



FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about the relevance of the cement industry to NICNAS requirements. These notes also give a guide to help you estimate the total value of introduction (ie. import and/or manufacture) of industrial chemicals.

CEMENT

NICNAS regulates cement

Cement/cement clinkers are made up of industrial chemicals; they are subject to certain requirements under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the Act), including NICNAS registration requirements.

These requirements apply to you if you:

- import cements;
- import chemicals which will be used in the making of cements; and/or,
- manufacture cements or chemicals which are then used in the making of cements.

Relevance to the cement industry

Cement/cement clinker, as defined under the Act, is an industrial chemical considered to be within the scope of NICNAS registration (ie. relevant industrial chemicals). Examples include Portland cements, blended cements, high alumina cements and special purpose cements. However, raw materials used in cement production, such as limestone, shell sand and bauxite, being “naturally-occurring”¹ chemicals, are excluded from NICNAS registration considerations. As chemical reactions are involved in the cement making process, cement/cement clinker itself does not qualify as a naturally occurring substance.

Further grinding of the clinker and other blending operations (such as the adding of gypsum) are not considered to be a manufacture under the Act and the value of these mechanical processes is excluded for NICNAS registration purposes. Chemicals added to the clinker are subject to NICNAS registration only if they are relevant industrial chemicals **and** are imported or manufactured.

For more information on which chemicals are within the scope of NICNAS registration refer to the Fact Sheet on [Relevant Industrial Chemicals](#).

NICNAS registration

NICNAS registration requirements apply to persons/companies importing and/or manufacturing relevant industrial chemicals or products containing relevant industrial chemicals.

¹ A naturally occurring chemical is very narrowly defined under the Act (see s5). Only mechanical processes (eg dissolution in water, cold-pressing, etc) are allowed if substances are to retain their naturally occurring status.

All importers and/or manufacturers of relevant industrial chemicals for commercial purposes must register with NICNAS, regardless of the amount of industrial chemicals imported or manufactured in that registration year. A registration year runs from 1 September to 31 August in the following year.

There are three levels of registration. Your registration level and hence registration cost is based on the total value of relevant industrial chemicals imported and/or manufactured each year. [Further details such as fees and charges can be found in the NICNAS Registration brochure.](#)

If you import cement/cement clinker, the import value of the imported products should be included in assessing the registration Tier that applies to you.

The import value is the customs value in Australian dollars, plus the duty paid and the cost of insurance and freight.

If you manufacture cement, the cost of manufacturing the cement clinker should be taken as the manufactured chemical value. This would include all your raw materials, regardless of where you source them. For NICNAS registration purposes, you only need to estimate the cost of manufacture up to the clinker stage. Further grinding or blending can be excluded from your calculations.

A similar approach can be adopted in estimating the value of introduction for other specialty cements or cement products.

For further information about NICNAS registration refer to [NICNAS Registration](#) available at www.nicnas.gov.au.

Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS)

AICS is the legal instrument which lists chemicals available for use in Australia without notification and assessment by NICNAS. Some chemicals may only be available for specified/conditional use. It is important that you are aware of any conditions or restrictions that may apply to chemicals you import and/or manufacture or plan to export.

An industrial chemical is considered to be a new industrial chemical if it is not listed on AICS. By law, all new industrial chemicals must be notified and assessed by NICNAS before they can be imported or manufactured in Australia. If you introduce (that is, import or manufacture) a chemical or chemical product, you need to ensure the chemical, or all the ingredients in the product, are listed on the AICS.

AICS is composed of two sections: non confidential and confidential section. To find out if a chemical is listed on the non confidential section of AICS, you can search AICS online available at www.nicnas.gov.au or request NICNAS to carry out the search for you. A service charge applies only to requests for NICNAS to search the non confidential section.

For further information about notification and assessment requirements, please refer to the *Handbook for Notifiers* available at www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/handbook/

If you have any queries about assessment, and NICNAS Registration requirements for cement, please contact NICNAS on 1800 638 528 or 02 8577 8800 or email to info@nicnas.gov.au.