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

DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the September issue of our industry newsletter. With 'Spring in the air' it could be a good time for organisations that store or use flammable liquids and dangerous goods to undertake annual inspections as a component of management best practice. For those facilities that employ safety data sheets as a component of dangerous goods management, annual inspections of both dangerous goods and storage facilities are check-listed.

For example, where a dangerous good or combustible liquid is stored in a tank, the tank and all associated pipe work are to be inspected by a competent person at twelve (12) monthly intervals (minimum), to ensure their integrity and serviceability.

Internal inspections of storage tanks are to be undertaken only by a competent person (i.e. usually the manufacturer) in accordance with specific manufacturer recommendations. Documented records of all storage tank inspections are to be made and kept by for as long as the storage tank remains in service at the particular site.

Like foodstuffs, most dangerous goods have an expiry date. We have all heard of expired chemicals and dangerous substances posing serious and dangerous threats to human health.

Likewise, it is important that dangerous goods stores are inspected annually. Corrosive chemical spills can corrode and destroy the integrity of stores and cabinets. We recommend that the floors, walls, bunds and door hinges are checked and sound. If the dangerous goods store or cabinet has extinguishers or spill kits, ensure that these too are inspected and are not out of date.

Store-Safe has a number of downloadable safety data sheets available from the web site at www.store-safe.com. We also recommend that, should you be in doubt, contact an accredited Dangerous Goods Consultant.

Metal dangerous goods cabinets are at risk of corrosion from spilt chemicals or bad housekeeping.



[Link to Dangerous Goods Storage Cabinets](#)

NEW CODE OF PRACTICE

Safe Work Australia, in association with all State Governments, has just released a new Code Of Practice for Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace . This Code provides practical guidance on how to manage health and safety risks associated with hazardous chemicals for persons conducting a business or undertaking who use chemicals in their workplace.

A person conducting a business or undertaking can be a manufacturer, importer or supplier of hazardous chemicals, or a business owner who uses, handles, generates or stores hazardous chemicals at their workplace.

This Code applies to:

- substances, mixtures and articles used, handled, generated or stored at the workplace which are defined as hazardous chemicals under the WHS Regulations.
- the generation of hazardous chemicals from work processes, for example toxic fumes released during welding.

The revised code is quite detailed and specific and is designed to ensure the health and safety of people managing and handling dangerous goods in the workplace. The full Code Of Practice is downloadable from: <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/managing-risks-hazardous-chemicals-code-3837.pdf>

SAFETY ALERT: Demolition work – gas cylinders for gaseous fire suppression systems.

This alert informs a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) of the dangers of gas cylinders used for gaseous fire suppression systems. These cylinders are different from the cylinders used for industrial and refrigeration gases – and their contents may be hazardous. The Alert comes after a demolition worker received broken ribs, bruising and punctures after a gas cylinder for a gaseous fire suppression system released its pressure quickly and spun rapidly on the floor before hitting the worker with great force.

These cylinders are fitted with an actuating mechanism that empties the cylinder quickly to extinguish a fire. Once the actuating mechanism has been activated, it cannot be controlled or stopped – and it is not uncommon for these mechanisms to be activated when the cylinders are moved or in transit. The cylinders are commonly located outside the room they are protecting, which is typically an electrical equipment or computer room. Full details can be downloaded at:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/demo-work-gas-cylinders-safety-alert-1278.pdf> It is recommended that a compliant facility be used for storage of any gas bottle in the workplace – indoors and outdoors.



[Link to various Class 2 Gas Cylinder storage](#)

The latest **AIDGC Newsletter** ([click Here](#)) contains reports on a number of incidents and accidents nationally and from around the world – here is a snapshot of just a few:

Orica in Newcastle and Botany Pollution Fines: Orica Australia Pty Ltd has been convicted and penalised \$768,250 in relation to charges brought by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for pollution incidents at Orica's Kooragang Island and Botany plants.

N.T. WorkSafe: ADG7.3 Transition Period. On 18 June 2014 Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail was updated to version 7.3. This code is commonly known as ADG7. A transition period has commenced in the Northern Territory for the adoption of the updated code. Industry is strongly encouraged to assess its compliance with the latest version of ADG7 and adjust their operations accordingly so as to comply with the updated code before the transition period ends. It is expected that by 1 July 2015 all dangerous goods that are transported within the Northern Territory will be required to utilise this updated code as part of their compliance with the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (National Uniform Legislation) Act and Regulations. The current Regulations correctly reference the relevant chapters in ADG 7.3 as there has been no change in Chapter numbering.

Fine for U.K. Plant Explosion: An industrial gas company must pay more than a quarter of a million pounds in fines and costs following a major explosion at its plant in Brislington, Bristol. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted BOC Ltd after the blast and fire in January 2010, in which one worker suffered serious burns and injuries and two others less severe injuries. Rail services to Bristol Temple Meads station were suspended following a series of blasts at the BOC Gases depot in Brislington, and all roads within 200 metres of the blast site were closed and industrial units in the area evacuated. A shopping centre and multiplex cinema were also closed for safety reasons. Bristol Crown Court heard on August 7 how on January 7, 2010, an employee at BOC Ltd's Dissolved Acetylene Filling Plant was filling an acetylene cylinder as part of a routine operation when the incident happened. The acetylene solution within the cylinder became unstable and the cylinder exploded, starting a fire which burned for eight days.

United States - Terror Threats at Chemical Plants Underestimated: The US government is underestimating the threat of a chemical attack on America's densely populated cities and has failed to inspect virtually all of the chemical facilities that it considers particularly vulnerable to terrorists, congressional investigators say.

The year-long investigation by Republican staff on the Senate Homeland Security Committee paints a portrait of inspection delays, government errors in risk assessment and industry loopholes in a \$595 million terror prevention program passed by Congress in 2006. Coming a year after a massive explosion at a West, Texas, fertilizer plant, the report points to threats from the release of toxic and flammable chemicals.

Lactic Acid + Sodium Nitrate? Don't Think So! No one was injured but a hazardous materials team was required to neutralize a chemical accident at Oscar Mayer's East Side plant, the Madison Fire Department said. The fire department was called to the plant after lactic acid and sodium nitrate were accidentally mixed together. The chemicals produce heat and acid fumes when combined. An employee realized the mistake and moved the 35-gallon barrel outside the plant and called 911. A hazmat team was able to neutralize the reaction using soda ash and the chemicals were contained to the plastic holding tank.

Car Part Blast in China: Safety Issues A suspected dust explosion at an automotive parts factory in eastern China killed at least 69 people and injured more than 180 others, most with severe burns, state media reported Sunday. It was China's most serious industrial disaster since a fire at a poultry plant killed

119 people in June last year, and again highlighted workplace safety that remains a concern. The explosion occurred at a workshop in the factory, which polishes wheel hubs. Rescuers pulled out 44 bodies at the site, while 25 other people died at a hospital, officials said. At least 187 people were injured. A preliminary investigation showed that the blast was likely a dust explosion, Xinhua said.

Gas Pipe Blasts in Taiwan Kill 30: A series of gas explosions in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung killed 30 and injured 310, according to officials. The blasts rocked the city's Cianjhen district, scattering cars and blowing deep trenches in roads. The exact cause of the gas leaks is not clear, but reports say the blasts were caused by ruptured pipelines. The national fire agency lost four firemen who were investigating the leaks when they exploded. The explosions happened late on July 31, with witnesses reporting huge fireballs soaring into the air. Taiwan's premier said there were at least five separate blasts. "The local fire department received calls of gas leaks late Thursday and then there was a series of blasts around midnight affecting an area of two to three sq km [one sq mile]," the National Fire Agency said in a statement.

3 Hospitalized after Chemical Exposure: Three scientists were involved in a dangerous hazmat incident at a pharmaceutical lab in Rockland, Pomona, California. A scientist at Barr Laboratories was mixing potassium cyanide, a potentially dangerous chemical, in a flask form when it boiled over and splattered onto his face and mouth. Two other scientists were also exposed. The building, which has 300 employees, was evacuated. First responders tell News 12 the potential health hazards could have been a lot worse. Deputy Fire Commissioner Chris Kear says that if the chemical were in a gaseous state, it would be an inhalation hazard. It was in a liquid state during the incident.

U.K. Massive Chemical Spill: Decision An Essex company has been fined after four of its chemical storage tanks failed and spilled 150 tonnes of hazardous material. An industrial estate was evacuated and access roads closed as a result of the incident at Industrial Chemicals Limited (ICL) in Grays on 11 July 2013, although thankfully nobody was harmed. The firm was prosecuted in August by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) after an investigation found it failed to manage, inspect and maintain the tanks in question. Basildon Crown Court heard the incident occurred at Titan Works on Hogg Lane when a glass reinforced plastic (GRP) tank catastrophically failed, releasing its contents of 66 tonnes of aluminium chloride. This caused chemical spills from a further three tanks that were damaged by the first spillage, releasing a further 32 tonnes of aluminium chloride and 52 tonnes of hydrochloric acid. During HSE's investigation, ICL was unable to demonstrate that the tanks were being operated within their design lives, or were being suitably inspected and maintained to ensure they were fit for continued use. Five Prohibition Notices were served preventing the use of the remaining GRP tanks on site

On 16 July 2013, a further inspection was made of the company's metallic storage vessels by HSE's mechanical engineering specialists, and a further ten Prohibition Notices were served for the same reasons. Industrial Chemicals Limited, of Titan Works, Hogg Lane, Grays, was fined £50,000 and ordered to pay £14,231 in costs after pleading guilty to a single breach of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. After the hearing, HSE Inspector Andrew Saunders said: "Industrial Chemical Ltd's failure to manage, inspect and maintain their GRP tanks contributed to this spillage".

And from across the ditch:

N.Z. Health and Safety Reform Update: The Health and Safety Reform Bill currently before NZ Parliament proposes changes to health and safety laws in New Zealand, including the way hazardous substances will be managed in future. The Bill will replace the Health and Safety in Employment Act with a new Health and Safety at Work Act and make changes to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act.

Hazardous Functions & New Organisms From 1 September 2014, WorkSafe New Zealand will undertake, on behalf of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), certain hazardous substance

functions under the Hazardous Substance and New Organisms (HSNO) Act. This includes:

- Issuing test certifier approvals, renewals and extensions.
- Oversight of the test certification regime.
- Issuing controlled substance licences.
- Issuing approvals for plant and equipment used in workplace.
- Approval of HSNO codes of practice.
- Development of guidance material and other information resources.

This change is an element of the overall package of reforms that are underway to improve New Zealand's health and safety systems.

We hope you have found this issue of our newsletter interesting and informative. Should you require any assistance in the management or storage of hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods, please feel free to contact one of our offices to speak to a trained consultant, visit our web site at www.store-safe.com or follow us on Facebook.

Kind regards
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