



## NICNAS Completes Phthalates Hazard Assessments and Compendium

In the first step of its two-part **PHTHALATES** strategy, NICNAS has released:

- (i) individual [hazard/toxicity assessments of 24 ortho-phthalate chemicals](#) identified as currently or potentially in use in Australia, and
- (ii) a [Phthalate Hazard Compendium](#) presenting summaries and comparisons of the toxic effects of the 24 phthalates.

### Phthalate chemical concerns

Concerns exist about the potential for adverse health effects for particular individuals (eg. reproductive and developmental effects in the young) of some phthalate chemicals. Because of similarities in physicochemical properties, substitution of one phthalate with another in particular applications is possible.

The assessments and Compendium provide updated information on toxicity and use of phthalates, a tool for comparing the toxicity of different commonly used phthalates, and key data gaps. The Compendium also serves as a resource for the selection of comparatively low hazard phthalates.

The data acquisition and assessment of so many chemicals and the separate publication of comparative toxicity, is a first for NICNAS.

### Next stage

The second part of NICNAS's phthalate assessment strategy is a series of public health risk assessments of particular phthalates in applications with the potential for high public exposure, particularly of the young. NICNAS is preparing public health risk assessments on nine phthalate chemicals used in children's toys, childcare articles and cosmetics. ■

*Details of the Phthalates assessments are provided on page 3.*

**Phthalates:** ubiquitous chemicals used as plasticisers (plastic softeners) and solvents in some industrial and consumer products; a significant number of phthalates is used worldwide.

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## A word from the Director ...

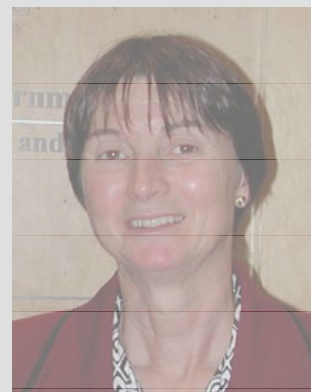
Welcome to our new format NICNAS Matters. This is something of a 'bumper' issue, covering a range of issues and activities in which NICNAS staff are currently engaged. We aim to publish NICNAS Matters every two months in 2008-09.

Currently, NICNAS's focus is on ensuring a more open industrial chemicals regulation scheme. We are responding to the findings of the Productivity Commission study into chemicals and plastics regulation, the draft report of which was made available earlier this year. The findings challenge both the way we do things and what we do.

You may have noticed that NICNAS has been more visible at recent conferences where industrial chemicals have been a focus, such as the Hazmat conference held in Melbourne in May. We are always keen to provide opportunities for people who are concerned with or about industrial chemicals - whether from the community, industry or the government sector - to engage with us.

Our regular training schedule is just one of the many ways that our commitment to provide accurate and timely information is being realised. I hope that you find something of interest in this newsletter, and welcome any comments or input you would like to make about the articles in it.

**Dr Marion Healy, Director, NICNAS**



### NICNAS 2008-09 Training Schedule

#### 2008

June	Customs Broker Training
August	Notifiers Update
Sept/ Oct	LRCC* Training
Nov	Introduction to NICNAS Cosmetics Regulation Notifiers Update

#### 2009

Feb	Notifiers Update
TBC	Disinfectants Regulation

## Our Industry Training Schedule


A commitment to enhancing understanding of new chemicals notification processes and compliance is pivotal to NICNAS's work. To further that commitment, two half-day **New Chemicals Fundamentals** workshops were held in Melbourne on 14 May.

The workshops, run in conjunction with this year's HAZMAT 2008 conference, reached a wider audience of potential and current new chemicals notifiers – especially people from around Australia who were also attending HAZMAT.

**Morning workshop** – aimed at new notifiers and those needing a refresher course on NICNAS and the notification and assessment process. Program included: AICS searching, exemptions, annual reporting, notification and assessment categories and an update on new LRCC\* categories.

**Afternoon workshop** – a more in-depth look at the notification and assessment process. Program included: electronic template submissions, self-assessments and tips for producing a 'complete' notification package .... *most suitable for those directly involved in preparing notification submissions.*

Please email: [industrytraining@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:industrytraining@nicnas.gov.au) if you are interested in attending a similar workshop in your area, so we can gauge the level of interest.

 To register interest in any of these courses, please email:  
[industrytraining@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:industrytraining@nicnas.gov.au) ■

\* Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals





### Assessing Phthalates

Nine phthalates were declared as PECs based on their use in infant toys, childcare articles, cosmetics and personal care products:

**diethylhexyl phthalate**

**diisodecyl phthalate**

**dimethyl phthalate**

**diisononyl phthalate**

**dibutyl phthalate**

**butylbenzyl phthalate**

**di-n-octyl phthalate**

**diethyl phthalate**

**bis(2-methoxyethyl) phthalate.**

In the second half of 2008, NICNAS plans to release to applicants draft reports for:

**diethylhexyl phthalate**

**diisononyl phthalate**

The remaining seven phthalate reports will be released by the end of 2008.

See cover story for more information about the Phthalate hazard assessments and Compendium.

## Existing Chemicals Assessment Update

Several Priority Existing Chemical (PEC) assessments are now under way.

### Triclosan

Full risk assessment covering occupational safety, public health and environmental risks. This report will be the first complete review, as no full review of Triclosan has ever been conducted in Australia or internationally. NICNAS has sponsored Triclosan into the OECD High Production Volume (HPV) Program. Following completion of the NICNAS report, documents for OECD Program will be finalised. The NICNAS assessment report will be released to Applicants in June 2008.

### Sodium Cyanide

Sodium Cyanide was declared for environmental risk assessment. This assessment – conducted for NICNAS by the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts – is the first NICNAS environmental risk assessment. The draft assessment is currently undergoing final review, and NICNAS will liaise with regulatory bodies to which recommendations are targeted, seeking agreement prior to release.

### Polybrominated Flame Retardants

*Pentabromodiphenyl ether, decabromodiphenyl ether, tetrabromobisphenol A, hexabromocyclododecane* are full risk assessments covering occupational, public health and environmental risk assessment. NICNAS's polybrominated flame retardants reports are expected to be released in draft form towards the end of 2008.

### Other assessments

NICNAS has completed three hazard assessments of chemicals found in consumer products: **1, 4 butanediol**, **methyldibromo glutaronitrile** and **diethylene glycol**, and submissions have been provided to the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee (NDPSC) for consideration for scheduling. NICNAS is close to completing assessment of the hazards of **Basic Red 46**. This chemical – used as a textile dye – is being assessed due to concerns over its allergenic potential.

The secondary notification assessment report on **OLOA 270** with the final report was published in May 2008, and the secondary notification of **Lanthanum Modified Clay** (Phoslock™) is currently under way.

Following on from the Lead report, NICNAS is contributing to a review of the lead component of the Uniform Paint Standard (Appendix I of the SUSDP) with the NDPSC Secretariat, in consultation with industry. Among other things, the review aims to clarify domestic and industrial regulatory controls. ■





## Existing Chemicals Technical Working Party gets down to the 'nitty gritty'



A corner of the NICNAS display at the HAZMAT conference, Melbourne, May 2008.

The NICNAS Implementation Steering Group (ISG) for the Existing Chemicals (EC) program review guides implementation of recommendations from the Final Report of the EC program review in accordance with an [implementation strategy](#).

At its met second (19 March 2008) meeting, the ISG finalised Work Charter and Technical Working Party (TWP) membership nomination details - getting down to the 'nitty gritty' of developing detailed options for implementing Stream 2 recommendations relating to assessment products, selection criteria and prioritisation processes.


While the ISG itself comprises representatives from industry, the community and government (with Dr Matthew Gredley as NICNAS's representative and Dr Marion Healy, NICNAS Director, as Chair), the ISG invited nominees onto the TWP for an early June meeting. Visiting environmental and health experts from Canada are also assisting NICNAS in this work (*see separate story, page 5*).

ISG members at the second meeting assisted NICNAS draft terms of reference for a consultancy related to scoping a nationally-coordinated mechanism for reporting adverse events (Stream 3 recommendations). The consultancy – to go to tender in June – will gather information on existing data-collection systems that will form the basis for subsequent activities of a Stream 3 TWP to be convened later this year.

The ISG's [Terms of Reference](#) and [Membership](#) are available on the [NICNAS website](#).

NICNAS is directly implementing various other less technical streams of recommendations, with the assistance of the Community Engagement Forum (CEF) and States and Territories Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Group. These streams relate to communications, consultation mechanisms and on-going best practice. Current activities towards implementing these recommendations include:

- further development of a 'Who's who and what do they do' guide to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various government agencies involved in industrial chemicals regulation
- drafting of a new, plain English guide to the Existing Chemicals Program, and
- discussions with heads of various states and territories agencies responsible for human and environmental health to examine ways that NICNAS can improve its coordination and consultation processes beyond its existing consultation mechanisms on occupational health and safety.

 For more information on the implementation of recommendations of the Existing Chemicals review, please contact [Dr Matthew Gredley](#).

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## Overseas Visitors Promote Sustainable, Safer and Greener Chemicals

### NICNAS welcomes Bette Meeks

Bette Meeks of *Health Canada* and the University of Ottawa, recently presented at NICNAS staff scientific seminars. At *Health Canada*, Bette – who has vast toxicology and risk assessment expertise – managed the Existing Substances Division in the Safe Environments Programme, with responsibilities related to the development and implementation of process and methodology for assessing the effects on human health of Existing Substances under the Canadian *Environmental Protection Act*. This included setting priorities for assessment from among all 23,000 commercial chemicals used in Canada.

Bette shared her experience – including in developing methodology for and evaluating health-related data on environmental contaminants – with NICNAS staff, including our own two Canadians: Melissa Shaw and Peter Robinson (pictured with Bette, at right).

A recent NICNAS-hosted visit from *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* staff-member Clive Davies signalled moves towards even closer collaboration between Australian and US chemical regulators.

Clive's March 2008 visit followed meetings last November between NICNAS Director Dr Marion Healy, Jim Gulliford (*US EPA's* Assistant Administrator) and Charlie Auer (*US EPA's* Head of Pollution Prevention and Toxics office). Clive, Chief of the Design for the Environment (DfE) Branch in the Pollution Prevention Office, gave new momentum to plans for information exchange on chemical regulation and management in the two countries, as well as fresh opportunities for furthering collaboration between US EPA and NICNAS.

The DfE program provides a framework for identifying chemicals of concern and their effective and sustainable substitutions with safer/greener alternatives using chemical assessment tools and expertise from within the Pollution Prevention and Toxics office.

As well as promoting and maintaining multi-stakeholder partnerships between industry, NGOs\* and experts, the framework considers environmental and public impacts in concert with business realities. The approach of fostering partnerships has established the DfE's profile as the forum of choice for pressing issues in chemical sustainability and a valuable government agency tool for implementing Green Chemistry.

A major outcome of the safer chemical partnership program has been the development of a 'green' database, incorporating chemical ingredients evaluated to be safer and greener alternatives to existing chemicals of concern. This approach resulted in reduced use of chemicals of concern in the USA in 2006 by over 81 million kilograms.

At NICNAS, Clive provided staff with an overview of DfE's work. In Canberra he met with other Australian Government departmental representatives. New Zealand and China were next on Clive's trip in the Asia Pacific region, to meet with environmental and chemical regulation authorities and industry. ■

\* Non Government Organisations





## Enhanced Foreign Scheme Notifications with Canada

NICNAS is moving towards greater recognition of assessments by international partners.

### Standard and Limited notifications

Standard and Limited category notifications of new chemicals to NICNAS can now attract reduced up-front fees if the chemical has already been assessed in Canada.

Under 'Recognition as a Foreign Scheme' arrangements (commenced 1 November 2007) certain criteria must be met in order to use the new foreign scheme assessment categories (STD-FS and LTD-FS). Importantly, assessments of the chemical in Canada and Australia must be in comparable categories with similar datasets and the Canadian reports must be available to NICNAS.

Fees in the STD-FS and LTD-FS are 40% lower than the corresponding STD and LTD fees because NICNAS uses the hazard evaluation from the Canadian assessment when assessing a new chemical in the STD-FS and LTD-FS categories. Other sections of the risk assessment are conducted by NICNAS.

Australian notifiers need to liaise with Canadian counterparts – well in advance of the notification to NICNAS – to arrange release of Canadian reports to NICNAS and to check which Schedule notification applied in Canada.

For more information see: [Revised Guidance Material](#) and [Q&A](#) under 'Recognition of Canada as a foreign scheme' in the [Foreign Scheme Notifications in the New Chemicals section](#), NICNAS website.

If criteria for FS categories are not met *but* the Canadian reports are available, notifiers can use normal STD and LTD categories to receive a partial rebate up to 40% at the end of the assessment. This continues the previous transitional arrangements applicable to chemicals already assessed in the EU. Please see [March 2004 Chemical Gazette](#) for more information.

### Polymers of low concern (PLC) notifications

For polymers notified in the PLC category, an Early Introduction Permit (EIP) can be issued free of charge when the Canadian assessment was as a low concern polymer. Australian notifiers should include a copy in their notification of the letter (sent by *Environment Canada* to the Canadian applicant when the assessment was finalised) validating the assessment category and outcome.

### Co-notifications

While the above arrangements refer to situations where a new chemical is notified in Australia after being assessed in another country, another option applies if it is planned to notify a new chemical in two or more OECD countries.

Co-notification and assessment under the OECD *Mutual Acceptance of Notifications (MAN) Parallel Process\** for New Chemicals allows a work-sharing arrangement between government authorities in OECD countries and saves time to market, while potentially providing for a saving in assessment fees. Under the current pilot program, one country takes the lead in preparing a hazard assessment and the other countries participate as secondary countries. Normal assessment fees apply if Australia is the lead country but a 40% rebate applies if Australia is a secondary country. For further details please see [March 2006 Chemical Gazette](#).

NICNAS continues to explore ways of strengthening our use of overseas assessments and is working towards extending Canadian 'Recognition as a Foreign Scheme' arrangements to the PLC category. ■



Information, assistance and advice is available from NICNAS's Notification and Assessment Team on 02 8577 8870

\* see page 9 for more details





## New NICNAS publications

### REPORTS

- New regulatory framework for disinfectants (Disinfectants Final Report to Stakeholders, February 2008)
- Guide to proposed changes to regulation of disinfectants
- Assessment reports and Hazard compendium for 24 Phthalate chemicals

### BROCHURES

- Service Charter 2007-08
- NICNAS Community Engagement Forum
- NICNAS Community Engagement Charter

### CHEMICAL GAZETTES

- June 2008
- May 2008
- April 2008
- March 2008

### INFORMATION SHEETS AND ALERTS

- Lead in Cosmetics (March 2008 revision)
- [Phthalates](#)

### NEWSLETTERS

- Community Engagement Bulletin (Autumn 2008)

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- PEC Program Candidate list of Chemicals as at January 2008

## Disinfectant reforms

A review of the regulatory framework for certain classes of disinfectant products is being undertaken in response to recommendation 4.61 of the [Banks Report \(Rethinking Regulation\)](#). The review is a joint undertaking by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and NICNAS. The [NICNAS e-newsletter of December 2007](#) provides more details.

An independent consultant's report, released on 28 February for public comment, can be found with associated documents on either [the NICNAS](#) or [TGA website](#).

### The proposal

All disinfectant products are currently regulated as therapeutic devices. The report makes five recommendations based on an analysis of the consequences of product failure. The consultant recommends that the regulatory responsibility for hard surface disinfectants and sanitisers for use in low risk applications (such as household and commercial use) be transferred from the TGA to NICNAS.

There are some important differences between the NICNAS and TGA schemes – such as that TGA registers products whereas NICNAS is a chemical-based notification and assessment scheme. But despite these differences, it is intended that current health and safety standards be maintained through regulatory and administrative processes.

Safeguards will be finalised after proper consultation during the public comment period. The independent review and comments received will form the basis of a discussion paper that includes recommendations for a new regulatory framework for disinfectants

Public meetings were held in Sydney on 1 April 2008 and in Melbourne on 7 April 2008 with [presentations by TGA and NICNAS](#) staff. The consultant has proposed a number of recommendations and options for regulatory reform of disinfectants and has put forward a preferred model to implement reform.

### Next steps

28 April 2008	Closing date for public submissions
mid-June 2008	Government response
late 2008	Implementation strategy including further consultation
late 2009	Commencement of reforms ■



For further information please contact:

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Freecall: 1800 638 528





## What is Nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is engineering at the atomic or molecular level. It is a group of enabling technologies involving manipulation of matter at the nanoscale - where chemical and physical properties of materials can change, such as in colour and the ability to conduct electricity.

Engineering at this scale can create new materials, structures and devices. Nanomaterials are generally accepted to be those intentionally produced to have specific properties or composition, and at least one dimension typically between 1 and 100 nanometres; where one nanometre (nm) is  $10^{-9}$  of a metre, or one-millionth of a millimetre (refer to the figure, lower right).

Nanotechnology has applications across a number of industry sectors including paints and surface coatings, electronics, plastics, cosmetics and medicine. Some examples of industrial nanomaterials (and their uses) include: acrylic latex (surface coatings - paints), zinc oxide (cosmetics - sunscreen), and carbon black (surface coatings - pigments).

## Nanomaterials – big activities for small things

**Nanotechnology presents Australia with potential for innovation that must be balanced with health, safety and environmental considerations. Fully aware of these considerations, NICNAS is acting at national and international levels to maintain appropriate regulatory oversight and ensure continued safe and sustainable use of industrial nanomaterials.**

### NICNAS activities

People from industry, the community and academia have been nominated for the NICNAS Nanotechnology Advisory Group (NAG), established to advise on strategies to address regulatory and safety impacts of nanomaterials. Terms of reference and membership details are available on the [NICNAS website](#).

During the NAG's inaugural meeting in March 2008, members agreed on a two year work-plan which complements NICNAS's objectives of improving and maintaining stakeholder engagement. The group also adopted a working definition of industrial nanomaterials and addressed risk assessment and management issues for nanomaterials.

The NAG has provided ideas and approaches to progress improvements associated with nanomaterials, such as reviewing the current state of nanomaterials in Australia and publishing nanotechnology information products. NICNAS is investigating the best way to implement these suggestions, including monitoring the success of British and American initiatives.

NICNAS actively participates in the [National Nanotechnology Strategy](#), including the Health, Safety and Environment Working Group (a cross-department and multi-agency group) designed to facilitate communication and harmonisation across government. NICNAS is also an active member of Standards Australia NT-001 committee, which is part of the International Organisation for Standardisation Technical Committee on nanotechnologies.

... continued page 12.





### OECD New Chemicals Task Force

With the inception of *Mutual Acceptance of Notifications (MAN)* – a concept where a new chemical can be marketed in more than one country on the basis of a single notification while maintaining protection of human health and the environment – the '*parallel process*' was established as a mechanism to notify chemicals in parallel in multiple jurisdictions. The short-term objective of the *parallel process* is to achieve mutual acceptance of hazard assessments by all participating countries, and the pilot *parallel process* phase tested how this process works in practice.

A second item of the New Chemicals Task Force aims to harmonise key definitions in the regulation of industrial chemicals and polymers and work towards a common approach for substances either exempt from notification or subject to reduced regulatory requirements. This has identified polymers, and particularly low concern polymers, as suitable for such an approach.

The New Chemicals Task Force meeting in June 2008 is focusing on discussion about Task Force activities and opportunities to maximise *parallel process* participation.

## International chemical safety update

### Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

POPs – chemicals that are highly toxic, persistent, bio-accumulate and move long distances in the environment – pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment even at low concentrations.

Several industrial chemicals are currently under discussion within the Stockholm Convention for possible listing. Discussion of the chemicals – including Octabromodiphenyl ether (octaBDE), Pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE), Hexabromobiphenyl, Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and Short chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) – are at different stages. Risk profiles are being finalised for SCCPs and octaBDE, and risk management evaluations are under way for Hexabromobiphenyl, PFOS and penta BDE. Following finalisation of risk management evaluation, the Technical Committee will make a decision on whether the chemicals should or should not be listed in the Convention and will forward a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties.

### Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Convention, which assists in information exchange:

- allows Parties to learn more about the characteristics of certain potentially hazardous chemicals and certain severely hazardous pesticide formulations that may be exported to them
- initiates decision-making on the future import of these chemicals and formulations by the countries themselves, facilitating dissemination of these decisions to other participating Parties, and
- requires exporting countries to comply with the decisions.

The Convention covers certain industrial chemicals and pesticides but does not involve international bans. Decision-making on future import of a chemical included in the Convention lies with each participating Party.

One industrial chemical – Chrysotile – was notified for consideration at the Fourth Meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (Geneva, March 2008). The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of Parties will be held in Rome, 27-31 October 2008.

*For details of a recent SIAM meeting, please turn to page 12.*



Please contact the Notification and Assessment Team at NICNAS if you would like to provide comments/ideas on the OECD *parallel process* or other Task Force activities (as detailed in the left-hand column).





## News in brief

**Saponification: the making of soap**

Most soap making (or saponification) is a chemical reaction between oil or fat and a strong alkali such as potassium or sodium hydroxide (lye) and hence this process is regarded by NICNAS as the manufacture of relevant industrial chemicals. Under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* all Australian importers and/or manufacturers of relevant industrial chemicals for commercial purposes are required to register with NICNAS. A Fact Sheet will be available on our website soon. ■

**Are skin-whiteners cosmetics?**

Products that produce a skin-whitening effect by colouring the surface of skin are regarded as cosmetics. However, if the product influences, inhibits or modifies a physiological process to produce the skin-whitening effect then it does not meet the definition of a cosmetic product under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989*. An example of a skin-whitening product that does not meet the cosmetic definition is one that contains hydroquinone (or a derivative of hydroquinone), which inhibits the physiological process of melanin production. For further information including a plain English interpretation of the legislation see the [Cosmetics Guidelines](#). ■

## Cosmetics reform update

Reform to the regulation of cosmetics in Australia is well under way following the passage of *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Cosmetics) Bill 2007* through Parliament in September 2007. These amendments to the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* introduced a new [Cosmetics Standard](#). It sets standards for certain cosmetic product categories formerly regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). These product categories include face and nail products (including products intended for the lips with sunscreen); moisturising and sunbathing products with sunscreen; antibacterial skin products; anti-acne products; oral hygiene products; and anti-dandruff products. New NICNAS Cosmetics Guidelines provide a plain English guide to the new legislative requirements and apply to all cosmetics.

The Cosmetics industry was provided with early access to the outcomes of the cosmetics reforms from February 2006 (pending amendment to the legislation) via individual written agreements with the Director on a product-by-product basis. These individual agreements were enforceable through a permit system and required such information as product composition, introduction volume, and the status of chemical ingredients with regard to the *Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances* (AICS). A total of 206 permits for individual products were issued to 46 companies.

To help industry refine their working knowledge of cosmetics regulation, NICNAS compliance officers audited these 206 cosmetic permits during 2007.

Overall, NICNAS documented a high level of compliance, indicating a good understanding of the new cosmetic guidelines. Several products, however, were found to contain possible therapeutic claims or comments in labelling and advertising materials. Unresolved issues raised during the audits are being managed in accordance with the NICNAS enforcement policy and cosmetic auditing will be an ongoing component of future NICNAS audit programs.

Cosmetic introducers are reminded that the definition of a cosmetic does not include a therapeutic good within the meaning of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*. The definition of a therapeutic good includes products which are capable of influencing, inhibiting or modifying a physiological process in persons, in addition to those products which are capable of curing, preventing, or alleviating disease of ailment. ■



For more information about cosmetics regulation in Australia please see the [Cosmetics](#) page on our website. For more information on Saponification, please contact [Adrienne Adams](#) on 02 8577 8858.






## Implementing remaining LRCC reforms

### News in brief

#### Control on International trade in Industrial Chemicals

The Australian Government ratified the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade on 20 May 2004. PIC obligations under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* entered into force for Australia on 18 August 2004.

Any company or persons intending to import or export an industrial PIC listed chemical under the Rotterdam Convention, must first have approval from NICNAS. ■

 For more information, please visit [Rotterdam Convention](#) on the NICNAS website or call 1800 638 528.

#### Update on outstanding reforms

Regulations are currently being drafted to implement outstanding items arising from Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) initiatives:

- increase in volume for low hazardous chemicals introduced under the Low Volume Chemical (LVC) Permit system
- introduction of highly controlled low risk chemicals under the Controlled Use Permit (CUP) system
- extension of the Early Introduction Permit (EIP) system to low hazardous and controlled use chemicals
- modular assessment of chemicals for which another assessment is available, eg. assessed by another assessment authority or introduction of an analogue of a previously assessed chemical, and
- free EIP for non-hazardous chemicals and polymers and polymers of low concern.

These recommendations will be introduced in stages, with changes to the LVC, CUP and EIP permit categories becoming available before changes to the certificate notification system (modular assessment). The first of the new categories were expected to be available by June 2008, with all remaining recommendations implemented in 2008-09.

Guidance will be included in both the [Handbook for notifiers](#) and the application forms to help notifiers determine whether their chemical meets the criteria established for the new categories. NICNAS is also planning training on these new notification categories during 2008-09 (see article on [Industry Training](#) on page 2).

#### About LRCC

The LRCC reform program commenced on 19 November 2002 when the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Trish Worth MP, announced the establishment of a task force to investigate the reform of the regulation of industrial chemicals.

Technical working groups were established by the LRCC Task Force to explore options for LRCC and investigate the feasibility of implementation in Australia. Following consideration by the working groups and extensive industry, government and community consultation, the Final Report was published in June 2003, with an Implementation Strategy published in July 2003.

A number of the recommendations contained in that report were able to be implemented quickly but certain recommendations required a longer timeframe as criteria needed to be established. Following further technical working groups and consultation, proposals for implementation of these outstanding recommendations were detailed in the [November 2007 Chemical Gazette](#).

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## Coming events calendar

### In AUSTRALIA

#### August

3-7 [5th SETAC World Congress](#)

(Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry), Sydney

### INTERNATIONAL

#### September

15-17: *Chemical Notification World Summit*, Virginia, USA

#### October

20-24: *Rotterdam Convention Conference of Parties 4*, Rome, Italy (DEW)

#### November

TBC: *OECD Registration Steering Group / Risk Reduction Steering Group / Working Group on Pesticides / Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology*, Paris, France (APVMA/DAFF)

#### TBC

*Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee –4*, (DEW)

## International Chemical Safety update – SIAM

(continued from page 9)

A NICNAS representative attended the 26th Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) Initial Assessment Meeting (SIAM 26) at OECD Headquarters in April 2008. These meetings are held within the OECD High Production Volume (HPV) Program. NICNAS participates at SIAMs to discuss matters relating to industrial chemicals and to provide input into the hazard assessment reports conducted by other countries. The reports generated through the OECD HPV Program are used as a basis for national Priority Existing Chemical (PEC) reports resulting in shorter assessment times. OECD SIAMs are also a useful forum for building and maintaining international contacts and alliances.

At the April meeting, 24 substances were discussed and 12 had their draft SIDS Initial Assessment Profiles (SIAP) agreed. SIAPs are summaries of the assessment reports of chemicals discussed at the meetings. It was agreed that ten substances from two separate chemical categories and two other substances would be agreed via written procedure on the OECD SIAM extranet. The SIAM discussed the proposed changes to the guidance on the preparation of SIAPs and the new SIAP template. The meeting agreed with the Australian proposal to move the physical-chemical properties from the environment section to the start of the SIAP, before the human health section.

The representative also attended the launch of the OECD Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR) Application Toolbox. The workshop demonstrated key features and main functionalities of the toolbox. The QSAR Toolbox is a software application to be used by member countries in filling data gaps based on molecular structure for assessing the hazards of chemicals. ■

## Nanomaterials – big activities for small things

(continued from page 8)

NICNAS represents Australia on the [Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials](#), under the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It aims to promote international cooperation for responsible research, development and commercialisation of nanotechnology. NICNAS is taking the lead role on the working party, by developing a health, safety and environment database. NICNAS is also actively involved with projects testing standard nanomaterials, and validating test methods (alternate and standard) for nanomaterials.

NICNAS made a call for information on industrial nanomaterials in commerce in the [February 2006 issue of the Chemical Gazette](#). [Summarised results, released in January 2007](#) showed the majority of industrial nanomaterials in Australia were at volumes of less than ten tonnes per year, and used in surface coatings, cosmetics, printing, water treatment, catalysts and some domestic products. ■



For further information on nanomaterials, please contact:  
[Dr Matthew Gredley](#).





## NICNAS staff news

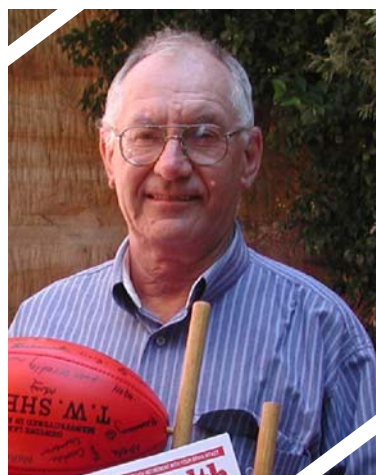


### The Duleep Jayamanne Award for Fellowship

Louise Stedman of the Notification and Assessment team was awarded the award for fellowship at NICNAS's Harmony Day 2008 celebration on 16 April. The award is given annually to a NICNAS staff member who displays loyalty and dedication to the organisation, camaraderie and fellowship among colleagues and a genuine love of life and a positive attitude. Dr Roshini Jayewardene, last year's winner, presented the 2008 award to Louise (left).

### Departures

One of NICNAS's longest-serving staff members – Bob Graf (left) – made a big 'leap' when he retired on 29 February 2008 after over 15 years with NICNAS. Bob – who'd worked in many positions and led all NICNAS assessment areas at some time – was leader of the Reform team at the time of his retirement. His commitment to the reform process and his long and diverse experience at NICNAS were balanced by his strong work ethic, his strategic thinking, and his results, drive, integrity and sense of fun in the workplace. In 2004 he won NICNAS's Duleep Jayamanne Award for Fellowship.



### Arrivals (by team):

We have welcomed new team members to:

**Notification and Assessment** Ms Youmie Chong, Mr Mark Horsham, Ms Robyn Thomsen

**Review and Treaties** Dr Usha Garg, Ms Maureen Hardy, Mr Peter Robinson, Ms Melissa Shaw

**Reform** Mr Curtis Crasto

**Compliance & Reporting** Dr Adrienne Adams, Ms Heba Ibrahim, Ms Kylie Walker

**Business Management & Communications** Ms Criselda Siazon, Ms Jean Tisoy

**2008 Year in Industry student** Ms Marianne Hernandez ■

## Contacting NICNAS

Do you have an industrial chemicals issue or matter you would like to raise with us?

Please feel free to call or write to us. Our contact points are listed below.

### Contact us:

**Freecall:** 1800 638 528

**Email:** [info@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:info@nicnas.gov.au)

**Post:** GPO Box 58,  
 SYDNEY  
 NSW 2001  
 AUSTRALIA

## Implementation of remaining LRCC reforms

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A number of the LRCC reform initiatives have been in operation now for 3-4 years, and the effectiveness and efficiency of these reforms have not yet been evaluated. NICNAS is planning to undertake an evaluation of the LRCC reforms implemented in 2004-05, including analysis of the impacts of these reforms on Government, Industry and the Community. ■

