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**Don't get bitten: ignorance is no longer a valid excuse.**

## DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

The Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulations has introduced into Australia a new system of chemical classification and hazard communication called the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS). This system will eventually replace current systems used for classifying the hazards of workplace chemicals and will standardise hazard information on labelling and in safety data sheets. Workplaces in states that have not adopted the model WHS legislation will still be affected by the introduction of the GHS as labels and safety data sheets are written to the new format and interstate and overseas customers demand the requirements of the GHS are complied with.

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) continues to confuse many people involved with dangerous goods in the workplace. The GHS, combined with various and changing state legislations is not an easy subject to understand.

Safe Work Australia is hosting a series of training and information sessions to raise awareness and understanding of the hazard classification, safety data sheet and labelling requirements for workplace chemicals in the model Work Health and Safety regulations, which incorporates the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The aim of these sessions is to enable you to:

- understand the GHS and what it aims to do.
- to learn the relationship with the GHS and hazard systems that have been used in Australia for nearly 20 years, and
- learn how to translate current chemical hazard classifications to the GHS.

Training sessions are **free of charge** for participants and are being held in most capital cities and in some regional centres.

Following are a list of dates, venues and contact details should you wish to attend:

### Canberra

28 May 2013 Canberra Eastlake Function Room 3 Oxley Street, Kingston 2603 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm [ghscanberra@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghscanberra@noel-arnold.com.au)

### Melbourne

18 June 2013 Saxons Training Facilities, Level 8, 500 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 9.30am – 1.30pm. Session 2 1.30pm - 4.30pm [ghsmelbourneam@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghsmelbourneam@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Geelong

19 June 2013 Mercure Hotel Geelong Cnr Gheringhap & Myers St, Geelong  
3220 1.30pm – 4.30pm [ghsgeelong@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghsgeelong@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Adelaide

2 July 2013 Adelaide Royal Coach Motor Inn 24 Dequettville Terrace, Kent Town, 5067  
9.30am – 12.30pm. Session 2 1.30pm – 4.30pm [ghsadelaideam@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghsadelaideam@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Perth

4 July 2013 Travelodge Perth 417 Hay Street, Perth 6000. 9.30am – 12.30pm.  
Session 2 1.30pm – 4.30pm [ghspertham@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghspertham@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Brisbane

10 July 2013 Institute of Engineers Australia 447 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane 7000  
9.30am – 12.30 pm. Session 2 1.30pm – 4.30pm [ghsbrisbaneam@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghsbrisbaneam@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Townsville

11 July 2013 Mercure Hotel Townsville 106 Woolcock Street, Currajong 4812 9.30am  
– 12.30 pm [ghstownsville@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghstownsville@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Newcastle

16 July 2013 Hunter Business Centre 265 King Street, Newcastle 2300 1.30  
pm-12.30pm [pmghsnewcastle@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:pmghsnewcastle@noel-arnold.com.au)

## Sydney

17 July 2013 Saxons Training Facilities Level 10, 10 Barrack Street, Sydney 2000  
9.30am – 12.30pm. Session 2 1.30pm – 4.30pm [ghssydneyam@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:ghssydneyam@noel-arnold.com.au)

## INFORMATION CHECKLISTS

Handling and managing dangerous goods in the workplace can be a complex discipline. Classifications, packages, risk assessment, manifests and comprehensive record keeping are just a few roles WHS and Facility Managers have to undertake on a regular basis. Check Lists are available from most regulatory bodies, however, being able to locate them is not always easy. Here are a few free downloadable check lists which may be of use:

- Package Store Risk Assessment; [Package Store Risk assessment Checklist](#)
- Cabinet Risk Assessment; [Cabinet Risk Assessment Checklist](#)
- Shower Eye/face wash weekly inspection check list; [Shower Eye/Face wash WEEKLY inspection check list](#)
- Shower Eye/face wash annual inspection check list; [Shower Eye/Face wash ANNUAL inspection check list](#)

- Shower Eye/face wash location log; [Shower Eye/Face wash LOCATION log](#)
- Dangerous Goods workplace check list; [Dangerous Goods Workplace Check List](#)

Also available for your information are these informative documents which have been designed to assist with dangerous goods management.

- FAQ Oxy Acetylene and LPG equipment; [FAQ oxy acetylene equipment](#)
- Chemical Manifest Audit Guide; [Chemical Manifest Audit Guide](#)
- Australian Standards Dangerous Goods Guide; [Guide to Australian Standards Dangerous Goods](#)
- Venting of Chemical Storage Cabinets; [Venting of Chemical Storage Cabinets](#)

Should you require any additional information or advice, including product details and specifications, please visit our web site at [www.store-safe.com](http://www.store-safe.com) or contact a registered Dangerous Goods Consultant through the AIDGC.

### **AIDGC Newsletter Update**

The most recent issue of the AIDGC Newsletter ([Click here to download](#)) contains a number of informative and interesting articles and news items. These include:

- A comprehensive article from AIDGC member Frank Mendham on the changing Planning Laws in Queensland and focuses the impacts on HazChem and MHF industries.
- An EPA probe of the CFA's Friskville (Vic) training base which could see the CFA facing a \$600,000 fine for hazardous materials storage and potential contamination of water sources.
- WorkSafe crackdown on industrial premises around Warrnambool resulting in 129 infringements issued'.
- A Northern Territory company was found guilty and fined \$120,000 over a gas explosion that killed one of its employees in December 2011. A 24 year old refrigeration mechanic was heading to work when he activated the keyless entry to a work van, causing an explosion. The van, which had been parked overnight, contained a number of pressurized gas cylinders. Some of the cylinders contained Acetylene and MAPP Gas, both gasses are highly flammable. The cylinders had leaked during the night, filling the vehicle with the flammable gas.
- **Proposed Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods** Public comment is invited on the proposed Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods. Copies can be obtained by contacting WorkSafe on 1800 136 089 or by ([downloading the proposed code here \(PDF 1.3mb\)](#)).
- The recent fertilizer plant tragedy in the US is just the latest in a number of global incidents. Whilst not the largest incident of its kind, it joins the following top 10 industrial incidents in US history:

**1. Texas City Explosion (c.550-600 deaths):** The worst industrial disaster in US history took place on April 16, 1947 in the port city of Texas City, TX. Shortly after 8 a.m. workers preparing to resume loading the cargo ship, *SS Grandcamp*, with explosives grade ammonium nitrate discovered a fire in the engine room of the ship. An estimated 2,300 tons of ammonium nitrate were already aboard the ship at 9:12 a.m. when the first of two explosions occurred. The initial explosion was so massive, the damage so great, and heat so intense that 16 hours later at 1:10 a.m. a second cargo ship, *SS High Flyer*, also carrying ammonium nitrate exploded violently.

**2. Port Chicago Disaster (320 deaths):** On the evening of July 17, 1944 the enlisted men and civilian employees of the Naval Ammunition Depot of Port Chicago, CA were busy hand loading two cargo ships with munitions destined for the Pacific Theatre war effort. At the time of the incident the cargo vessel *SS E.A. Bryan*, after 4 days of loading, had an estimated 4,600 tons of explosives on board. The second cargo vessel, the *SS Quinault Victory*, which had just begun loading that evening was docked at the pier, which had 430 tons of bombs waiting to be loaded onto the ship. Adjacent to the pier was a train of 10 boxcars filled with munitions also waiting to be loaded onto the vessel

**3. Piper Alpha (167 deaths):** Though technically not on US soil, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industrial accident took place on an oil platform in the North Sea that was owned and operated by an American company. Los Angeles based, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, also has the dubious honour of having the largest oil platform accident in history. On July 16, 1988 an employee error resulted in an explosion and fire that claimed 167 lives.

**4. Triangle Shirtwaist Factory (146 deaths):** On the afternoon of March 25, 1911 a fire broke out on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Triangle Shirtwaist company located in New York City. Fire rescue was quick to arrive to the scene but efforts to fight the blaze were hampered due to ladders not being able to reach higher than 6 stories.

**5. Pemberton Mill Disaster (145 deaths):** Massachusetts' worst industrial accident (and 5 on or list) occurred on June 10, 1860 in the mill town of Lawrence, MA. Suddenly, and violently, at about 5:45 p.m. the 5 story mill building gave way with as many as 600 people inside. Rescue workers worked into the night freeing many of the trapped workers, until an overturned lantern set the rubble ablaze. Family and rescue workers are reported saying they could hear the screams of trapped survivors as they were overtaken by the fire.

**6. Grover Shoe (58 deaths):** March 20, 1905 brought disaster to the town of Brokton, Massachusetts. An overworked steam boiler exploded at the Grover Shoe factory setting the 5 story factory ablaze.

**7. Little Rock AFB Titan Missile Silo (53 deaths):** Like something straight out of a cold war novel, on August 9, 1965, 53 workers were killed in a fire at a Titan missile silo. The cause of the fire was determined to be a welding rod damaging a hydraulic hose which allowed hydraulic vapours to leak and spread throughout silo, which were then ignited by an open flame source.

**8. Imperial Foods (25 deaths):** North Carolina's worst industrial accident took place on September 3, 1991 at the Imperial Foods chicken processing plant in Hamlet. A fire caused by a failure in a faulty modification to a hydraulic line resulted in 25

deaths at the facility.

**9. Phillips Disaster (23 deaths):** At approximately 1:00 p.m. on October 23, 1989 a massive explosions rocked the Phillips 66 chemical plant of Pasadena, TX. The initial explosion was so violent it register a 3.5 on the Richter scale and had a force of 2.4 tons of TNT. The subsequent fire took 10 hours to bring under control.

**10. Boston Molasses Disaster (21 deaths):** Boston's north end was the scene of the January 15, 1919 disaster in which a tank holding approximately 2.5 million gallons of molasses burst saturating the entire area in the sweetener. A wave as high as 15 feet and travelling as fast as 35mph quickly drowned 21 people and gave birth to the urban legend that even now on hot days the scent of molasses can still be smelled in the area.

We hope that this issue of our newsletter has been interesting and informative. Should you required information on storage and handling products please contact **Joe Carrillo in NSW 02 9569 2122** or **Glen Head in Qld 07 3245 3733** and **Grant Breeze in Vic 03 9314 0444** or our web site [www.store-safe.com](http://www.store-safe.com) .

Yours sincerely

Grant Breeze  
Managing Director

#### Store-Safe Office Locations

##### NSW

P: 02 9569-2122  
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Unit 4, 71-73 Lords Rd  
LEICHHARDT NSW  
2040

##### VIC

P: 03 9314-0444  
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Unit 23, 640-680  
Geelong Road  
BROOKLYN VIC  
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##### QLD

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Street  
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CAPALABA QLD 4157

##### WA

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AND SAFE HANDLING NEEDS

