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

**DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER  
2014

Since our last newsletter the Australian Government has raised the National Terrorism Public Alert level from medium to high. The advice is not based on knowledge of a specific attack plan but rather a body of evidence that points to the increased likelihood of a terrorist attack in Australia.

No doubt, the Dangerous Goods industry, as a whole, has a role to play in the national security arena. Various government departments and instrumentalities have mobilised to assist with our protection against a terrorist threat, however, industry itself has a responsibility to ensure that hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods are managed and stored securely and safely.

If you work with chemicals you have an important role to play in keeping Australia safe. Of the approximately 40,000 chemicals approved for use in Australia, 96 chemicals were identified by the Council of Australian Governments as requiring attention because of their potential for misuse by terrorists. These are known as chemicals of security concern. You are in the best position to report information about chemical theft, suspicious use of chemicals and large or unusual chemical orders or requests. You are encouraged to report anything that seems unusual to the National Security Hotline on 1800 1234 00 or [hotline@nationalsecurity.gov.au](mailto:hotline@nationalsecurity.gov.au). For more information, including other steps you can take to help keep Australia safe from terrorism, visit the Chemical Security website.

The Australian Attorney-General's Department in consultation with state and territory governments and industry developed the National Code of Practice for Chemicals of Security Concern (the Code), and how to apply it. The Code provides guidance to sectors that work with one or more of the 11 high-risk chemicals that could be used to make homemade bombs. It sets out a process to help Australian businesses take practical steps to prevent chemicals being misused by terrorists to make explosive devices.

### **What is the Code?**

Keeping chemicals of security concern out of the wrong hands is paramount. Everyone involved in the sale, storage, transport and supply of chemicals has a role to play in keeping Australia safe. The Code plays an important role in how Australian governments and industry address national security risks associated with chemicals. Designed to help prevent chemicals from falling into the wrong hands, the Code provides guidance on how to enhance measures that industry has in place to prevent, detect and deter terrorist use of chemicals.

This module examines how to apply the Code to your environment, and the threat that diverted or stolen chemicals pose to Australia. It also introduces the National Security Hotline and provides a range of additional information sources.

## The threat of terrorism

Many chemicals we use every day have been used in terrorist attacks such as those in Bali, London and Mumbai. These have resulted in fatalities, injuries and property damage. One of the key responsibilities of Australian governments is to provide a safe and secure Australia. This includes protecting Australians from overseas and home-grown terrorism. Every day, a large number of Australians legitimately access and use industrial, agricultural and veterinary and household chemicals. However, a small percentage of these chemicals have been diverted for unlawful purposes, including terrorist-related activities.

The Code defines 96 chemicals of security concern, which are potentially dangerous in the wrong hands. The list of 96 chemicals of security concern can be found at [www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au)

Of the 96 chemicals identified, 11 are considered particularly high risk because they can be used by terrorists to make homemade explosives or toxic weapons.

The 11 high-risk chemicals are identified as:

1. Ammonium perchlorate
2. Hydrogen peroxide
3. Nitric acid
4. Nitromethane
5. Potassium chlorate
6. Potassium nitrate
7. Potassium perchlorate
8. Sodium azide
9. Sodium chlorate
10. Sodium nitrate
11. Sodium perchlorate

As the threat of terrorism continues, it is increasingly important that all people working in the manufacture, import, storage, transport, sale and use of chemicals be alert to chemical security.

Chemical security across the supply chain can be improved by ensuring all people who work with chemicals understand their responsibilities, commit to identifying potential risks and put security measures in place.

The correct and compliant security and storage of these chemicals is critical. Should you require any advice or information on compliant storage facilities for any of these listed chemicals please contact the Store-Safe office in your state: see our web site for details: [www.store-safe.com](http://www.store-safe.com)



Store-Safe can supply specific and compliant storage cabinets and stores for all hazardous chemicals and dangerous goods. [www.store-safe.com](http://www.store-safe.com)

In addition to hazardous chemical and dangerous good being a potential target for terrorists, explosives too must be managed and protected. Explosives and explosive devices are found extensively in mining, construction, earth moving and rail industries.

Less than 12 months ago, WorkCover (NSW) released a Security plan for storage and handling of explosives and security sensitive dangerous substances. This comprehensive guide is available as a download at: [Security Plan - Explosives](#)

The storage, transportation and management of explosives in Australia are strictly governed by Australian Standards, the codes and WorkCover Conditions including:

- Australian Standard AS 2187 Explosives-storage, transport and use.
- Australian Standard AS 4326 The storage and handling of oxidizing agents.
- Australian Standard AS 4145 Locksets and hardware for doors and windows.
- Australian code for the transport of explosives by road and rail (Australian Explosives Code).
- Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail (Australian Dangerous Goods Code).
- WorkCover – General explosive licence and security clearance conditions under the NSW Explosives Act and Regulation (catalogue no. WC04685).
- WorkCover – Guide for secure and safe handling of explosives and security sensitive dangerous substances (catalogue no. WC04676).

Further information regarding these publications and the NSW Explosives Regulation can be obtained from [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) or by telephoning 13 10 50.



Store-Safe has designed and manufactured a comprehensive range of Australian Standards compliant magazines and stores for explosives, detonators and pyrotechnics.

Should you require any information on the compliant storage of explosives in the workplace, contact Store-Safe or visit the Store-Safe web site: [Explosive Magazines](#)

Unfortunately the threat of terrorism and terrorist activity in Australia is now very real. Australian industry has a role to play to ensure that hazardous chemicals, dangerous goods and explosives are managed in a safe, secure and compliant method. The consequences are critical. Ensure your organisation is prepared in these uncertain times.

**WorkCover Victoria Regional Seminars:** Join experts devoted to improving health and safety in the workplace as they present a series of seminars across Victoria as part of VWA Health and Safety Week. The Victorian WorkCover Authority will host free seminars in Bendigo, Mildura, Shepparton, Geelong, Ballarat, Warrnambool and Morwell from 23-31 October. Experts will offer advice on a diverse range of issues such as mental health and wellbeing, preventing and responding to workplace violence, and identifying the risks associated with poor manual handling. VWA Chief Executive, Denise Cosgrove, more than 4000 employers, workers and health and safety representatives were expected to attend Health and Safety Week events in Melbourne and across the state. - See more at: <http://vwanews.com.au/component/k2/item/374-regional-centres-to-host-free-health-and-safety-week-seminars.html#sthash.SkpLZVPy.dpuf>

**Company fined over \$7000 for depositing industrial waste 12 Oct 2014:** The Victorian EPA has fined earth moving company, Judd & Sons Pty Ltd, more than \$7000 for depositing and storing industrial waste without an EPA licence or council planning permit. EPA officers visited the company's Tungamah site to discover a large amount of construction and demolition waste had been piling up over a number of years from various civil projects undertaken by the business. EPA Environmental Regulation Director, Liz Radcliffe said the incident served as a reminder to businesses across the state. "Either an EPA licence is required to deposit industrial waste to land or a council planning permit is required for a materials recycling facility," she said.

**NSW EPA directs Koppers to complete upgrades to Mayfield site.** 8 October 2014: The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has directed the chemical storage facility Koppers to complete a number of upgrades to its Mayfield site to improve environmental performance. The upgrades have been negotiated between the company and the EPA as part of a legally binding Pollution Reduction Program

(PRP) which aims to reduce the impact of the site's activities on the surrounding environment and community, as well as improve air quality in the local area.

As part of the PRP the company will be required to:

- Install a fume recovery system associated with the No.6 Berth. This will treat displaced vapours from ship loading activities.
- Install nitrogen blanketing on the additional naphthalene tanks on site. This will help reduce the release of vapours and potentially offensive odours from the site.

The EPA's Manager of the Hunter Region, Adam Gilligan said there are strict deadlines in place to ensure the upgrades are completed in a timely manner.

"Koppers have until the end of November this year to complete the upgrades to the fume recovery system, and until January 2015 to complete the nitrogen blanketing upgrades. "It is estimated that these upgrades will cost the company a total of \$700,000 to complete." Mr Gilligan said.

**EPA highway inspection catches Guyra fuel tanker without correct safety equipment, shipping documents and dangerous goods licence:** The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued two penalty notices, two official cautions and fined the driver and a fuel transport company, based in Guyra a total of \$4,260 for breaching requirements relating to the safe carriage of dangerous goods. The EPA's Manager of the Armidale Region Simon Smith said the breaches were identified during a joint EPA inspection operation with officers from Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), inspecting vehicles carrying dangerous goods along the New England Highway earlier this year.

"At the time of the inspection, EPA officers identified a fuel tanker owned and operated by the company, Guyra Fuels, in breach of a number of sections of the Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008 and Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Regulation 2014 including:

- The vehicle was not licensed by the EPA to carry dangerous goods.
- The vehicles was not carrying the appropriate safety equipment, including emergency triangles or safety torch.
- The vehicle was not carrying shipping documents.
- The vehicle did not display the required telephone advisory service.

The EPA issued a penalty notice and fined Guyra Fuels \$4,000 for not having its tanker licensed. The driver was also issued a penalty notice and fined \$260 for not carrying shipping documents. Official cautions were issued for the other offences.

**Safe Work Month in Queensland:** Workplace Health & Safety Queensland is running an umber of seminars around Queensland in October as a part of Safe Work Month.

These include:

Breakfast seminars will feature presentations from local businesses that demonstrate how industry can lead the way towards achieving safer Queensland workplaces.

- 17 October Gold Coast
- 21 October Townsville
- 22 October Rockhampton

- 23 October Mackay
- 24 October Sunshine Coast
- 31 October Toowoomba

\* Information sessions throughout October

Hear from WHSQ advisors and inspectors to find out about health and safety issues in your region. Work Health and Safety Symposium, Thursday 23 October, Brisbane

The WHS Symposium program delivers practical information about work health and safety issues. Attendees will hear from high profile speakers, safety experts and individual organisations. For further information, to register or to see a full list of events and venues, go to:

<http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/events/safeworkmonth/2014/events/index.htm#.VDsrmmeSyTI>

A brief international round-up:

**Several injured in chemical explosion near Bremen:** A large explosion at a chemical waste facility in north west Germany has left several people injured. Several houses near the plant in Ritterhude near Bremen were evacuated, police said. The fire was extinguished after burning for several hours. The cause is still unknown and authorities say an investigation will begin once the location has cooled down.

**CHICAGO, September 2014: School Lab Explosion:** Two staff members were injured in a chemistry accident at a South Side high school Friday afternoon. Authorities were called to Simeon Career Academy about 12:30 p.m. for an accident that happened during a science experiment, according to police. Preparation for a chemistry lab resulted in a “small chemical reaction before class began,” Chicago Public Schools spokesman Bill McCaffrey said in a statement. “While no students were in the classroom at the time, the school responded immediately and students were evacuated from the building pending clearance from the Fire Department,” McCaffrey said. Police said a male teacher suffered chemical burns in the accident and that the school was evacuated as a precautionary measure. Chicago Fire Department HazMat crews responded to the school after the accident, according to Fire Media Affairs. Two people were taken to hospitals with non-life threatening injuries.

**Massive radiation dose for Rolls Royce workers:** Workers at a UK nuclear submarine manufacturer received a gamma radiation dose up to 32 times the annual limit after discovering a misplaced radioactive source. Rolls Royce Marine Power Operations Ltd, which has been fined £200,000 and ordered to pay costs of £176,500, lost track of the radioactive source at its plant in Derby which was then handled unwittingly by welders and radiographers. HSE news release • Risks 674 • 4 October 2014

**Dangerous solvent sickens textile workers in Swaziland:** Workers are being made seriously ill by a toxic chemical introduced at a Swazi textile factory, their union has warned. Dozens of workers required hospitalisation last month after the plant began using the dangerous solvent butyl acetate to remove stains from clothes. AFL-CIO Solidarity Center report • AFL-CIO Now blog • Risks 674 • 4 October 2014

**Two technicians dead in fireworks blast (Britain):** Two people who died in a fireworks explosion in Cumbria were technicians preparing for a wedding party display, the fire brigade said. The bodies of the man and woman were found in a shed where the stored fireworks went up in flames on Saturday 30 August. Cumbria Constabulary news release

We hope that you have found this issue of our newsletter of interest and informative.

Kind regards

Grant Breeze  
Managing Director.

### Store-Safe Office Locations

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BROOKLYN VIC 3025

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(cnr India St)  
CAPALABA QLD 4157

#### WA

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AND SAFE HANDLING NEEDS**



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