performance Monitoring Report (2008) provides the latest available statistics (2005-2006) on enforcement by the various workplace statutory authorities within Australia:

- 114,000 visits were made to workplaces.
- 67,200 notices were issued. 6,918 prohibition notices as well as 1,769 infringement notices and 58,517 improvement notices were issued.
- Queensland issued 16,463 improvement notices, NSW issued 14,832 and the Commonwealth issued 12.
- Over 900 businesses were prosecuted.
- \$23 million in fines were imposed by the courts. NSW imposed the largest amount of fines (just under \$14M), followed by Q'ld and Vic (around \$3M each).
- NSW had 340 prosecutions resulting in conviction, almost 200 more than the next highest jurisdiction (Q'ld with 143).
- Victoria has recorded the largest fall in the total number of workplace interventions over the past five years. WorkSafe Victoria's enforcement focus has shifted from a 60/40 proactive to reactive intervention ratio to 80/20. (Victoria also enjoys the lowest injury/illness rate in the country.)
(Note: Proactive interventions are defined as all workplace visits that have not resulted from a complaint or workplace incident. Reactive interventions are defined as attendances at work sites following notifiable work injuries, dangerous occurrences or issuing of notices where comprehensive investigation summaries are completed.)
- There were 301 field active inspectors in NSW, 236-Vic, 206-Qld, 103-WA, 89-SA, 29-Tas, 12-NT, 12-ACT and 22 inspectors for the Commonwealth.

<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Publications/WorkplaceRelations/>

**Mark This
Date in Your
Diary**

**Annual
Conference
Friday
September 12
Crowne Plaza
Sydney**

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

robbynhogan@unwired.com.au

Ross Underwood Reports and Updates Members - D. G. Bulk Driver Licensing & Other Training

"I have had a meeting with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) - Benchmark College at Penrith to assess the prospects of a possible partnership role between an RTO and AIDGC members who undertake training.

The discussions have primarily focussed on the possible implications of the NSW EPA (and the other interstate regulators) at some time in the future vacating the bulk dangerous goods driver trainer accreditation scheme.

While this possibility initially started as a rumour, it is now a certainty and mirrors the experience some of us are having with WorkCover NSW 'gingering up' their accredited trainers following the ICAC inquiry into the licensing scam involving WorkCover staff and a small number of accredited trainers/assessors.

In the case of WorkCover, the administrative procedures being imposed on trainers include a requirement for a tough participant evidence of identity pre-requisite check (to commence any WorkCover training people need the some evidence of identity that you need to open a new bank account - 100 points with a passport or birth certificate mandatory plus other proof including photo id) with a requirement to notify WorkCover in advance of the time and date of all proposed training with promised audits by an inspection/compliance team. There is also a requirement to conduct at least 10 courses every 3 years. For anyone interested in these administrative procedures, they can be viewed on the WorkCover web-site under publications. While I am not speaking for every WorkCover-accredited trainer, there is a degree of dissatisfaction and concern about the proposed arrangements. It has been interpreted by some people as encouraging people to train as RTO's or in partnership with RTO's who are likely to have more trainer-friendly arrangements. This is possible because the WorkCover courses are VETAB-accredited (i.e. they are part of a national training scheme). A nationally recognised statement of attainment can be issued by an RTO on successfully completing a VETAB-accredited course.

Initial inquiries by Benchmark College confirm that there is currently no VETAB accredited driver training course, although there are a number of elements (curriculum subjects) that are relevant to driver training. What we had previously agreed with Benchmark is that AIDGC will try to provide the NSW EPA (and if necessary other State) criteria, for having a driver training course approved. Benchmark will then help us 'map' the elements so that we can see what elements already have been VETAB-approved and what further elements are still to be developed.

To put this plan into effect, I contacted the EPA (Acting Manager DGs - Mr Lal. Rankothge – 02 9995 5986). He informed me that as an outcome of a COAG agreement, the skills and assessment

CONFERENCE PAPERS

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

components for dangerous goods driver licensing is to move to a system of competency based training. A working group of all relevant State regulators has developed a draft document called *Public Draft of Competency for Dangerous Goods Driver Training* which will be available 'within 2-3 weeks'. The project manager for the consultation process is Chris Elliot who is based in Queensland with their transport department (07 3253 4462). I will contact him this week to make sure that we are at the head of the queue.

The current aim is to encourage RTO's to develop a training package and to have all DG training conducted by RTO's within 12 months. Bridget Carroll, the Director of Education at Benchmark College is considering several other issues, including:

- The process for assessing the relevance/applicability of existing units of competency
- The advantage if any from developing the missing units
- The likely minimum requirements an RTO would place on trainer qualifications (there would be some requirement for units of competency from the Workplace Assessment and Training package) and the assistance they could give in getting AIDGC member trainers qualified as needed
- The administrative arrangement options
- How they might partner with AIDGC and more particularly AIDGC members.

We are not locked into an arrangement with any particular RTO yet, but Benchmark has been very helpful and I propose to continue to explore the issues and actions described with them."

Interested Members, seeking further information, or having any suggestions on what we need to do, are welcome to call Ross on 02 9876 6828.

Fire in Dubai

Go directly via hyperlink to Gulf News for the latest

<http://www.gulfnews.com/nation/General/10200462.html>

ADG7 Status

The seventh edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG7) only has legal status where this is conferred by legislation in force in each State and Territory.

In NSW, for storage and handling, under Clause 3 of the OH&S Regulation 2001, it is now applicable.

- National Transport Commission National Transport Commission (Model Legislation — Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road or Rail) Regulations 2007.

In some other States, as well as new transport regulations, new storage

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

and handling regulations are being introduced. WA expects the new set of dangerous goods regulations in place by April. Other States and Territories expect to have their regulations in place by 1 July 2008.

All States and Territories will have a transition period and then expect full compliance with ADG7 by January 1, 2009.

How should we advise our clients in the next couple of months? It is a situation where common sense says where there is equivalent safety, the new code should be applied (e.g. when any new MSDS', labels etc are being prepared). However, where there is a relaxation or reduction in requirements, it may be necessary to obtain an exemption from NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) - which administers the transport regulation (e.g. some aspects of the new small quantities provisions).

Storing & Handling Liquids Environmental Protection DECC Training Program and Resources

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has developed a training program and associated resources with downloads which include:

- Training plan
- Slide training presentation
- Case studies
- Practical activities and photos
- Participant manual
- Site action plan

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/liquids.htm>

Registrations for their "Train the Trainer" Seminar closed on March 10 and are fully booked. AIDGC has indicated to them that our Members may be interested in attending these Seminars and DECC has promised to notify us, in advance, of future Sessions. I will advise you by email when and if this happens.

HazMat 2008 Conference and Exhibition

For the draft conference program go to:

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

For speaker profiles:

<http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/docs/Hazmat%202008%20Speaker%20Profiles.pdf>

Safety is No Accident

ANSI/ASSE Z359 Fall Protection Code

http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/engineering/docs/ByDesign_Z359Special_Fall2007.pdf

In the News

Many Flirt with Danger Money in Hazardous Workplaces

<http://www.industrysearch.com.au:80/news/viewrecord.aspx?id=30849>

Industries Launch Efforts to Cut Workplace Deaths & Injuries In Queensland

<http://www.industrysearch.com.au:80/news/viewrecord.aspx?id=30979>



Chemical Spill - Bexley NSW

The Hazardous Materials Response Unit was called in to clear up hydrochloric acid which fell from the back of a truck.

<http://stgeorge.yourguide.com.au/news/local/general/chemical-spill-at-bexley/1186741.html>

Static Electricity Blamed For Petrol Pump Fire

Despite adjacent warning signs, static electricity reportedly caused flammable vapors to ignite at a petrol station during filling of a metal can which was placed on the plastic lined tray of the truck.



<http://www.thenewsstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080304/UPDATES01/80304006>



Biodiesel Company's Path To Ruin Due to Rising Soybean Prices

The company went out of business leaving an unfinished 300 ML per year biodiesel plant at a time when light sweet crude oil was over US\$100 per barrel.

http://www.njbiz.com/weekly_article.asp?aID=19755147.6122555.957931.7393254.4337383.561&aID2=73678

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

Somewhere in this month's Newsletter is an opportunity to win a 'decent' bottle of red wine. Just like Open Road, you will have to search for it ...

Chemical and Plastics Regulation

Regulation of chemicals and plastics in Australia is complex, fragmented, and with inefficiencies - according to a draft report released by the Productivity Commission for public comment before a final report is issued in July 2008.

The report responds to a request by the Australian Government to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the regulatory framework and to provide input to a special Ministerial Taskforce to develop a streamlined system of regulation.

http://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/77893/draft-chemical-plastics-regulation.pdf

CASE STUDIES

BP Texas City Refinery

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has released a new, comprehensive safety video 'Anatomy of a Disaster' that describes the causes of the 2005 catastrophic industrial disaster and outlines key regulatory, managerial and cultural safety lessons.

Experts including Professor Andrew Hopkins of the Australian National University highlight the vital distinction between personal accident statistics and process safety management; the importance of reporting and investigating near-misses and the need for inherently safe equipment designs to prevent accidents.

For the patient, a free 245 MB download is available via the CSB website, or it is understood that the DVD will be available from an Australian production source jom3205@yahoo.com.au at a small cost of about \$4.50 per copy plus postage.

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

Extinguishing Flammable Metal Fires

A decent bottle of red will be relayed to an author (non-Board AIDGC Member or Associate Member) for the most comprehensive short article (submitted to jdbaker2@bigpond.net.au - 500 word limit & by 5 PM Friday 18 April 2008) on appropriate means to extinguish high temperature fires involving various flammable metals, organo-metallic reagents and similar.

Depending on the calibre of responses, a compilation will be posted on the AIDGC web site for Members.

Carbon Dioxide for a Magnesium Fire?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OaeSdaaQeE&url=http://listverse.com/science/top-10-amazing-chemical-reactions/>

Water to Extinguish an Alloy Vehicle Fire?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY9ri-UOoLo&feature=related>

RESOURCES



Static Fires At Retail Petrol Stations

An examination of the facts and myths about fires caused by static electricity and mobile phones – Australian Transport Safety Bureau Research Paper B2005/0028.

http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2005/pdf/Static_Fires.pdf

Joint CBA and SIA Guidance on the Storage of Liquids

Covers liquids in IBCs and flammable liquids in sealed packages in specified external storage areas.

http://www.chemical.org.uk/CBA_SIA_IBC_Guidance.asp

New Spill Control Handbook

The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF) has published its latest annual handbook which contains information and guidance for those likely to be involved in spills of oil and chemicals from ships.

<http://www.itopf.com/news-and-events/documents/itopfhandbook2008.pdf>

Emergency Incident Rehabilitation

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), working with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has issued an updated version of their manual for Emergency Incident Rehabilitation.

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_314.pdf

Electrical Bonding

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb_2008_13.pdf

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.

This month, my thanks go to John Baker, Ross Underwood, Peter Hunt, Philip Turner and Frank Mendham for their contributions.

In the Factory

Shell UK Fined After Gas Escape Via Corroded Pipe

Shell UK Oil Products Ltd was fined £266 681 and ordered to pay £37131 costs after a mixture of 20 tonnes flammable (LP Gas) and toxic (150 kg HF) gas escaped - luckily without exploding - through corroded pipework at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex, Cheshire.

Because of the quantities released, the incident was reported to the European Commission as required by the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (as amended).

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2008/gnnnw05708.htm>

Ammonia Spill

Last year, emergency crews were called to a liquid ammonia leak at a refrigeration plant in Melbourne's northern suburbs. This article examines how the spill occurred, how emergency crews managed the situation and lessons to be learned from the incident.

<http://www.airah.org.au/downloads/2008-02-F01.pdf>

Sugar Company Explosion & Fire

A massive explosion and fire, which was likely fuelled by combustible sugar dust, caused thirteen deaths and left others critically injured with severe burns.



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

Draft Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road & Rail

The draft Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, Third Edition (The Australian Explosives Code) has been released by the Australian Forum of Explosives Regulators (AFER) for public comment, until 7 May 2008.

Download from:

<http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/WhatWeDo/AFER/>