



## ***WHAT'S HAPPENING?***

***June 2007***

### **What's On???**

**2007 Annual  
General  
Meeting  
August 3  
3PM start  
Ryde-  
Eastwood  
Leagues Club**

### **CommitteeWatch**

#### **Revised Australian Standards**

AS/NZS 3833:2007 "The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods, in packages and intermediate bulk containers" was published on 30 May (members can download a .pdf for \$116.46).

As its preface says, "This Standard was prepared by Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-009, Safe Handling of Chemicals, to supersede AS/NZS 3833:1998. Revision of this Standard was commenced following the committee's agreement that the series of Standards relating to the storage and handling of dangerous goods be reviewed and updated to reflect changed regulatory requirements and control philosophies that have been refined since the publication of the 1998 edition, taking into particular account the current (2004) edition of AS 1940, The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids."

Some changes include:

- Minor storage now includes consideration of combustible liquids
- Retail storage allows Class 3 and some other bigger retail packages than previous "consumer commodity" allowed sizes; combustible liquids are considered; maximum storage quantities have been changed
- IBC requirements are similar to those in AS 1940
- Some changes in separation distances
- New guidance matrix (not the one used for transport) for segregation and inclusion of combustible liquids to be segregated as for Class 3 PG III
- Operating procedures are now mandatory (previously in an informative appendix)
- The use of non-flameproof forklift trucks in Zone 2 hazardous areas is now addressed in a normative appendix
- Requirements for storage in freight containers are now mandatory (previously in an informative appendix).

#### **Member Benefits - Annual Conference**

You are reminded that individual Members are entitled to attend the Annual Conference free of charge. Corporate Members are entitled to nominate two attendees – with additional attendees at normal rate.

## 2007 AIDGC Conference

October 5

Crowne Plaza  
Darling Harbour

## 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

Hoslab Pty Ltd –  
Shelley Watson  
02) 9816 3555

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

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

AJM Environmental –  
Adrian Minshall  
02) 9542 2366

## Conference Highlights

The AIDGC Annual Conference will be held at the Crown Plaza, Darling Harbour on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Presentations by regulators, emergency services and practitioners will provide updates on regulatory developments, management of Major Hazard Facilities and Emergency Planning.

### Australian Federal Police

Brett McPhee has suggested that Members might find this link to the AFP website useful. The site contains information and downloadable material for a 'bomb safety awareness kit' and a 'bomb checklist'.

[https://www.afp.gov.au/services/operational/abdc/abdc\\_bomb\\_safety\\_kit\\_info](https://www.afp.gov.au/services/operational/abdc/abdc_bomb_safety_kit_info)

## Safety is No Accident

### Safety Training – Emergency Washing Equipment

[http://www.ini.wa.gov/Safety/TrainTools/Online/Courses/default.asp?P\\_ID=83](http://www.ini.wa.gov/Safety/TrainTools/Online/Courses/default.asp?P_ID=83)

### Safety Training – Respiratory Protection

[http://www.ini.wa.gov/Safety/TrainTools/Online/Courses/default.asp?P\\_ID=100](http://www.ini.wa.gov/Safety/TrainTools/Online/Courses/default.asp?P_ID=100)

Please relay links that you would like to share via What's Happening to [jdbaker@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jdbaker@ozemail.com.au)

## In the News

### Corrosive and Flammable Chemical Spill

Seven workers suffered chemical burns and about 160 workers were evacuated following a chemical spill. About 1000 litres of the highly corrosive and flammable chemical (N-butylamine) leaked at Bostik Chemicals in Melbourne.

[http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,21941062-29277,00.html?from=public\\_rss](http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,21941062-29277,00.html?from=public_rss)

### Truck Crash Causes Large Diesel Spill

Two trucks collided on the New England Highway causing a large diesel spill near the Hunter River at Aberdeen, NSW. Fire authorities contained "a large volume" of diesel that leaked from an oil tanker involved in the collision. A NSW Fire Brigades' spokesman said tankers of this type had a 32,000 litre cargo capacity. The other truck involved in the crash was carrying 8,000 live chickens. Chicken catchers were sent to the scene to round up surviving stock roaming the area.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/National/Truck-crash-causes-large-diesel-spill/2007/06/21/1182019232333.html>

## **Ammonia Leak Blamed On Plant Explosion**

An explosion caused by leaking anhydrous ammonia at a Nestle factory hospitalised at least seven employees and shut down the plant.

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/06/08/ap3803671.html>

## **Dangerous Goods Blitz Nets Transport Offenders**

[http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/dec\\_media\\_070525\\_04](http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/dec_media_070525_04)

## **'Hot Fuel' – Motorists Get Less in Warmer Weather**

<http://www.buffalonews.com/145/story/101861.html?imw=Y#>

## **Warning on Transport of Acetylene Cylinders**

An explosion occurred in a van, in transit, which resulted in the death of the 33 year old driver. The incident was most likely caused by an explosion of acetylene gas leaking from oxy/acetylene cutting equipment being carried in the closed vehicle. Acetylene has relatively wide flammability limits in air.

<https://www.gnn.gov.uk/imagelibrary/downloadMedia.asp?MediaDetailsID=205487>

## **Is Your Grease an Explosion Risk?**

Under rare conditions, it appears that certain PTFE thickened greases being applied with high-pressure pumps may explode warns the research head of one of Europe's largest specialty lubricant manufacturers.

[http://www.imakenews.com/Ing/e\\_article000842856.cfm?x=b9Lrpb3,b5bfFbP](http://www.imakenews.com/Ing/e_article000842856.cfm?x=b9Lrpb3,b5bfFbP)

## **Dangers of Major Chlorine Release During Bulk Unloading**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has released a safety bulletin warning that some chlorine railcar transfer systems lack effective detection and emergency shutdown devices, leaving the public vulnerable to potential large scale toxic releases.

[http://www.csb.gov/safety\\_publications/docs/CSBChlorineShutdownBulletin.pdf](http://www.csb.gov/safety_publications/docs/CSBChlorineShutdownBulletin.pdf)

## **Fireworks Displays Linked To Perchlorate Contamination in Lakes**

Fireworks displays, often held over lakes and other water bodies to minimize the risk of fire, can deposit significant amounts of perchlorate into the water. The US EPA points out that concerns have arisen over the effects of environmental perchlorate on human health and wildlife. Within 14 hours after the fireworks, perchlorate levels were measured to rise between more than 20 to 1,000 times above background levels, peaking about 24 hours after the display and then decreasing to former background levels within 20 to 80 days.

Source: Science Daily news release.

## Cleaner May Lose Fingers

An Ulverstone cleaning contractor could lose the fingers on his severely burned left hand after an explosion involving potentially lethal hydrofluoric acid at a Tasmanian vegetable processing factory. Fourteen other workers were tested for chemical inhalation amid initial fears of exposure to the toxic gas.



[http://batemansbay.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=national%20news&subclass=general&story\\_id=598352&category=general](http://batemansbay.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=national%20news&subclass=general&story_id=598352&category=general)

## Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) Resources

### NICNAS Priority Existing Chemical Assessment Report No. 19

A benchmark report on the diverse use and unique hazards of exposure to hydrofluoric acid (HF).

[http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/PEC19/PEC\\_19\\_Full\\_Report\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/PEC/PEC19/PEC_19_Full_Report_PDF.pdf)



HF burns have a high probability of producing systemic toxicity if:

1. Exposure of about 1% of body surface area (palm of the hand) to 50% or greater HF solution,
2. Exposure of 5% or more of body surface area to any HF solution.

Recent incidents involving hydrofluoric acid have highlighted the need to emphasise correct handling and immediate proper first aid with this uniquely corrosive chemical.

Unlike surface damaging acids (such as hydrochloric acid (HCl) and sulphuric acid), hydrofluoric acid (HF) readily penetrates the skin and deeper tissues, binding to calcium and causing tissue damage including decalcification of bone, if immediate first aid measures are not taken.

Hydrogen fluoride may cause severe, painful burns to the skin, eyes, mucous membranes and severe respiratory irritation.

Large burns, or exposure to very concentrated solutions may result in gastro-intestinal problems, cardiac arrhythmias and/or death.

<http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/pdfs/alert-hydrofluoric.pdf>

[http://info.anu.edu.au/HR/OHS/Hazard\\_Alerts/Hydrofluoric%20Acid.asp](http://info.anu.edu.au/HR/OHS/Hazard_Alerts/Hydrofluoric%20Acid.asp)

The process of tissue destruction can be prolonged for days. Affected persons must have immediate first aid and be referred to an aware doctor even if the injury seems very minor.

Any large burn or exposure to a concentrated solution requires specialist medical assessment in a hospital setting.

Persons working with dilute solutions of HF should be aware that delayed pain can occur and it is strongly advised that persons who are exposed to HF seek immediate medical advice and attention.

Examples of first aid resources include:

[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/176\\_06\\_180302/martin\\_letter\\_fm.pdf](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/176_06_180302/martin_letter_fm.pdf)

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/EHSRM/LAB/hfmedbook.pdf>

<http://www.emedicine.com/emerg/topic804.htm>

In Sydney, there are two specialist adult burns units, namely at Concord Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital together with the Children's Hospital of Westmead, all staffed by specific medical professionals who are alert to and trained in dealing with HF exposures.

## **Australian Safety and Compensation Council Submissions on Proposed Hazardous Substances and DG Framework**

The ASCC received submissions during public comment on the draft National Standard and Codes of Practice for the Control of Workplace Chemicals. Public comment closed on 15 March. Submissions were received from industry, unions and state/territory regulators as follows:

<http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/AboutUs/PublicComment/ClosedComment/Public+Submissions/PublicSubmissions-ControlofWorkplaceHazardousChemicals.htm>

## **NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers**

The NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers is aimed at assisting manufacturers and importers of industrial chemicals to comply with their obligations under the Commonwealth Industrial Chemicals (Notifications and Assessment) Act 1989.

[http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS\\_Handbook/Handbook\\_For\\_Notifiers\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Handbook/Handbook_For_Notifiers_PDF.pdf)

## **Corporate Member Update**

AJM Environmental Services Pty Ltd was formed in the late 1990's to provide multidiscipline engineering design services, project management and a quality range of products specifically designed for water and wastewater treatment and sludge dewatering. A reasonable component of these works includes chemical storage facilities for Water Treatment Chemicals (mainly corrosive 8).

AJM's head office is in Sydney, with offices in Brisbane, Adelaide, New Zealand, and agents or representatives throughout Australia and SE Asia. AJM employs a range of engineers, drafters, project managers and tradesmen that create our multidiscipline project teams. AJM provides a tailored project approach to its clients and offers a professional range of engineering services and products that provide our clients with support from project inception (or concept) through construction to commissioning and operation. AJM success stems from its ability to retain key people and build cohesive teams through selection of highly experienced personnel from within the water and wastewater industry. The majority of current personnel have worked as a team prior to the formation of AJM. This has fostered the communication skills and knowledge required to deliver to our clients a successful project.

### **Technology**

- \* Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) systems
- \* Oil Separators and Oil Skimmers
- \* Clarifiers and Thickeners
- \* Biological Systems (Aerobic and Anaerobic)
- \* Gravity Thickeners
- \* Belt and Filter Presses
- \* Screening Systems
- \* Grit Removal and Classification
- \* Polymer Blending Systems
- \* Chemical Storage Facilities
- \* Control Panels, Switchboards and MCC's

## **Keeping in Touch**

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

Any links that you would like to share with members, please first send to [jdbaker@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jdbaker@ozemail.com.au).

My thanks this month go to John Baker, Peter Hunt and Brett McPhee for their contributions to this Newsletter.