



AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE OF DANGEROUS GOODS CONSULTANTS

Secretary – Mr George Kinniburgh
Telephone: 02 9488.9331
Facsimile: 02 9449.4981
Email: kinniburgh@bigpond.com
Graphic Artist - Kylee Goodwin
Mob 0409.815.250

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Editor – R T Benbow
Email: admin@dickbenbow.com.au
Sub-Editor – Russell McKenzie

Where to Now?

*"the objectives
for the future will
emerge from the
inaugural AGM"*

STORE-SAFE

This issue of the AIDGC
Newsletter is sponsored
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The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the AIDGC has been arranged for Friday 9th August, 2002. There have been many nominations for the Board positions, and more are welcome.

We have all completed the difficult experience of the examination and most will recognise the worth in updating our knowledge levels. There will be ample opportunity for AIDGC technical seminars to enhance our level of knowledge. This will be one of the main advantages of being a member of the AIDGC.



Members participating in the AIDGC training course.



AIDGC Exam Session

There is a great wealth of professional skills amongst the membership. There is an opportunity for AIDGC to fill a vacuum that may be emerging in the traditional role of WorkCover to provide detailed technical support.

The AIDGC has been positioned by the past efforts of its provisional Board supported strongly by the provisional members.

The objectives for the future will emerge from the inaugural AGM. Gather your thoughts on this and how you can participate.

It's Official!

We are proud to announce that the Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants has officially been Incorporated as an Association.



Case Study 1 Factory Fire at Caringbah.

This photo is of a factory fire at Caringbah in October 2001. The fire started in a corner of one factory and then destroyed the factory and businesses in the rest of the factory complex. The fire was alleged to have been caused by a welding spark starting a fire near some flammable liquids. Thus it can happen.

Supplied by: Terry Grainger • Photo courtesy of John Veage, Leader newspaper



Case Study 2 Arson Attempt Fails!

A manufacturer of flammable resins used for stencilling concrete was surprised to find blackened walls inside the area used for producing their resins. Over a weekend, an arsonist drilled holes through the flexible membranes that fill joints between the concrete precast panels of the wall shown in the photograph. The NSW Fire Brigade investigated the arson attempt and expressed alarm at the technique that was used as it had not been sighted before.

A hole was drilled through the membranes at several joints across the southern wall of the premises. A length of copper pipe was inserted through each hole. Several children's sparklers were set alight and pushed through the pipe into the building space hoping to set the processes alight.

The arson attempt only failed because of the poor relationship between joints in the concrete panels and the location of the flammable liquid processes. Housekeeping within the premises is exemplary and there was little available combustible material. Electrical cables were set alight.

Solution implemented – steel flat bar has been fastened over the joints up to a suitable height.

Supplied by: R T Benbow

Top right: Premises targeted for arson attempt.
Right: Copper pipe inserted into holes in wall. Inside wall with metal strips now in place.



Positions Vacant

In accordance with the Rules and Objectives of the Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants Inc, nominations are now open for Office Bearers for the AIDGC Board for 2002/2003.

The following positions are open for ballot at the AGM on Friday 9th August:

- **President**
- **Vice President (2)**
- **Secretary/Treasurer (1)**
- **Committee Member (3)**

All financial Provisional Members of the AIDGC are eligible to nominate, or be nominated for the Board, and to vote in this election.



AIDGC events

Friday 9th August 2002

Annual General Meeting &
Election of Office Bearers
Silverwater Club
Cnr Silverwater Road & Durby Street
Silverwater

Thursday 19th September 2002

Parkroyal Darling Harbour
AIDGC Seminar –
Dangerous Goods Storage & Handling
Registration – \$425.00 (non-members)

For further information or enquiries,
please contact:
Chris Flannery 02 9816 1577
Peta Lywood 02 9299 5321

Insurance

If you are having trouble obtaining PI cover, please email the Editor, as several members have advised us of their Brokers details and the Underwriters who are still in business.

One of the significant advantages the AIDGC can do for members is lobby on such issues that affect us all.

As you are all aware, the market for professional indemnity insurance continues to tighten, with no new insurers on the horizon, huge premium increases across the board (50 - 100% in many instances) and the inability of some professions to access cover.

Many environmental engineers are unable to gain cover, others with a long successful history have found premium increases of 50 - 100% for half as much cover. There are moves afoot by the NSW Government to reform public liability and for professionals to have the test of negligence changed so that conduct consistent with a respectable view within the profession cannot be held to be negligent.

If this approach were to be adopted, we would be protected from law suits if we practiced in step with our peers.

Changes mooted for this September by the Government could, as reported in the SMH on 12th June, "change the test of professional negligence so that conduct that is consistent with professional or respected medical opinion cannot be held to be negligent". It has also been reported (source unknown but common sense) that "Industry bodies are playing a big role for their professions by putting in place risk management strategies. If you can control the risk areas, then the cost of insurance can be controlled".

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Technical Q&A

Q. Is there an easy way to identify common chemical incompatibilities?

A. Use AS3833 Table G1 on page 72. The table is intended for general package storage and excludes Classes 1, 2 (except aerosols) and 5.2, and PG I of all classes. Do read the definitions of 'incompatible' (clause 1.4.22) and 'react dangerously' (clause 1.4.35).

The table also takes into account matters such as leaks damaging packages (resulting in further leaks) and 'incompatible' fire fighting requirements. These are some reasons why it is likely to be more onerous than an expert assessment, but at least it's a good starting point.

Q. In preparing for the examination I read Clause 79 sub-clause 4 of the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulation 1999. It reads:

"The provision of this Part that prescribe requirements for or in respect of a depot do not apply to or in respect of a depot for goods that are:

(a) prescribed under section 9 of the Act, and

(b) not required by this Part to be kept in a depot conforming to prescribed requirements."

Can anyone explain to me what this means?

Members are still hesitant to advise projects they are doing. An example is summarised below.

- CNF Associates (Chris Flannery) and Environmental Audits of Australia (R T Benbow) have been heavily involved in an expansion in APCS's site at Ingleburn. This project has many interesting aspects expected from a site designed to store about 8,500 tonnes of dangerous goods with 42 tanks and several large warehouses. A feature article on APCS is being prepared for the next issue of the newsletter.

A workshop session on this project would be valuable for all members.

Who would be interested in a morning site visit? Please advise.

Please be advised that in New South Wales we are advised by WorkCover of the following:

In NSW, portable spillage trays, pallet bunds, etc., are not accepted as a substitute for mandatory spillage containment (ie. bunding). Reasons include lack of a design standard, possible chemical incompatibilities, uncertain fire performance and ease of relocation to unlicensed or unsafe locations.

But they are useful for minor storage, decanting, handling areas, initial containment of 'leakers' and similar applications.

Many thanks to
Jurgen Strauch.
Jurgen is the recipient of 2 fine bottles of
Red (a Merlot & a Cab Sav)
for supplying Questions (and answers!)
in this and the past issue.

Members Activities

Suppliers

NOHS – FAQs for Dangerous Goods

By now you should have received your copy of this document.

If you haven't received it, please contact **Robyn Hogan** on **02 9879 5453** or via email on **robyn@f1.net.au**