



September 2006

AIDGC—Queensland

Important Dates

15 September 2006
AIDGC Annual
Conference—Sydney

19 September 2006
AS/NZS 3833 Closing
date for comments

Coming up
Qld seminar

November 2006
NSW site visit to
CSIRO fire test lab

10-11 May 2007
HAZMAT 2007—
Sydney

Special points of interest:

- AIDGC Annual conference
- CHEM Services audit program
- AS/NZS 3833 review
- Future seminar ideas
- Brisbane City Council—requirements for outdoor storage units

CHEM Services audit program

September marks the start of the CHEM Services *Large Dangerous Goods Location* (Large DGL) audit program. The focus of this audit will be the potential for major hazmat incidents, considering the possible off-site impacts of incidents such as a fire or toxic gas leak. Sites to be audited are 'high end' Large DGLs. This audit marks the start of a longer term regulatory strategy targeting these higher hazard facilities.

Throughout Qld, approximately 130 sites will be audited (60 in SEQ) between now and June 2007. The audits will be conducted by a team including officers from CHEM Services, WHSQ, local government, QFRS and EPA.

In addition to the potential for off-site impacts from large hazmat incidents, the audit will focus on compliance with legislation administered by these different agencies.

Sites to be audited should have received a letter in June this year advising of the upcoming audit. Several weeks before the audit, contact will be made with the site to organise the date and time of the audit.

Prior to the site visit, an initial audit of documents will be conducted by the audit team. Sites can then expect the audit team to be on-site for 2-3 hours, with a further audit of documents following the site visit. Each agency will be focussing on their own

specific legislative requirements. CHEM Services have advised that detailed compliance with Australian Standards will not be the focus of these audits.

Sites will be provided with feedback on the audit outcome and each agency will take action according to their findings under the authorities provided in their legislation. In addressing these issues, sites may require assistance from external consultants—such as members of the AIDGC.

The publishing of any report on the audit program is yet to be decided, but it is likely that a generalised report will be made available.

Technical Seminars

So far this year, AIDGC (Qld) has presented two technical seminars which have drawn a lot of interest. The first seminar provided information on Hazardous Areas, with the second seminar being a

practical demonstration of flameproof forklifts.

We would like to continue the seminar series and are looking for ideas. Is there any DG issue that you want to learn more about? Do you know someone

who could present a seminar?

Please contact us with your ideas and suggestions:

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AS/NZS 3833 Review.....

AS/NZS 3833 The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods in packages and intermediate bulk containers is currently under review. Originally released in 1998, the major changes to the Standard are:

- Inclusion of Combustible Liquids throughout the standard.
- Greater reference to risk management principles
- Restrictions on Packing Group I, Class 4.2, Class 5.2 and Class 7 in mixed class storage
- Clarification on the application of the Standard to gases (only retail packs and aerosols).
- Changes to the definition of 'minor storage', with limits on the number of minor storage areas.
- Significant changes in require-

ments for retail storage and retail distribution centres.

- New section on storage of IBCs.
- Consolidation of tables outlining required separation distances.
- Major changes to segregation requirements and inclusion of a new matrix / table in the body of the Standard.
- Inclusion of requirements of other standards (eg AS 1940, placarding)

The review committee consists of representatives from government agencies in WA, SA, Vic and Qld; Australian Fire Authorities Council and NSW Emergency Services; Australian Paint Manufacturers Association; Patricks and Agsafe. Grant Hastie of CHEM Services is the Qld CHEM Services representative.

AIDGC members are encouraged to comment based on their experience with the Standard. Clarity and practicality are key areas where comments are sought. The Committee is also interested in learning about any experience from previous incidents or application of the Standard that may lead to improvements in the Standard as a whole.

Comments close:

Tuesday 19th September 2006

Release of the revised standard is expected by the end of 2006, but will depend on the number and complexity of comments received.

Outdoor Flammable Liquid Storage Units.....

AIDGC Consultants may have recently experienced more detailed investigations from Brisbane City Council (BCC) officers in relation to outdoor flammable liquid storage units.

BCC have advised that this more detailed investigation process has been initiated by a proliferation of sub-standard designs with poor ventilation and inadequate bunds. Further questioning raised the issue regarding fire resistance of the metal bund. AS 1940 requires the bund to be "fire resistant as far as necessary."

Without further guidance, BCC are requiring manufacturers to justify steel thicknesses of bund walls and floors—information available to date provides reasonable justification for

5mm walls and 2mm floor plates. Cross-bracing should also be provided to prevent excessive stress being placed on welds in a fire situation.

At this stage, BCC have advised that units that meet these steel thickness and cross-bracing requirements, and all other requirements of AS 1940, will be accepted. Any lesser specification will require independent certification from the manufacturer (eg from a structural engineer, Steel Institute, etc) that a suitable level of fire resistance has been achieved.

Several companies have approached BCC to receive approval for their units. While not necessary, it does streamline the process of getting a licence approval from BCC.

To date certification has been obtained for specific units by:

- Transportable Shade Sheds
- Store-Safe
- Strauss Plant Hire
- Royal Wolf Trading Australia
- Storemasta

If submitting a licence application for one of the approved units, details of the brand and model number should be provided to assist in the approval process.

At this stage, BCC appear to be the only local government taking this approach. However, BCC advise that it is an issue that will be discussed at local government forums and BCC are willing to provide their list of approved units to other councils.

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If you have any questions about AIDGC in Queensland, or would like to help out in any way, please contact:

janelle.adrain@hse.com.au
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www.aidgc.com

AIDGC Annual Conference—15 September

The AIDGC Annual Conference is to be held in Sydney on Friday 15 September. Attendance is free to all members and associate members of the AIDGC. The program for this year is outlined below. Presentations and papers will be made available in the members area of the AIDGC website following the conference.

- Developments in NSW (Doug Gibbons, WorkCover NSW)
- Regulation of Dangerous Goods in South Australia (John McKenzie, SafeWork SA)
- National Developments (Peter Haynes, Office of Australian Safety & Compensation Commission)
- Risk Assessment—Hazardous Areas in Laboratories (Frank Mendham, Bassett Consulting Engineers)
- Standards Australia Update (Dawn Lindsay, Standards Australia)
- A Trade Union View of Consultation (Mary Yaager, Unions NSW)
- ADG Code Update (Alan Ritche, NSW Department of Environment & Conservation)
- Underground Petroleum Storage Proposal (Grant Harper, Department of Environment & Conservation)
- AS 3745 Emergency Planning (Malcolm Leithhead, First Five Minutes Pty Ltd)
- Drawing for Emergency Plans (Mark Peden, Realserve Pty Ltd)
- Hazmat Response in NSW (Terry Farley, NSW Fire Brigades)

AIDGC—Benefits of Membership.....

One of the key objectives of the AIDGC is to provide a professional body to represent the membership of Dangerous Goods Consultants.

AIDGC strives to provide a system for ensuring the competency of Dangerous Goods Consultants through assessment of consultants' competence in the application of prescriptive standards and risk management methodologies.

Some of the benefits of AIDGC membership include:

- Access to regular newsletters and information.
- Technical seminars and presentations

- Free attendance at the AIDGC Annual Conference
- Discounts on purchase of Australian Standards on-line
- Listing on the AIDGC web-site as a Consultant or Associate, with the provision of contact details and links to your web-site.

Associate membership is open to all persons who can demonstrate an interest in the storage and handling of dangerous goods. Associate members have full access to all member services.

Full membership is obtained by completing a competency-based assessment and by satisfying the

Board that you have an appropriate background and experience in issues relating to dangerous goods.

To find out more, download the Membership Package from the AIDGC website.

