

Regulatory Scientists attend Third Science Forum

Nearly a hundred people attended the third Science Forum on the Practice of Human Health Risk Assessment in Australia, held in Canberra at the end of July.

The Science Forum was established by the Australian Government early last year as one of several reform initiatives in response to the Chemicals and Plastics Action Agenda Steering Group Industry Report, 'Underpinning Australia's Industrial Growth'.

Sponsored this time by the Population Health Division of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), the Forum's objective is to enhance the efficiency of chemicals regulation in Australia through comparison of current regulatory assessment practices and methods amongst participating agencies, consideration of international trends, and harmonisation of best practice risk assessment methodology.

Thirty-one scientific staff from NICNAS took part in the day, as well as representatives from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR), Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ), the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the Department of the Environment and Heritage, and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission. The meeting was also attended by other representatives from industry, academia, and the community.

Dr. Margaret Hartley, Director, NICNAS, chaired the Form and presided over the morning session on 'Matching Risk Assessment Methodology to Needs'.

Dr. Brian Priestley, Director for the Australian Centre of Human Health Risk Assessment (ACHHRA) opened the Forum with a talk on the practice of risk assessment: 'Human Health Risk Assessment the Australian Way'. This was followed by two Australian case studies: 'National HHRA of Dioxins', given by Dr. Les Davies, Leader, Science Strategy, Pesticides, Office of Chemical Safety; and 'HHRA of Benzene', given by Deborah Willcocks, Team Leader, Existing Chemicals, NICNAS.

The first part of the day concluded with a presentation on the 'Draft Risk Analysis Framework for Gene Technology Products' by Dr. Robyn Cleland, Scientific Adviser, Evaluation Branch, OGTR.

The next session, 'Challenges in Health Risk Assessments', was chaired by Jack Dempsey, Population Health Division, DoHA.

Dr. Bruce Kennedy, Executive Director, National Environment Protection Council, examined 'HHRA in Environmental Standard Setting'; Dr. Kevin Buckett, Director, Population Health, Department of Health, SA, considered the specific South Australian experience with a talk on 'State Perspective on HHRA'; and Dr. Andrew Langley, Public Health Physician & Director, Centre for Disease Control, Central Zone Public Health Network (Qld), looked at 'When Not to Do a HHRA'.

The last session of the day – a facilitated panel discussion on 'Children's Health: Getting Risk Assessment Right' – was chaired by Dr. Roshini Jayewardene, Leader, Science Policy and Strategy, NICNAS. Jack Dempsey provided a 'scene setting' overview, then there was lively exchange and spirited debate on this very important topic. The discussion was open to all participants, with speakers from the previous session available to respond to specific questions and provide their views.

For further information, please contact:

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At the Third Science Forum: from left – Dr. Bruce Kennedy, Dr. Roshini Jayewardene, Dr. Andrew Langley, Dr. Margaret Hartley, Mr. Jack Dempsey, Dr. Brian Priestley, Dr. Kevin Buckett.

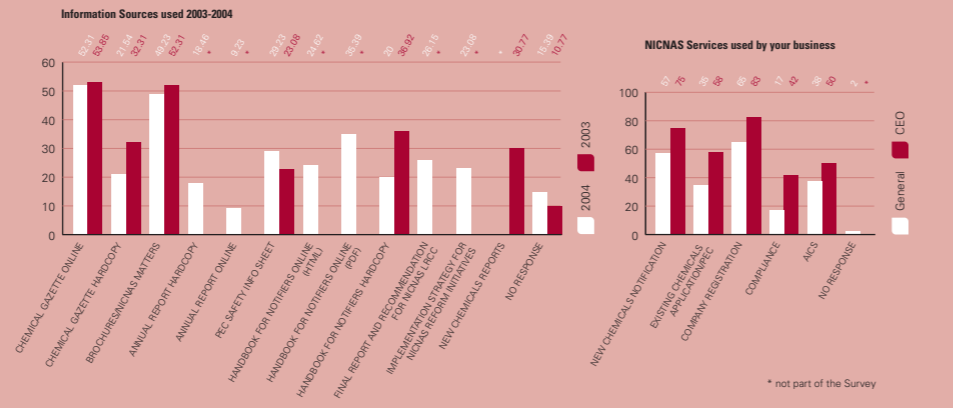
Customer Feedback on NICNAS

Results are in for the 2003-04 NICNAS Service Charter Survey. This annual evaluation, which is published in the NICNAS Annual Report and sent in a summary report to the Department of Health and Ageing, gauges NICNAS's performance against its service standards.

Conducted by mail and telephone, the 2003-04 annual customer satisfaction survey canvassed 100 randomly selected organisations from amongst NICNAS clients, with sampling stratified to ensure that at least one organisation was selected from each state or territory.

Twenty organisations from each of the five key NICNAS service areas of Compliance, NICNAS Registration, Existing Chemicals, New Chemicals, and AICS Searches were selected to receive the questionnaire. A similar survey was also conducted with CEOs from the 25 leading companies in this country which have significant involvement in industrial chemicals.

The results this year showed that the main professional service used by respondents was NICNAS Registration at 64.6%, followed by New Chemicals notifications at 56.9%. Around 38% of respondents indicated that they had also used the AICS Search service. Generally, respondents used more than one of NICNAS's professional services within the year.



Environmental Exposure Assessment on Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCP)

In 2001, NICNAS raised concerns about the potential release of Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins into Australia's waterways because of inappropriate disposal of extreme pressure lubricants used in metal working fluids.

NICNAS has now completed an environmental exposure assessment on SCCPs. This assessment is available at www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/car/other/20040706-sccp-envrep.pdf.

In Australia, some 70% of SCCP use is in metal working fluids, with applications in drilling, machining, cutting, drawing and metal stamping. SCCPs are also used as fillers, as adhesives and coating materials in the building industry, in the manufacture of pigment dispersants, and in rubber and leather treatment products.

Although there is a decline in the use of SCCPs in Australia, they are being replaced by medium chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) and long chain chlorinated paraffins (LCCPs), which are unlikely to deliver any better outcomes for the environment. Because of concerns about SCCPs in Europe,

There was an increase in the use of NICNAS information sources, with most respondents indicating that they used two or more information sources. The most popular information source was the *Chemical Gazette*, with 52.3% accessing it online and 21.5% receiving a hardcopy subscription.

Some 84.6% of respondents reported that they used the NICNAS website for information: 72.7% accessed AICS Online, 58.2% downloaded NICNAS forms, 50.9% looked at New Chemicals information, 43.6% at Existing Chemicals information, and 29.1% at the list of chemicals banned or severely restricted in Australia. An overwhelming 96.4% found the website easy to navigate, up from 79.3% in 2003.

The NICNAS Handbook for Notifiers elicited comments during the Survey that it was "useful as a guide to information required for notifications", that "the handbook is an essential reference", and that "this is the fundamental document for notification – very useful".

The results of the Survey also indicated that staff at NICNAS are helpful and courteous in dealing with clients, and that questions and inquiries are generally answered within 7-28 days – although, as always, there could be improvement.

No complaints were reported in the survey.

these chemicals have either been phased out already, or are in the process of being phased out.

The NICNAS environmental exposure assessment recommends that any future risk assessment activity should focus on chlorinated paraffins in general.

NICNAS has made a number of recommendations to limit the potential adverse environmental effects from use of SCCPs in the metal working industry. These include the voluntary industry phase-out of the use of SCCPs in metal working fluids, the appropriate disposal of metal working fluids wastes and spills, and the development of strategies to extend the useful life of metal working fluids.

For more information, please contact:

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The Rotterdam Convention: what it means for importers, manufacturers and exporters

Earlier this year, Australia ratified the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade – commonly known as the Rotterdam or PIC Convention.

PIC obligations became law in this country on 18 August 2004. NICNAS is responsible for implementing Australia's PIC obligations where industrial chemicals are concerned.

The Rotterdam Convention puts obligations on the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals. Participating countries are given the power to make informed decisions as to which PIC listed chemicals they are prepared to receive and which they wish to exclude from importation. Australia must ensure that chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention are not exported to countries that do not wish to receive them.

The Rotterdam Convention does not involve bans. Nor does it mean that any individual country should automatically prohibit imports. What it does mean is that chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention are subject to extensive information exchange, may require priority attention for national decisions on imports, and are subject to obligations related to export controls.

Countries that have ratified the Convention must nominate chemicals that they have severely restricted or banned. If approved for inclusion in the PIC procedure, these chemicals are subject to additional controls in international trade.

Importing and exporting countries share responsibility for the notification and monitoring of chemicals under PIC and parties to the Convention must comply with the importing country's responses. For example, a country seeking to export a chemical subject to a ban or severe restriction in its own territory must inform the importing country at the time of the first export, and then annually.

Chemicals subject to PIC are listed on the basis of their use – either as an industrial chemical or as a pesticide – or for both uses. If a chemical has both industrial and pesticide uses it will only fall under PIC procedures for the use for which it is listed.

Which industrial chemicals are subject to PIC?
Five industrial chemicals currently meet specified criteria for listing and are subject to PIC procedure. Additions to the list depend on the decisions by the Conference of the Parties. The first meeting was held this September when six further industrial chemicals were approved for addition under the Convention. This listing will become effective from 1 February 2005.

The current industrial chemicals listed under PIC are: crocidolite asbestos; polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) – hexabromobiphenyl, octabromobiphenyl, and decabromobiphenyl; polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs); and tris (2,3-dibromopropyl) phosphate.

Industrial chemicals that will be added to the PIC list effective from 1 February 2005 are: actinolite; anthophyllite; tremolite; amosite; tetraethyl lead; and tetramethyl lead.

The international PIC website, www.pic.int, has Decision Guidance Documents (DGDs) for each of the chemicals listed. These Documents

provide basic information about a chemical's characteristics, plus a summary of the health and environmental reasons why various countries took action to ban or severely restrict the chemical. Decision Guidance Documents can be found at www.pic.int/en/Table7.htm.

Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals
Australia has notified that chrysotile asbestos and the amphibole forms of asbestos are severely restricted chemicals in Australia and, as such, must meet certain obligations. This includes the provision of Export Notification before the first export in any calendar year to the Designated National Authority of the importing Party. Annex V of the Rotterdam Convention sets out the information to be included in the Export Notification. These obligations cease if the chemical is added to Annex III.

Imports and Exports
Countries participating in the Rotterdam Convention must advise whether they are prepared to import chemicals listed under PIC. Every six months, these import decisions are listed in a PIC Circular on the PIC website and can be accessed at www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.asp?id=266.

Compliance under Australian law
Recent regulations under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the Act) prohibit the export of PCBs, PCTs, hexabromobiphenyl, octabromobiphenyl, decabromobiphenyl and tris(2,3-dibromopropyl) phosphate, without prior authorisation from the Director, NICNAS.

Octabromobiphenyl, decabromobiphenyl and tris(2,3-dibromopropyl) phosphate were declared Priority Existing Chemicals in the July 2004 *Chemical Gazette* so that NICNAS could assess the uses and use patterns of these chemicals in Australia. Manufacturers and/or importers must apply for assessment before introducing these chemicals, or products containing these chemicals.

Under section 106 of the Act, it is an offence to introduce or export industrial chemicals that are subject to the Rotterdam Convention unless authorised by NICNAS. The associated penalty can be up to \$33,000 for an individual and \$165,000 for a corporation.

NICNAS's Innovation and Compliance Team is responsible for processing export authorisation applications and conducting audits of introducers and exporters of industrial chemicals.

NICNAS will be introducing guidance and information sessions for those companies that may be affected by the Rotterdam Convention.

Importers, manufacturers and exporters have a responsibility to keep relevant commercial documents relating to industrial chemicals for at least five years. Relevant commercial documents could include commercial invoices, orders and confirmations, bills of lading and airway bills, insurance certificates, receipts for purchase of goods, illustrated descriptive material and other records provided to Customs.

Further information about PIC is available on the NICNAS website at www.nicnas.gov.au, or from **Hana Hamdan**, Team Leader, Compliance, NICNAS
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matters

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What's new @ www.nicnas.gov.au

Web Statistics continue to rise
The NICNAS website continues to get a record number of hits, now at 25,040 a day. The AICS Online search service and the Special Chemical Gazette on Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) Reform Initiative have contributed to increased numbers.

New web resources
Special Chemical Gazette on Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/pdf/2004-specialgazette.pdf>

Scorecard on LRCC <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/obligations/reform/pdf/20040806-LRCCscorecard.pdf>

NICNAS Registration – Guidance notes <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/obligations/registration/guidancenotes.asp>

NICNAS Registration provisions – Important changes <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/obligations/registration/pdf/coreg-importantchanges.pdf>

Which chemicals are within the scope of NICNAS Registration? <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/obligations/registration/pdf/RIC0804.pdf>

Phthalates - Call for Information http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/pdf/2004aug_whole.pdf#page=62

Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/foreign/treaties/pic.asp>

Third Science Forum Presentations <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/news/scienceforum3.asp>

Chemical Gazette – May <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazettejun2004.asp>

Chemical Gazette – June <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazettejul2004.asp>

Chemical Gazette – July <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazetteaug2004.asp>

Chemical Gazette – August <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazettesept2004.asp>

Chemical Gazette – September <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazetteoct2004.asp>

Chemical Gazette - October <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/chemgazetteoct2004.asp>

For technical information regarding the NICNAS web site please contact:

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Assessing chemicals for your protection

New Parliamentary Secretary

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, has been appointed the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing. Mr Pyne has executive responsibility for the Therapeutic Goods Administration Group of Regulators, which includes NICNAS.

Mr Pyne was first elected to Federal Parliament in 1993 and has previously served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Family and Community Services.



Hon Christopher Pyne MP

ALL IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS MUST NOW REGISTER

All importers and manufacturers of industrial chemicals in Australia are required to register with NICNAS for 2004-05.

An annual registration fee of \$353 must be paid, regardless of the amount of industrial chemicals imported and/or manufactured during the year. The registration year runs from 1 September to 31 August.

Previously, only those who imported and manufactured industrial chemicals over the value of \$500,000 per year were required to register.

Reforms to the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the Act) provide the legislative framework for these changes.

Total value of industrial chemicals introduced annually	Annual Registration fee	Annual Registration Charge	Total
Tier 1 = \$1 – \$499,999	\$353	-	\$353
Tier 2 = \$500,000 – \$4,999,999	\$353	\$1,058	\$1,411
Tier 3 = \$5,000,000 or more	\$353	\$7,879	\$8,232

Concerns had been expressed within the industrial chemicals industry about the time required for assessment processes and the flexibility of the notification system, resulting in a new range of permits and certificates for low regulatory concern chemicals.

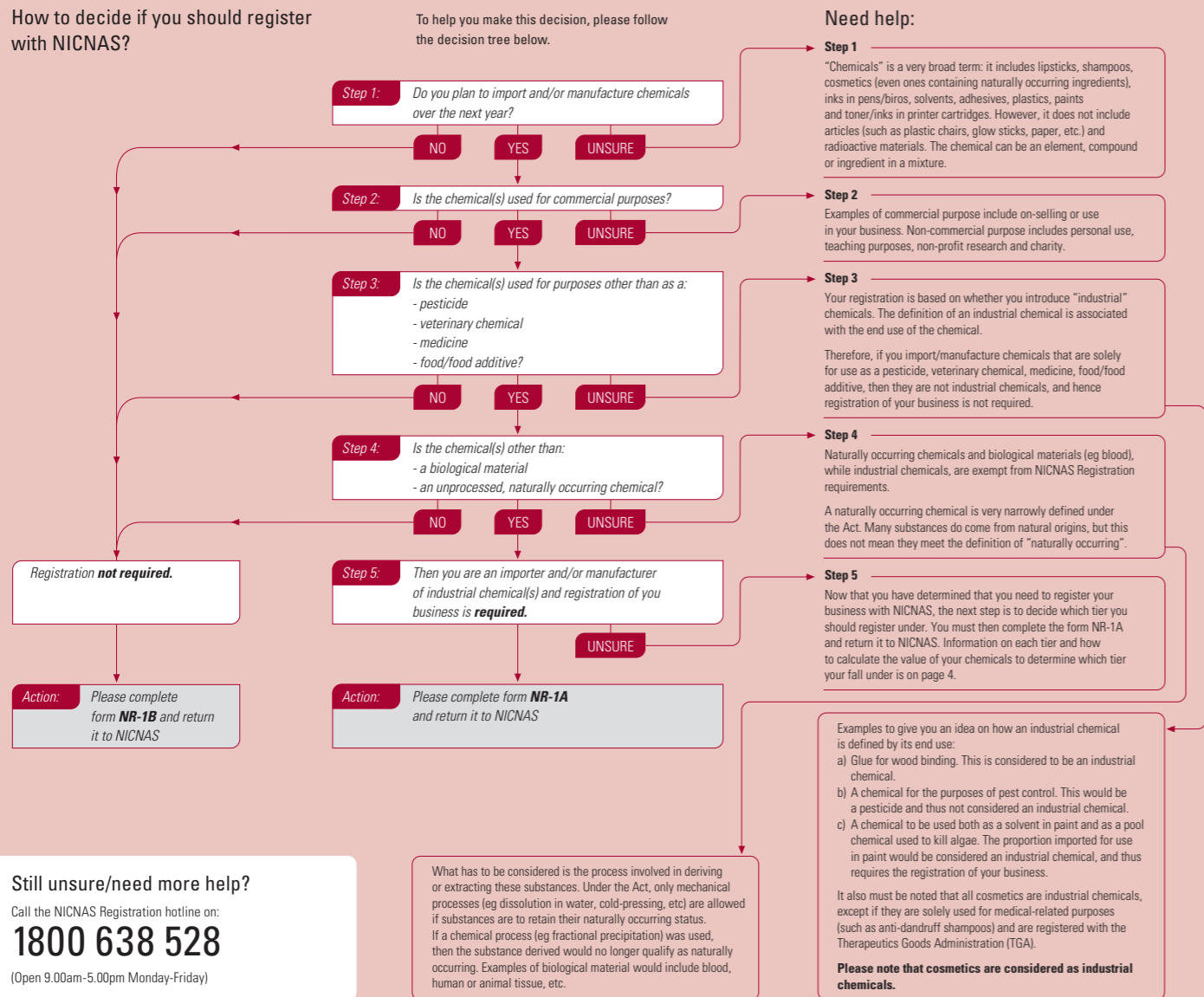
The resulting Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) Reform Initiative, developed in partnership with the industry, the community and government, offers an innovative approach and introduces flexibility into the regulation of industrial chemicals while improving health, safety, and environmental standards and public access to chemical safety information. The full range of changes is presented in a Special *Chemical Gazette*, which is available on the NICNAS website at: www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/pdf/2004-specialgazette.pdf.

The reforms also introduce new obligation on industry. The NICNAS website contains further information about your obligations. This information is also summarised in the LRCC Reform Initiative Implementation Scorecard Report at www.nicnas.gov.au/obligations/reform/pdf/20040806-LRCCscorecard.pdf, while the full Act is available at www.aph.gov.au.

If you have further enquires about the changes or your obligations, please call the Registration hotline on **1800 638 528**.

Please Note: NICNAS is running information sessions for industry around Australia on "Your Obligations Under NICNAS - NICNAS Registration". For more details on the seminar and upcoming venues please refer to www.nicnas.gov.au/news/seminar-nicnasrego.asp

How to decide if you should register with NICNAS?



Still unsure/need more help?

Call the NICNAS Registration hotline on:

1800 638 528

(Open 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday)

NICNAS warns about safe practices when using Methylene Chloride

NICNAS has issued an Alert for workers using methylene chloride in paint stripping.

Two workplace fatalities occurred in separate incidents in Australia last year when methylene chloride was used in open tanks for stripping paint from furniture. In each case the deceased person, who had been working alone, was discovered slumped over an open tank of methylene chloride. Very high levels of methylene chloride vapour were found in the air immediately above the open tanks.

The NICNAS Alert details how to use methylene chloride safely for paint stripping. The use of a less hazardous product or a different method of stripping paint is recommended. When this is not practicable, engineering controls and safe work practices can also reduce exposure.

Importantly, workers should not work alone when methylene chloride is used in open tanks for paint stripping.

Inhaling high levels of methylene chloride vapour can cause dizziness, headache, drowsiness, poor coordination, loss of consciousness and death.

Methylene chloride is widely used as a highly volatile solvent, not only in paint stripping, but also in adhesives, cold tank metal degreasing, urethane

foam manufacturing, print developing, aerosol products and as a process solvent in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Methylene chloride is included in the Australian High Volume Industrial Chemicals (HVIC) List.

NICNAS has also issued a Chemical Information Sheet on methylene chloride, which summarises information on human health effects from the International Programme on Chemical Safety – Environmental Health Criteria. This Information Sheet is available on the NICNAS website at www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/pdf/ecis_methylenechloride.pdf

The NICNAS Alert also includes information on the current regulatory controls and references for further information for the safe use of this chemical in the workplace.

Free copies of the Alert are available from NICNAS for distribution, and it is also available on the NICNAS web site at www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/pdf/Alert_3_methylenechloride.pdf

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Proposed Regulatory Activities for Phthalates

NICNAS has begun a review into the use of phthalate chemicals in Australia.

Phthalates are the most common group of chemicals used as plasticisers (plastic softeners). They are used in a diverse range of products and applications including automotive components, building and constructions materials, adhesive, cables, and paints. They are also used in toys, cosmetics, and medical devices such as flexible tubing, intravenous bags and catheters.

The Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS) lists more than 100 phthalates. However, Australian usage information is unavailable for the majority of these chemicals and concerns have been raised about their use in this country.

Regulatory controls have been adopted recently for a number of phthalates in the United States, the European Community, and Canada. Health concerns have been cited about potential adverse effects, particularly over the migration or leaching of phthalates from toys, childcare articles, and medical devices. It is important to note that the toxicity profiles of these phthalates chemicals differs.

In order to determine an appropriate regulatory response, NICNAS has recently conducted information searches and toxicity hazard screenings on the 30 most commonly used phthalates.

Final Report from the Chemicals and Plastics Leadership Group

In early August, the Chemicals and Plastics Leadership Group (CPLG) met with the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Irish Worth MP, and the then Industry Minister, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, to present their final report.

The CPLG, an industry-based task force, was formed to progress the Chemicals and Plastics Action Agenda. This Agenda provided a framework for industry to take part in various initiatives, particularly the Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) reform process.

The CPLG based its work on the Chemicals and Plastics Action Agenda's report, 'Underpinning Australia's Industrial Growth', and the Government's response and recommendations, including an effective regulatory system for industrial chemicals.

A major milestone was the Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals) Act 2004, which became law on August 9 this year.

In its report, the CPLG particularly welcomed the NICNAS LRCC reforms 'which have the effect of immediately excluding various low concern categories from unnecessary and bureaucratic requirements' and 'will be particularly beneficial for cutting the red tape burden for small business, as the low concern product markets can contain significant numbers of smaller firms'.

The report added that CPLG commended NICNAS's management and staff on both the speed and professional manner with which the reforms were developed and introduced.

Now, as part of a new, more comprehensive review, NICNAS is requesting specific information on a number of individual phthalate chemicals, and general comments on proposed regulatory actions.

All persons who have manufactured and/or imported phthalates into Australia during the past twelve months must provide the specified information sought in the August edition of the *Chemical Gazette* to the Director of NICNAS. In addition, all those with information on these chemicals, as well as past importers and/or manufacturers, are encouraged to provide this information to NICNAS.

The specific phthalates on which NICNAS is seeking information, an outline of the proposed regulatory activity and copies of the forms which should be filled in and sent to NICNAS, are available on the NICNAS website at: www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/gazette/pdf/2004aug_whole.pdf.

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Feedback from industry indicates that these regulatory changes will deliver significant savings in both assessment fees and time to market, and ease the introduction of newer, safer technologies into Australia.

The LRCC reforms have been highly regarded internationally: Australia (NICNAS) has been approached by the United States to consider bi-lateral arrangements on the basis of these reforms. A bi-lateral arrangement with the US Environmental Protection Agency is a major step forward, not only for harmonised regulatory approaches, but also for Australian industry and its competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS)

The Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS) currently lists more than 38,000 industrial chemicals in use in Australia.

Of these, more than 2,000 chemicals have been assessed by NICNAS as new chemicals. These are identified by the flag indicator in AICS online (<http://www.nicnas.gov.au/obligations/aics/search.asp>) as '**Assessed by NICNAS: Yes**'.

In addition, NICNAS will be introducing annotation of the AICS following the introduction of the Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals Reform. Thus, an assessed chemical in AICS may also have a **condition of use** annotation; for example, 'not to be used in cosmetics', where the chemical has been assessed for a particular use and the risk assessment has concluded that other possible uses of the chemical are not consistent with the protection of workers, the public or the environment.

For this reason, all introducers of an assessed chemical, and downstream users such as formulators, are encouraged to check that their use of the

Key NICNAS achievements 2003-04

Assessment – New Chemicals

- 392 notifications received: 208 assessment certificates (an increase of 16 per cent) and 184 permits (increase of 12 per cent) completed
- 61 Early Introduction Permits (EIP) issued, (56 per cent increase)
- 15 new chemicals authorised for confidential listing in AICS
- Over 600 Material Safety Data Sheets assessed and 32 hazardous chemicals classified
- Industry saves over \$83,000 under the foreign scheme
- Industry saves \$1.17million due to <10 kg exemption category
- No appeals of New Chemicals assessment decisions
- Interim arrangement for audited self-assessment for polymers of low concern

Assessment – Existing Chemicals

- Suite of supporting documents developed following targeted consultations in preparation for upcoming review of the Existing Chemicals program
- Published to time and quality:
 - full risk assessments on Sodium Alkylbenzene Sulfonate Anti-Valve Seat Recession Additive and Alkyl Phosphate Anti-Valve Seat Recession Additives;
 - over 30 other assessment reviews including three Safety Information Sheets, an Alert on Methylene Chloride use in paint stripping, five public health evaluations, 17 chemicals assessed for classification as sensitisers, and an environmental exposure report on six short chain chlorinated paraffins
- Peer reviewed 61 international chemicals assessments and agreed 124 assessments under international cooperation programs

Reform

- The Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals) Bill 2004 passed both Houses of Parliament
- Established framework for introduction of NICNAS mandatory registration
- Interim arrangements for self-assessment certificates for polymers of low concern operational with 15 per cent discount to industry and reduced time frames
- Commencement of bi-lateral discussions with the US EPA
- Science Forum on *International Harmonisation And Best Practice Approaches To Health Risk Assessment* hosted 25 September 2003
- Community Engagement Forum established
- Industry awareness training on NICNAS reforms

Compliance

- 30 cases resolved within the targeted timeframe of 100 days
- 107 registration cases resolved, 95 per cent within the targeted timeframe of 80 days
- 20 site visits made to raise awareness of industry's obligations
- Development of Rotterdam Convention Implementation Framework
- Joint compliance activity with Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on children's cosmetics
- NICNAS Inspectors' Manual developed as a guide to auditing and inspection techniques welcomed by states and territories and industry
- NICNAS staff complete Compliance Auditing training
- Compliance training seminars and workshops well received by industry

Communication

- 69.5 per cent increase in NICNAS website usage; 17,239 hits each day, over six million for the year
- Chemical inventory online with free access to all
- 154 media enquiries on chemical safety issues dealt with to target and performance satisfaction
- Service Charter performance targets met; survey results show high industry client satisfaction in relation to the:
 - relevance of publications, 91 per cent (8 per cent increase)
 - satisfaction with publications, 91 per cent (8 per cent increase)

chemical is in accordance with any special condition of use in AICS.

For introducers of an assessed chemical, these requirements are in addition to the normal secondary notification requirements which apply to all assessed chemicals. Secondary notification is triggered by a change in circumstances, for example, volume increase or change in use pattern.

Immediate listing of assessed chemicals in AICS

Under the Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) reforms to the NICNAS Act, assessed chemicals can be immediately listed in AICS without waiting for the normal five-year period. The listing will be in the non-confidential section of AICS only. If the request for listing is within 28 days of issue of the assessment certificate, no fee is applicable. However, a fee will be required for any immediate listing after the 28-days period.

Please contact the AICS Manager on 61 2 8577 8834 or email aics.officer@nicnas.gov.au to discuss any of these matters.