



Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

April 2010

Congratulations to
Allan Murray
who has completed
competency assessment
and is now an
AIDGC Full Member

**DIARY DATES
FOR 2010
AIDGC Annual
Conference
Sydney
September 17**

AIDGC Queensland Chapter

A fair amount of talk over the past few years at our annual AIDGC Conference and at local Queensland Dangerous Goods Workshops has eventuated in the formation of a Queensland Chapter of our Institute.

Frank Mendham MAIDGC has volunteered to take on the caretaker role of AIDGC Queensland Chapter President, with the aim of forming a strong local membership base, as well as other initiatives such as seeking recognition by Queensland Government of AIDGC as the recognized Dangerous Goods Consultants' industry body.

Frank is requesting all AIDGC Associates and Members in Queensland to make contact with him in a view to 'fast track' AIDGC activities in Queensland.

Frank's email address is Frank.Mendham@aecom.com and his phone number is 07 3553 3537.

Explosion at Buncefield - Trial

The trial of three companies over the explosion at Buncefield Oil Storage Depot in 2005 began on Wednesday 14 April 2010.

Background

On Sunday 11 December 2005, a number of explosions occurred at Buncefield Oil Storage Depot, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. At least one of the initial explosions was of massive proportions and there was a large fire. More than 40 people were injured.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency (EA) are jointly prosecuting five companies. HSE and EA are the 'Competent Authority' responsible for regulating non-nuclear major hazardous industrial sites in

**Advance Notice
Flyers will be sent to
you shortly!**

**Hazardous Area
Seminar
June 24
Ryde Eastwood
Leagues Club
Sydney**

**Site Visit:
WorkCover TestSafe
Facilities
Londonderry NSW
June 3 at 1.30PM**

**HazMat May 5 and 6
2010**

**FPAA HazMat 2010
Website:**

[http://www.fpaa.com.au/
events/?events=hazmat](http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/?events=hazmat)

**Program and
Registration Brochure:**
[http://www.fpaa.com.au/
events/docs/HZ10%20Rego%
20Orig.pdf](http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/docs/HZ10%20Rego%20Orig.pdf)

the UK under the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999 (COMAH).

Defendants

The three companies on trial are:

- **Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, has pleaded not guilty to two charges.**
- **TAV Engineering Ltd, of The Oriel, Sydenham Road, Guildford, Surrey, has pleaded not guilty to one charge.**
- **Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd, c/o Rooney Associates 2nd Floor, 19 Castle Street, Liverpool, is facing one charge, a not guilty plea was entered by the judge on the company's behalf as it is in administration.**

Two companies have already pleaded guilty to charges over the incident:

- **Total UK Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, has pleaded guilty to three charges.**
- **British Pipeline Agency Ltd, of 5-7 Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has pleaded guilty to two charges.**

Full details of charges

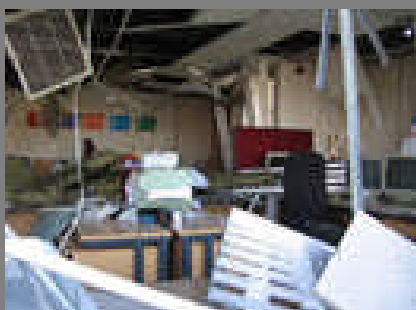
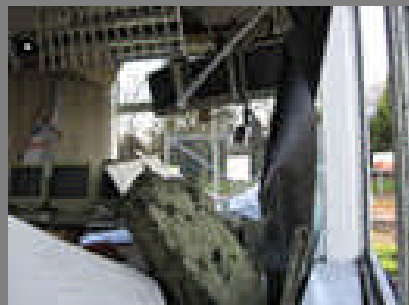
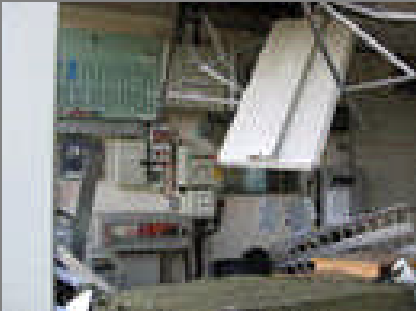
Total UK Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to three charges on 13 November 2009:

Between the 1st day of January 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005 Total UK Ltd failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of its employees, contrary to Section 2(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Between the 1st day of January 2003 and 12th day of December 2005, Total UK Ltd failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in their employment were not exposed to risks to their health or safety, contrary to Sections 3(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Between the 10th day of December 2005 and the 31st day of December 2005, Total UK Ltd caused polluting matter, namely fuel and firewater chemicals to enter controlled waters, namely ground waters in the chalk aquifer

The Buncefield Control Room after the Incident



underlying the vicinity of Buncefield, contrary to sections 85(1) and (6) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

British Pipeline Agency Ltd, of 5-7 Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to two charges on 13 January 2009:

Between the 18th day of November 2001 and the 12th day of December 2005, British Pipeline Agency Ltd failed to take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the

environment, contrary to Regulation 4 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 and section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Between the 10th day of December 2005 and the 31st day of December 2005, British Pipeline Agency Ltd caused polluting matter, namely fuel and firewater chemicals to enter controlled waters, namely ground waters in the

chalk aquifer underlying the vicinity of Buncefield, contrary to s.85(1) & (6) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, pleaded not guilty to two charges:

Between the 1st day of January 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd failed to take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the

environment, contrary to Regulation 4 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 and section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Between the 10th day of December 2005 and the 31st day of December 2005, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd caused polluting matter, namely fuel and firewater chemicals to enter controlled waters, namely ground waters in the

chalk aquifer underlying the vicinity of Buncefield, contrary to s.85(1) and (6) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

TAV Engineering Ltd, of The Oriel, Sydenham Road, Guildford, Surrey, pleaded not guilty to one charge:

Between the 1st day of October 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005, TAV Engineering Limited failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in their employment were not exposed to risks to their health or safety, contrary to Sections 3(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd, c/o Rooney Associates 2nd Floor, 19 Castle Street, Liverpool, is facing one charge, a not guilty plea was entered by the judge on

**the company's behalf as it is in administration:
Between the 28th day of September 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005 Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Limited failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in their employment were not exposed to risks to their health or safety, contrary to Sections 3(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.**

EPA Establishes Website



As part of the ongoing federal response to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, EPA today established a website to inform the public about the spill's impact on the environment and the health of nearby residents. The website - <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill> will contain data from EPA's ongoing air monitoring along with other information about the Agency's activities in the region. Also today, Administrator Jackson joined Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to tour the region. The Administrator will spend the next 36 hours visiting with community groups and meeting EPA staff responding to the spill. "We are taking every possible step to protect the health of the residents and mitigate the environmental impacts of this spill," EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson said. "For several days, EPA has been on the ground evaluating air and water concerns and coordinating with other responding agencies. We are also here to address community members -- the people who know these waters and wetlands best. They will be essential to the work ahead." EPA has established air monitoring stations along

The World's Worst

The world's worst oil spill was in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez tanker ran aground off Alaska, shedding 10.8 million gallons in a disaster from which local wildlife has still not recovered.

Source: Jacqui Goddard TIMESONLINE

The Deepwater Horizon won a safety award from the US Minerals Management Service in 2009, and the agency didn't find any safety violations during three safety inspections this year. That, of course, doesn't preclude lawsuits from the families of the missing workers

Source: MONEYSHOW.com

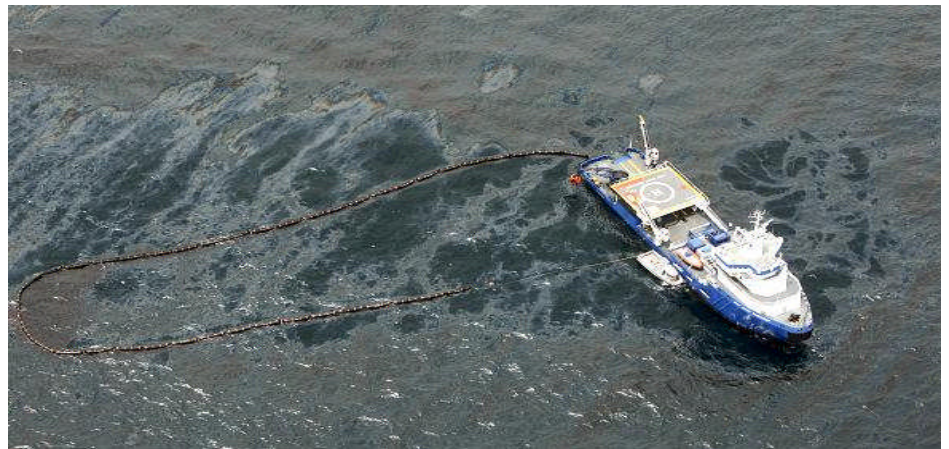
The massive oil slick spreading in the Gulf of Mexico this week. Brendan Farrington / AP



Plaquemines Parish on the Louisiana coast. EPA established those facilities to determine how oil set on fire in the Gulf and oil that is reaching land is impacting air quality. EPA is monitoring levels of a number of chemicals potentially emitted by oil, including volatile organic compounds such as xylene, benzene and toluene. EPA has also deployed two Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzers – mobile laboratories that collect and analyze air quality samples in real time – to monitor air quality in the region. EPA tested smoke from the controlled burn two days ago and found the Louisiana coast had not been affected because an off-shore breeze was blowing away from land and out to sea during that time. The Agency will continue to collect and share data with the public, and will coordinate and share information with local health officials. In addition to monitoring air quality, EPA is also assessing the coastal waters affected by the spreading oil. EPA deployed our twin-engine aircraft to assist in the collection of air sampling data and photograph the spill and surrounding area. All of the data EPA collects will be posted to <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill>, along with frequently asked questions, fact sheets about potential health impacts of the spill, and links to more information on the spill and the government’s response. To share the latest, validated environmental sampling results with the public and to keep the public informed about EPA’s response to the BP Spill, EPA has a dedicated website for this response effort: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill>. Additional information on the broader response from the U.S. Coast Guard and other responding agencies is available at: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com> > <http://www.ewsp.com/index.php/latest-news/science-a-environmental/16133-epa-establishes-web-site-on-bp-oil-spill>

If you would like to make a contribution, have an interesting story, case study or report, please send to:

robhogan@tpq.com.au





This image provided by the U.S. Coast Guard shows fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon in this April 21, 2010 file photo. (U.S. Coast Guard via Getty Images)

This month my thanks go to Don Johnston and Frank Mendham for their contributions.

BP Fought Safety Measures at Rig

BP, the company that owned the Louisiana oil rig that exploded last week, spent years battling federal regulators over how many layers of safeguards would be needed to prevent a deepwater well from this type of accident.

One area of immediate concern, industry experts said, was the lack of a remote system that would have allowed workers to clamp shut Deepwater Horizon's wellhead so it would not continue to gush oil. The rig is now spilling 210,000 gallons of oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico.

In a letter sent last year to the Department of the Interior, BP objected to what it called "extensive, prescriptive regulations" proposed in new rules to toughen safety standards. "We believe industry's current safety and environmental statistics demonstrate that the voluntary programs...continue to be very successful."

Source: ABC News, The Blotter - Matthew Mosk, Brian Ross & Rhonda Schwartz

Home-made Gin Kills 80 in a Month

EIGHTY people have died in southwestern Uganda over the past month after drinking locally made gin containing high levels of methanol. "I can confirm the number of deaths is now at 80 and the cause is this local waragi," said Patrick Tusiim, health officer for the Kabale district.

Waragi is the local name for home-brewed alcohol made variously from cassava, bananas, millet or cane sugar, depending on the region. The drink that caused the deaths was a home-made gin popular in Uganda which contained high levels of methanol, a substance used in industry as a solvent or antifreeze, the officer said.

"Leaders in the district have tried to communicate the dangers of taking these drinks, but for some reason, the message has not gotten through to the population," Wilfred Niwagaba, member of parliament for Kabale, said.

Police this week confiscated hundreds of litres of home-brewed alcohol in a district on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Source: AFP

Bleach Explosion Kills

A mobile hairdresser who was killed when her car exploded is believed to have ignited fumes from a leaking bottle of bleach by lighting a cigarette. Jenny Mitchell, 19, was driving to her parents' house when her silver Mini Cooper was engulfed in flames. It is believed that a bottle of hydrogen peroxide, used by stylists to bleach hair, leaked in her passenger footwell. She may have lit up and opened the window to ventilate the car, causing the huge explosion.

Witnesses reported seeing her car burst into flames and career off the road near Sturminster Newton, Dorset, on March 9. Firefighters tried in vain to save her. Yesterday her parents spoke out about the tragedy to warn other hairdressers about the dangerous chemical. The reactive capacity of hydrogen peroxide is so strong that it is used as a rocket propellant.

Bob Mitchell, 49, a BT engineer and retained firefighter from Shaftesbury, Dorset, said: 'It's a tragic, tragic accident. We have lost a very dear daughter. 'It was her day off, and she was making her way home to do her mother's hair, so she had her equipment bag with her and would have been carrying hydrogen peroxide in a small amount. 'We knew Jenny smoked and it was a bit of a family joke that we didn't let her smoke in the house. She might have been having a cigarette in the car before she got home, and lighting it probably caused the explosion. 'We believe the bottle of hydrogen peroxide was leaking inside her car. 'We want to warn hairdressers to treat chemicals with caution and ensure that they are not allowed to leak. We want to make them aware that a combination of things that they carry have the potential to go off like a bomb.'

An inquest has been opened and adjourned.





Hydrogen Peroxide

A powerful bleach, Hydrogen Peroxide (H₂O₂) is widely used as a disinfectant and antiseptic. It is also used to lighten hair when mixed with ammonia, hence the expression 'peroxide blonde'. It is pale blue in appearance, with a consistency similar to water, but appears colourless when diluted. It is usually stored in a dark, dry area away from flammable materials in a non-reactive container such as stainless steel or glass.

Domestic products containing hydrogen peroxide (for example home hair dye or laundry detergent) use low concentrations (around 3%) of the chemical.

Hydrogen peroxide is highly flammable in high concentrations (above 40 per cent) and can spontaneously ignite. If hydrogen peroxide is spilled, its water content will evaporate, increasing its concentration. It is also corrosive - even domestic-strength products can cause irritation in contact with eyes and skin.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1260518/Teenager-hairdresser-dies-car-explosion-cigarette-ignites-hair-bleach.html>

AIDGC Study Grant

Applications are open for the 2010 AIDGC Study Grant Scheme, providing cash payments of \$ 1,000 each per successful applicant. The intention of the grant is encourage applicants to undertake and complete a specific project relating to dangerous goods matters. The grant scheme is part of an AIDGC strategy to develop improved approaches to learning and to encourage best practice and innovation in dangerous goods matters.

For details go to the AIDGC Website: <http://www.aidgc.com>

Chemical Dispute over Maersk Worker's Death in China

33-year-old Mo Desong painted container vessels at A.P. Moller-Maersk's container factory in southern China and was diagnosed with occupational benzene poisoning. He died on the 30th October 2009. Maersk paid 293,000 dollars in damages, but denies any responsibility in his



deed, reports Danish newspaper Information.

Benzene is a carcinogenic chemical that is no longer used in paints and solvents in Denmark.

A.P. Moller-Maersk Group think it is very unlikely that Mo Desong got sick by working at the company's container factory. Yet the company has agreed to pay compensation.

"For the sake of his relatives, we have no desire to drag this tragic case too long," explains Morten Høstrup to Information. Morten Høstrup is manger at the human resource department at the factory.

http://www.scandasia.com/viewNews.php?coun_code=dk&news_id=6081

Source: scandasia.com

CLEAN-UP TO COST ORICA \$63M

Explosives, paint and chemicals supplier Orica's half year financial results will take a \$63 million hit from more cleaning up at the firm's polluted industrial site at Botany in NSW. Orica said that it had put aside \$45 million to clean up mercury contamination at the Botany Industrial Park. The company also has allocated an extra \$18 million towards the repacking of hexachlorobenzene waste stored at the Botany Industrial Park. Orica said an environmental assessment had been completed on elevated concentrations of mercury at the Botany site.



The Orica site at Botany

"Accordingly, an environmental provision for \$45 million (\$31.5 million after tax) for remediation activities in respect of this contamination will be recognised as an individually material item in the financial statements for the half year ending 31 March, 2010," Orica said in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange. Orica said the matter had been disclosed previously as a contingent liability in the company's financial statements.

The remediation activity is expected to be completed within the next 12 months. Orica also said that, following a review of existing environmental provisions in light of cost changes, approval delays and other factors, it would increase environmental provisions relating to hexachlorobenzene (HCB) waste disposal at the Botany

Corporate Members

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

AECOM
Tim Dean
(07) 3553 2000
M 0439 371 063

Eimco Water Technologies
Adrian Minshull
02) 9542 2366

Store-Safe Pty Ltd Grant Breeze
02) 9569 2122

Vanguard Solutions
Tony Davies
08) 9420 5322

site by \$18 million (\$12.6 million after tax). This would be recognised as a material item in Orica's accounts for the half year ending March 31, 2010. Orica also said that it would appeal against a Federal Court decision earlier this month that would raise its tax liability over the sale of the company's pharmaceuticals business in 1998. Orica confirmed that it would record a material item of \$192 million after tax as a material item in its half year accounts in relation to the court decision. "The company today decided it will appeal the Federal Court's decision," Orica said.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/botany-clean-up-to-cost-orca-63m/story-e6frf7ko-1225844676221>

Source: Herald Sun

WorkSafe Victoria to Close OHS Consultant Directory

WORKSAFE Victoria says it will be closing its OHS Consultant Directory on 12 April 2010. The Professional OHS Advice section of the WORKSAFE Victoria website will provide links to the Safety Institute of Australia (SIA), and the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH). According to WORKSAFE Victoria, the SIA and AIOH have satisfied its criteria to recommend accredited and certified OHS consultants. It will work with other professional bodies to enable them to provide this service. WORKSAFE Victoria says most if not all OHS professional bodies maintain their own online databases of OHS professionals. Certified members of such organisations should check their details are correct in the directory. OHS professionals who are not currently affiliated with relevant organisations should consider joining one.

<http://www.safetowork.com.au/news/worksafe-victoria-to-close-ohs-consultant-director>

AIDGC to seek listing

Your Board intends to pursue listing on the Victorian website.

Residents Concerned Over Chemical Incinerator

Les Mahony is anxious. Six years ago he was told by industrial giant Orica that chemicals from their plant beside his home could not pollute his bore water. A few weeks later tests proved they already had. Now he is worried by the company's plans to dig up and treat a toxic dump at the same Banksmeadow site. The process involves excavating about 70 tonnes of contaminated soil and heating it to 1000 degrees to break down dangerous chemicals into less harmful components.

But Mr Mahony is one of many locals angry that the treatment, due to begin later this year, will be completed less than 200 metres from houses. "It's hard to have faith in Orica or the state government when this site has caused so much pollution to the local area over so many years," said the father of one who lives near Eastgardens.

"I was told my water couldn't be polluted by their plant but that turned out to be a lie. Surely there are better places for this waste to be treated than a built-up area where families live within a stone's throw of where these toxins will be burnt off."

The process is just one of a number of projects that Orica, formerly the Australian division of British multinational ICI, is undertaking in an attempt to clean up their Botany site. But even these measures have had hiccups: in 2008 the company was caught burning off chlorinated waste without informing the local community as it had pledged to.

The waste to be remediated later this year contains ash and soil contaminated when drums of dangerous solvents corroded and polluted the ground where they were stored. In 1980 that waste was buried within a synthetic lining and sealed, with a car park built on top.

Among many chemicals in the soil are chlorinated hydrocarbon wastes, including the highly poisonous and carcinogenic hexachlorobenzene; as well as heavy metals such as mercury. Monitoring at the site has shown parts of the synthetic lining has been torn, causing contamination

in surrounding soil and groundwater.

While Orica insist their treatment plans are safe, environmental campaigners believe a more expensive method to break down the chemicals should have been used. "Orica's plans for this waste is basically incineration and that may or may not work with the organochlorine aspects of the waste but might not with some of the toxins," said a spokeswoman for Toxic Network Australia, Mariann Lloyd-Smith.

Of particular concern to campaigners are possible mercury emissions. The state government's assessment of the treatment process predicts levels of the metal released could be up to five times higher than recommended by the Clean Air Regulations, though it claims this will cause no health hazard.

"It seems the mercury will just be released into the environment and I'm surprised the government says this is safe as it is generally acknowledged there can be no safe exposure to mercury," said Dr Lloyd-Smith. But other groups such as Botany Environment Watch support Orica's plans to decontaminate the site.

A spokesman for Orica, John Fetter, said the local community was widely consulted and helped choose the process in the clean up along with a panel of independent scientific experts. He insisted mercury emissions will stay below a government safety limit of one milligram per cubic metre. "We are committed to fixing this site up and we will spend whatever we need to do that," Mr Fetter said.

Source: Tom Reilly SMH

OSHA Proposal Cuts Workers' Right to Know About Chemical Risks

A recent proposal by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) would endanger workers by reducing the amount of information on chemical hazards provided to them, according to several public interest groups. OSHA's proposal is part of its effort to make its Hazard Communication Standard conform to a United Nations system for classifying chemicals. The effort has been criticized by several public interest groups who view portions of it as an unnecessary contraction of workers'

right to know and as contrary to the rhetoric of transparency and movement toward greater disclosure seen elsewhere in the Obama administration.

Considered to be a powerful tool for informing workers about chemical risks and safety measures, the Hazard Communication Standard (HazCom) is referred to as the "Workers' Right to Know." OSHA's HazCom standard requires chemical manufacturers and importers to evaluate chemicals they produce or import and determine if they are hazardous. Manufacturers must provide information on the hazards and safety measures to "downstream" users – employers, employees, and other chemical users – through Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

According to the nonprofit government watchdog, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), "OSHA's plan would be a reversal in the right-to-know approach to chemical handling that would also mislead workers about actual hazards." As part of the agency's effort to conform to the United Nations standard, OSHA has proposed to eliminate a longstanding requirement that chemical manufacturers include certain information on chemical hazards in the MSDS. Specifically, OSHA wants to remove the requirement to include chemicals 'Threshold Limit Values (TLVs), which are quantitative judgments of chemical exposure levels that are hazardous to humans and are developed by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), an independent, nonprofit scientific research group focusing on workplace safety issues.

OSHA has also proposed removing a requirement that chemical manufacturers include in the MSDS cancer hazard evaluations by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Critics likewise view the proposed elimination of the IARC information as detrimental to workers' right to know. In place of the TLV requirement, OSHA would require a different set of exposure limits developed by the agency. These OSHA hazard figures, called Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs), have been criticized as being decades out of date, biased by economic rather than scientific

Visit Your Website

<http://www.aidgc.com>
and check out the
Members' Only pages.

analyses, developed with little transparency, and less protective of worker safety. Moreover, there are no PELs developed by OSHA for thousands of chemicals handled by workers.

The proposal to reduce the required information on MSDS was originally proposed by the Bush administration in 2006 with strong industry support. According to the Center for Progressive Reform, a nonprofit think tank, the proposed HazCom changes are not necessary to conform to the U.N. standard, called the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

The GHS was designed to be flexible enough to allow authorities to adapt to their own nations' needs. Moreover, the changes would not meet the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and could be challenged in court as being "arbitrary and capricious." In testimony submitted at a public hearing on the issue, the Center for Progressive Reform determined that "the [MSDS] serve as a critical vehicle for conveying hazard information to workers. Accordingly, the protection of workers is best served by including more – not less – information in the [MSDS]."

The proposed changes to the HazCom standard would eliminate certain requirements to provide information to workers and others through the MSDS. However, the MSDS have long been regarded by many as ineffective for informing the public about the hazards of chemicals. MSDS have been criticized for containing incomplete, inaccurate, or contradictory information.

In 2004, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), an independent federal agency that investigates major industrial chemical accidents, found that deficient MSDS were a cause or contributing factor in 10 of 19 major accidents the board had investigated. The then-head of the CSB, Carolyn Merritt, testified before the Senate that, "Deficiencies in hazard communication and Material Safety Data Sheets are among the common causes of major chemical accidents that result in loss of life, serious injuries, and damage to property and the environment."

OSHA originally planned three public hearings across the country to gather comments on its HazCom proposal. A hearing in California has been cancelled, and a hearing in Pittsburgh, PA, is scheduled for March 31.

<http://www.ombwatch.org/node/10858>

Source: <http://www.osha.gov>

Chemical Information More Accessible

As part of Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's strong commitment to increase information on chemicals, for the first time, EPA is providing web access, free of charge, to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory. This inventory contains a consolidated list of thousands of industrial chemicals maintained by the agency. EPA is also making this information available on Data.Gov, a website developed by the Obama Administration to provide public access to important government information. This action represents another step to increase the transparency of chemical information while continuing to push for legislative reform of the 30 year old TSCA law. –Increasing the public's access to information on chemicals is one of Administrator Jackson's top priorities, said Steve Owens, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. –The American people are entitled to easily accessible information on chemicals, and today's action is part of a series of ongoing steps that EPA is taking to empower the public with this important information.

Until now, the consolidated public portion of the TSCA Inventory has only been available by purchase from the National Technical Reports Library or other databases. By adding the consolidated TSCA Inventory to the Agency's website and to Data.Gov, EPA is making this information readily available to the public at no cost. Currently, there are more than 84,000 chemicals manufactured, used, or imported in the U.S. listed on the TSCA Inventory.

However, EPA is unable to publicly identify nearly 17,000 of these chemicals because the chemicals have been claimed as confidential business information under TSCA by the manufacturers. Under Administrator Jackson's

leadership, EPA has already begun a series of aggressive steps to provide greater transparency on chemical risk information, including an announcement in January that signaled EPA's intent to reduce a certain type of confidentiality claim, or Confidential Business Information (CBI) claim, on the identity of chemicals.

For information about EPA's increasing transparency on chemical risk information see:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceeac8525735900400c27/631cf22eb540c4db852576b2004eca47://www.epa.gov/oppt/newchems/pubs/inventory.htm>

Re posted with permission of the International Spill Control Organization.
<http://www.spillcontrol.org> and Barry Weissman Hazmat 101 Group
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/hazmat101/>

Dangerous Goods Regulation Update Western Australia

The new WA Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act consists of 7 new regulations:

- **General**
- **Road and Rail transport of non-explosives**
- **Storage and handling of non-explosives**
- **Major Hazard facilities**
- **Explosives**
- **Security risk substances**
- **Goods in ports**

WA is the first State to adopt the new edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (7). The new regulations adopt a performance based approach and will be implemented throughout WA during 2008.

Premises managers should note the following:

- **A risk assessment is made of the Dangerous Goods stored and handled on the site and that a record is made of the assessment. Changes must be made to the risk assessment if there is any significant change to the storage and handling of Dangerous Goods, if there is evidence to suggest the current risk assessment is inadequate, if a reportable situation occurs at the site, or more than five years has elapsed since the last assessment**
- **A Safety Management System must be in place.**
- **A Safety Management System documents all standards, practices and procedures to promote and**

maintain safety, and the responsibilities of staff for implementing these standards, practices and procedures.

Further information on the ACT and all seven regulations can be found on the State Law Publisher website:

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

Source: Agsafe Limited 2010

Dangerous Goods Security Card

New dangerous goods safety legislation in Western Australia (WA) introduces requirements for people working with explosives and other substances considered to pose a security threat. These controls implement security provisions of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement of 2004 on counter-terrorism measures.

The legislation now requires holders of licences for the storage, handling, transport, manufacture, sale, import and use of explosives and security risk substances (SRS), as well as people with unsupervised access to explosives and SRS to be issued a dangerous good security card which is only given after a security clearance.

The security clearance is initiated by lodging an application form for a dangerous goods security card with Australia Post. Forms are available at nominated post offices in WA and at major GPOs in other states and territories. The security clearance is conducted by the WA Police with Resources Safety issuing a card on the advice of the WA Police.

The dangerous goods security card is a plastic photo ID card that is valid for five years from the date of issue.

Once individuals are security cleared, WA Police may monitor their status to ensure that they remain suitable to hold the card.

People with access to explosives or SRS in the normal course of their work will not require a dangerous goods security card if it can be shown that they are 'in the presence of' or 'under the control of' a person who already holds a dangerous goods security card.

For more information on the dangerous goods security card visit the FAQs section of the Resources Safety website:

www.docep.wa.gov.au/resourcessafety/Content/Dangerous_Goods/Frequently_asked_questions/index.htm

Dangerous Goods Security Card Application

The form to apply for a dangerous good security card is only available from participating Australia Post Offices. Ring 13 13 18 for participating offices.

[Dangerous goods security card application form - guidelines for applicants\(PDF 549 kb\)](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/6649.aspx#7230)

<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/6649.aspx#7230>

For more information on the licensing requirements contact Resource Safety on 08 9358 8001, ResourcesSafety@docep.wa.gov.au or visit www.docep.wa.gov.au/resourcessafety

WA - New Mine Safety Regulations

The Western Australian state government on Friday enforced its commitment to improving mine safety when it published the Mines Safety and Inspection Levy Regulations 2010 in the Government Gazette.

Mines and Petroleum Minister Norman Moore said the new regulations were part of a reform process he had begun in November 2009, and reflected the importance the state government placed on worker safety.

“The government’s Reform and Development at Resources Safety (Radars) strategy is an initiative which addresses how the Department of Mines and Petroleum’s (DMP) resources safety division will work with the resources industry,” Moore said. He added that the Radars strategy was designed to reduce serious accidents and save lives across the three sectors it administers, namely mining, petroleum and dangerous goods.

The Minister said it was vital employees, businesses and government worked together to effect the necessary cultural change, which would reduce workplace injuries and deaths. “Consultation, communication and participation are paramount to making effective and permanent change,” he said.

Under the Radars strategy, the emphasis would be on expanding the role of risk management rather than relying on detailed prescription for resources safety regulation. The risk-based approach put the onus on operators to demonstrate that they understood the hazards and risks of their workplaces, and have implemented the necessary control measures.

“This will help ensure the specific safety needs of individual operations are addressed, rather than trying to use a one-size-fits-all approach,” Moore said. He added that the mining sector would be the priority in the phased implementation of Radars. “There have been a number of reviews into mining safety in Western Australia, including the Kenner Review in 2009, which have noted issues such as the state’s low inspector to employee ratio,” he said.



Keep in Touch

If you have any suggestions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the AIDGC Executive Officer, Robyn Hogan at: robhogan@tpg.com.au or via the AIDGC Paging Service on 02) 9430 6739 and I will return your call.

NICNAS The latest edition is now available:

http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Matters/NICNAS_Matters_MAR10_PDF.pdf

“A ministerial advisory panel including industry and unions, as well as key departmental staff, will provide advice as the new regime is implemented.

Western Australia’s mining industry is Australia’s biggest mining sector and one of the largest in the world, and Moore said as such, it was vital that the mining inspectorate reflects the size and complexity of the state’s mining industry. As such, the government has approved the creation of up to 26 additional mines inspector positions, Moore added.

In order to fund these positions and adequately resource them with support staff positions and other initiatives within the DMP, the government has introduced the mines safety levy. The Minister said despite some criticism from industry, the levy was important to ensure the government had the resources to work with industry to lift safety standards.

“The growth in Western Australia’s mining industry has stretched DMP’s resources to the limit,” he said. “It is the State’s position that enhanced safety services should be funded by the mining industry as the direct recipient of those services.”

The new mines safety levy regulations set out details such as how the levy will be charged to industry, who is liable to pay, how it will be assessed and the payment process. The mines safety levy would raise about A\$8-million in 2009/10 and about A\$18-million in 2010/11 for safety regulation of the mining industry.

It is expected that about A\$35-million will be raised in 2011/12 for safety regulation across all the industry sectors - including onshore oil and gas, pipelines, mining exploration, dangerous goods, major hazard facilities, explosives and counter-terrorism measures.

Source: miningweekly.com

Tesoro Refinery – Death Toll 7

Tesoro Corporation said a seventh refinery worker has died as a result of an April 2 chemical explosion at its Anacortes, Washington, refinery.

Tesoro employee Matt Gumbel died, according to company spokesman Lynn Westfall. Local television station KOMO-TV reported earlier, citing unidentified family members, that Gumbel died after undergoing skin graft surgery.

Matt Gumbel (Photo courtesy of CaringBridge)



Security guards staff a gate at a Tesoro Corporation refinery



Waste Services Portfolio Councillor, Greg. Thomsen and Veolia Environmental Services, Mackay Manager, Steve Harper



Investigators are trying to determine the cause of a breakdown at the Anacortes refinery that released a “fireball” that engulfed the seven workers. The blast triggered the second federal investigation in six months of Tesoro, the biggest independent refiner on the U.S. West Coast. The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, an independent U.S. federal agency, is investigating an Oct. 21 fire at the company’s Salt Lake City plant.

Tesoro said earlier this month it would shut down crude processing capacity at the plant indefinitely. Tesoro is based in San Antonio.

http://www.google.com.au/search?q=TESORO+REFINERY+EXPLOSION&hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=p3r&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&source=univ&tbs=nws:1&tbo=u&ei=5KbTS-T_BsulkAX6vcyTDA&sa=X&oi=news_group&ct=title&resnum=4&ved=0CBEQsQQwAw#

[Video:](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmd0XxVawSw&feature=player_embedded)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmd0XxVawSw&feature=player_embedded

Source: Bloomberg Business Week; Peter J. Brennan

Bin Raids after Gas Bottles Dumped

THE council has ordered raids on residents’ recycling bins after a thoughtless person put workers at risk by dumping a number of LP gas bottles.

The perpetrator put the empty, or near-empty, bottles into a recycling bin, putting the lives of garbage truck drivers and material recovery facility workers on the line.

Waste Services Portfolio Councillor Greg Thomsen said he was “stunned” someone was thoughtless enough to put empty, or near-empty, gas bottles into a recycling bin.

“Heat, high pressure, impact or damage to a gas cylinder can cause it to rupture, the consequences of which could be devastating,” he said. “Alarmingly, our workers were also exposed to a partly filled acetylene gas cylinder that had been tossed into a recycling bin.”

Most commonly found in workshops and used for fuelling cutting torches, acetylene gas is highly flammable and more combustible and dangerous than LP gas.

Source: Daily Mercury