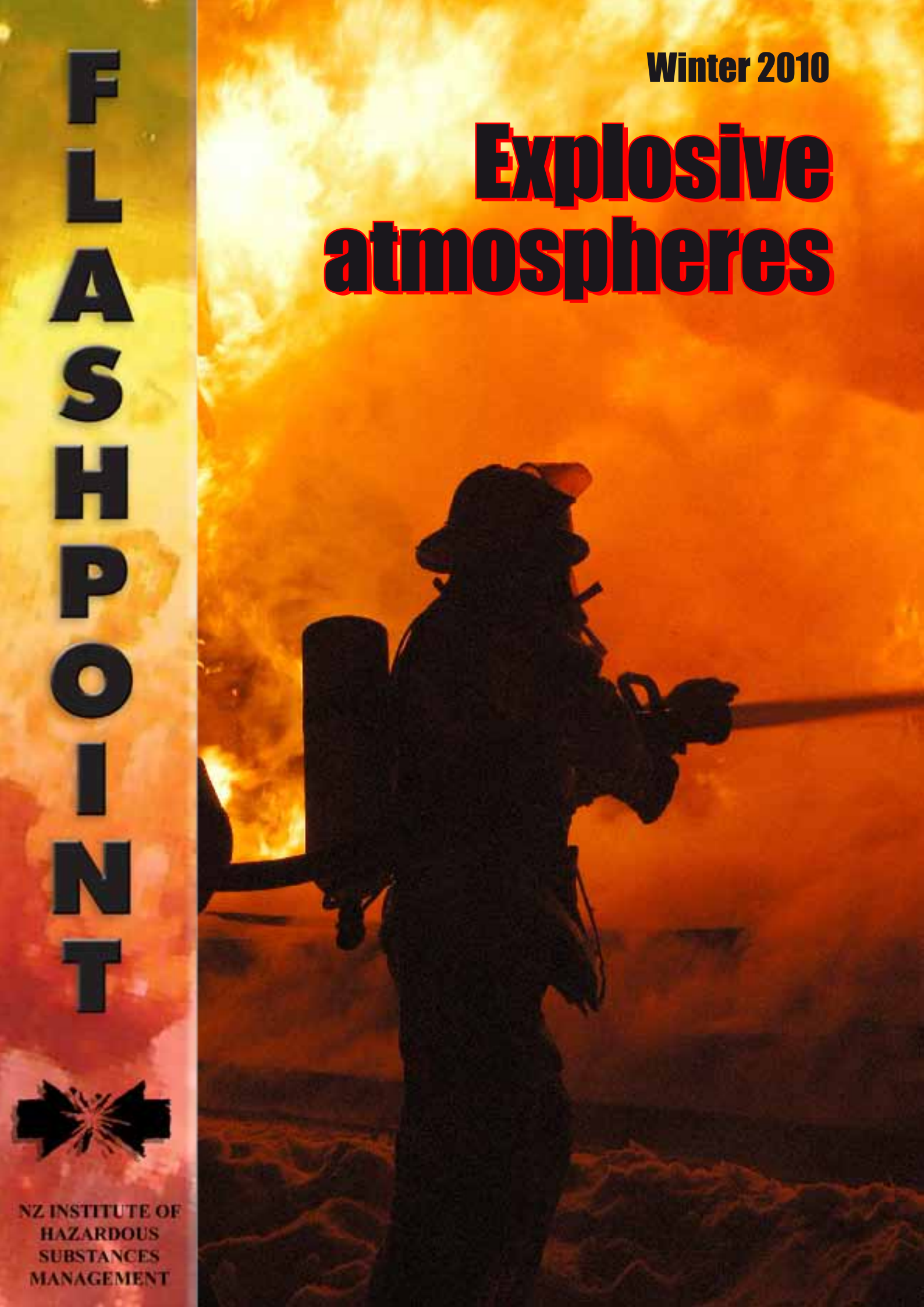
FLASHPOINT



Winter 2010

Explosive atmospheres

NZ INSTITUTE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES MANAGEMENT

USEFUL ORGANISATIONAL CONTACTS

NZ Institute of Hazardous Substances Management

www.nzihsm.org.nz

The official home of professionals committed to the safe management of hazardous substances and dangerous goods.

The NZIHSM is a 'not for profit' industry association specialising in improving safety, health and (site) environmental performance, particularly the safe management of hazardous substances in the community.

NZ Chemical Industry Council

www.nzcic.org.nz

The NZCIC works closely with Government and industry partners to successfully implement the Hazardous Substances legislation. This is achieved by implementing and promoting Responsible Care™, the international SH&E protection initiative practised by the chemical industry in more than 53 countries worldwide.

The NZIHSM works alongside the NZCIC to enhance professional knowledge and capability.

ERMANZ

www.ermanz.govt.nz

Extensive information on working with hazardous substances.

Ministry for the Environment

www.mfe.govt.nz

The Ministry administer the HSNO Act, and provides policy, publications, technical reports and consultation documents

Department of Building and Housing

www.dbh.govt.nz

The Government agency that maintains the Building Act and the Building Code.

Local Government NZ

www.lgnz.co.nz/lg-sector/maps/

Local Authorities have responsibility for policing building controls. Some local authorities are contracted to Department of Labour to provide enforcement of the Hazardous Substances legislation.

If you know of other agencies which could be useful to members, please let us know at office@nzihsm.org.nz.

Smith moves into the environment!

It is perhaps a contradiction of the 'free market' that little is ever 'free'.

Some scientists believe that our free waste disposal system in the sea and sky is actually in need of care if it is to be sustained over a long period, and what better mechanism than the instrument of 'user pays'.

While painful initially, perhaps Adam Smith's 'invisible hand' will make all the processes visible and show individuals within our democracies where imbalances in the processes need to be addressed, and this in itself may indeed not be a bad thing!

There has been much ado in the environmental sector of late. The Government has announced the three piers of the environmental regime, namely parts of the Resource Management Act, the requirements of the HSNO Act and the Emissions Trading Scheme, are being combined under a new Environmental Protection Agency.

Also, the New Zealand Chemical Industry Council is being rebranded as 'Responsible Care New Zealand'.

We, too, in the Institute of Hazardous Substance Management' are committed to the protection of people, the community and the environment and it is positive to see a joining of the environmental agencies working towards our common goal of 'understanding and implementing the process of sustainability'.

Best wishes for the journey!

President John Hickey

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Cover photo

Fire and ice: firefighters battle an inferno raging in ankle-deep snow. Photo – West Fraser Fire Department.

Flashpoint

Flashpoint is the official journal of the NZ Institute of Hazardous Substances Management.

Editorial material does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Institute.

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Business as usual under EPA

ERMA will be wearing a new coat next year when it becomes part of the Environmental Protection Agency, but it will be business as usual until then, and afterward.

The new EPA is expected to be operational by 1 July, 2011.

Some aligned functions and powers from the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Economic Development and all of the functions of the Environmental Risk Management Authority will be brought together to form the new Crown agent.

It will be responsible for national-level consenting and regulatory functions under a number of statutes, with the key functions of:

- process matters for proposals of national significance under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- undertaking all of the functions currently performed by ERMA under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act);
- undertaking administration for the Emissions Trading Scheme, under the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

The functions under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 will transfer at a later date.

Hazardous substances general manager Andrea Eng says the Minister for the Environment has announced that the EPA will undertake HSNO regulatory functions currently undertaken by ERMA, including processing applications for approvals, making decisions on applications for approvals and setting related controls, and monitoring and co-ordinating HSNO compliance and enforcement activities.

The new EPA will also issue, amend and revoke group standards for hazardous substances and maintain registers relating to hazardous substances and new organisms.

The establishment of the EPA will not include any substantive changes to current HSNO Act processes or regulations. As such, changes to the test certification regime are not anticipated.

Ms Eng says organisations and people who interact with ERMA can expect business as usual to be carried on up to and after establishment of the EPA.

Agencies will work closely together in the coming months to co-ordinate the work required to establish the new organisation and develop the legislation required to establish the EPA as a Crown agent.

For more information on the EPA, http://www.mfe.govt.nz/news/2010-06-03-epa-announcement.html

Are you current ?

The NZIHSM webpage http://www.hazsafe.org.nz/ has a link to the list of advisors and training providers http://www.hazsafe.org.nz/advisors.html.

The list is titled *Hazardous Substance Advisors and Trainers,* which includes details of all HSNO advisors and training providers throughout New Zealand as at July 2007. The NZIHSM intends to keep this list valid and available for all the webpage users, and it would be prudent to update your details on this list to be correctly contacted when your services are required.

This is a call from the institute to check the list out. If your name is listed and your details are either right or wrong, please email the institute at office@nzihsm.org.nz to advise if your details require updating or not . If you wish to add your name on the list, please email the institute with your contact details.

www.nzihsm.org.nz

Precision cutting with explosives

by Anthony Lealand

You wouldn't normally think the Department of Conservation had much need for explosives, but it is regularly cutting tracks, excavating foundations for building huts, and removing trees and rocks that have landed on pathways. Then there is the problem of 'sky rocks', large rocks which fall down the mountainsides and land on tracks.

Using conventional explosives that can easily hurl debris up to 200m, makes it especially difficulty to secure the site. Someone may be coming down the mountain, or half a kilometre away down the twisty track, but they are actually quite close by as the stone flies. The department has recently started using Nonex for this work. Nonex is a completely new explosive to New Zealand. It has a classification of 1.4 S UN0432.

You would wonder how it achieves a classification of 1.4 S and at the same time is a useful explosive.

Its particular property is that it only works in confinement. If it is not confined, Nonex will scarcely burn. Full cartons of Nonex when set on fire, burn in a normal manner with occasional small pops as the cartridges crack open, and the contents burn in a steady and controlled manner. However, when the cartridge is stemmed in a hole in rock and initiated with its self-contained igniter, the deflagration (not a detonation) generates very high pressures and cracks the rock.

A large rock reduced to a jigsaw of pieces by Nonex.

Because it is a deflagration not a detonation, there is no powerful low-frequency shockwave to throw rocks and debris long distances. This makes it particularly suitable for blasting in sensitive areas such as in cities, on buildings and close to reserves.

Trench cutting

Hard rock is a prominent feature in Cape Town. Houses are often built straight on the rock surfaces and the necessary trenching for services have to be cut into the rock close outside houses and windows. Nonex blasting achieves clean and controlled cuts without damaging the houses.

- The applications for Nonex cover a very wide range – clearing and cutting surface rock;
- for demolition as it is particularly effective on reinforced concrete;
- for underground mining as it has no noxious fumes;
- for underwater blasting where the reduced shock waves eliminate contingent damage; and for cutting of dimensional stone.

It leaves the broken stone in large pieces suitable for working and avoiding shattering rock into fine debris. With a series of close spaced holes blasted with it, stone can be cut into blocks.

It is imported and distributed by Nonex New Zealand. Contact Tony Cheyne, 03 982 3476 www.nonex.co.nz

Zoning explosive atmospheres

by Bruce Durdle

The electrical industry has long recognised the need for special precautions when electrical equipment is used with flammable materials. It has also recognised there are different degrees of risk, and the probability that a flammable atmosphere may exist will vary widely.

Regulation 58 of the Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations 2001 requires the delineation of hazardous atmosphere zones. AS/NZS 60079.10.1 Classification of areas – Explosive gas atmospheres has now been approved as a means of compliance with this requirement.

This two-part article looks at what is meant by a "hazardous atmosphere zone", and how are they classified. Part one looks at definitions and the implications of defining a zone. It will be followed in the next issue by another article examining AS/NZS 60079.10.1 in detail, and describing its use in establishing zones.

Where the atmosphere is flammable virtually all the time, any ignition source such as an electrical spark would almost certainly start a fire, and very stringent protection measures must be taken. On the other hand, if a flammable atmosphere can develop only in the event of an equipment fault, the need for protective measures is much less.

In order to decide if special precautions are needed for equipment in an atmosphere that could be flammable or explosive, a risk assessment is needed. This determines if there is a problem with flammable materials, then examines the probabilities of a release and subsequent ignition.

Zoning presents the results of this risk assessment, identifying any flammable materials present and examining the probability of release and ignition. The International Electrotechnical Commission recognises three zones that are defined according to the probability of a flammable gas or vapour being present:

Zone 0 – an area in which an explosive gas atmosphere is present continuously or for long periods or frequently.

Zone 1 – an area in which an explosive gas atmosphere is likely to occur in normal operation occasionally.

Zone 2 – an area in which an explosive gas atmosphere is not likely to occur in normal operation but, if it does occur, it will exist for a short period only.

A parallel zoning system is used for areas where flammable dusts or powders could be present:

Zone 20 – an area in which an explosive atmosphere, in the form of a cloud of combustible dust in air, is present continuously, or for long periods or frequently for short periods.

Zone 21 – an area in which an explosive atmosphere, in the form of a cloud of combustible dust in air, is likely to occur occasionally in normal operation.

Zone 22 – an area in which an explosive atmosphere, in the form of a cloud of combustible dust in air, is not likely to occur in normal operation but, if it does occur, will persist for a short period only.

Definition base

Each of these definitions is based on the conditions under which a flammable atmosphere might be present.

For zones 0 and 20, the flammable atmosphere is a normal consequence of the operation being carried out. Zones 1 and 21 are areas where a flammable atmosphere may arise under some circumstances during normal operation, and zones

2 and 22 will indicate regions where the flammable atmosphere will develop only under exceptional circumstances such as an equipment failure. While there are no fixed definitions of zones in terms of time, as a broad guideline:

- zones 0 or 20 will apply if the flammable atmosphere is likely to be present for more than 1000 hours per year;
- zones 1 or 21 will apply if the flammable atmosphere is considered likely for between 10 and 1000 hours per year;
- and Zone 2 will apply where a flammable atmosphere could be present under some circumstances for less than 10 hours per year.

The zones are based on normal operation, and do not consider catastrophic failures such as bursting of pipes, vessels or tanks.

Requirements

In New Zealand there are two regulatory areas requiring zoning. The Electrical Safety Regulations mandate compliance with AS/NZS 60079.14 for any installation using electrical equipment in an explosive atmosphere. For this, any such facilities must be classified in accordance with AS/NZS 60079.10.1 where a flammable gas or vapour is involved, and with AS/NZS 61241.10 where a flammable dust may be present. AS/NZS 61241.10 will be replaced at some stage by AS/NZS 60079.10.2.

The Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations 2001 (HSCR) require that "hazardous atmosphere zones" are defined where Class 2.1.1A, 2.1.1B, 2.1.2A, 3.1A, 3.1B, or 3.1C substances are present in more than minimum quantities. Regulation 58 requires that the zoning process must comply with:
"(a) AS/NZS 2430.3; or
(b) AS 2430.1: 1987 and NZS 6101.1: 1988; or
(c) a code of practice approved by the Authority that specifies hazardous atmosphere zones equivalent to the requirements specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) and takes into account the risk of the presence of flammable materials."

The documents specified in parts (a) and (b) of this regulation are no longer current, and the recent ratification of AS/NZS 60079.10.1 gives approval for its use under part (c).
There is no requirement under

The fatal Icepak Tamahere explosion and fire was a recent viloent example of the consequences of explosive atmosphere igniting. Photo – Pip Stevenson.

HSCR for facilities using Class 4 materials to be zoned, but this is needed to comply with electrical legislation. Generic requirements under the Health & Safety in Employment Act will also require that zoning is carried out where flammable dusts or powders may be present.
Implications of Zoning.

The result of defining a part of a facility as Zone 0, 1, or 2 is that where a zone has been established under HSCR regulation 58, a site plan must show the position of the zones on the site. The person in charge of the location must make sure that this is done. The establishment and documenting of the zone must also be referenced on the test certificate.

The main impact at present is on the types of electrical equipment that may be used within these zones. In zone 0 or zone 20, equipment using the intrinsic safety method of explosion protection is generally the only one allowed, and the equipment must remain safe even with two independent faults. In zone 1 or 21, a number of explosion protection techniques can be used, which provide protection under some fault conditions. Equipment in Zone 2 or 22 can use any protective method, even if protection should fail under some conditions: the limited likelihood of an equipment failure means that it is highly unlikely that a fault will occur at the same time as a release of flammable material.

While these requirements apply only to electrical equipment, remember that the zone indicates the likelihood of a flammable atmosphere occurring. Zoning indicates those parts of a facility where special precautions are needed to avoid introducing a source of ignition of any kind. These precautions could include the use of non-sparking tools, controls for vehicle access, and additional precautions for hot work involving power tools or welding.

Bruce Durdle has been involved with hazardous areas for more than 25 years. He was the Senior Instrument/Electrical Engineer on the Petralgas from 1985 to 1991, and then after a period with a UK consulting engineering firm returned to New Zealand. He has carried out area classifications for a number of organisations, and has also presented courses on the subject.

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The result of a dust explosion in an U.S. factory. Photo: U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

Letter to the Editor

Words can haunt you !

Barry Dyer wrote an excellent article on HSNO for the Autumn 2010 Flashpoint.

One point he mentioned was the code of practice providing a unique protection from prosecution. However, there is a caveat, and if one reads the Act 117 (3) (b) it says that the code is a defence "unless the defendant had reason to believe the code of practice … did not meet the relevant controls".

Now you might think that is a pretty obscure point. However, in business discussions with the Department of Labour over a point of interpretation in the regulations this very point was brought up. When the code of practice was being written and debated, I had disagreed with a particular point, and this is on record. DoL reminded me I had disagreed with the code of practice as it was being written and debated, so I could not use this as a defence.

Now, I'm sure it's a long way between having some argy-bargy with the DoL and a prosecution, but is nevertheless one of the nastier surprises I have come across in the legislation for some time.

The clear answer to this is to say (placing hand on heart), "I believed in it at the time, but I have since changed my view."

–Anthony Lealand
Firework Professionals Ltd

A plague of IBCs

by John Hickey

Along with dinosaurs, drums are now things of the past. Round is being replaced by square with the cubic steel framed plastic Intermediate Bulk Container being lighter, neater and easier to handle than an equivalent four drum pallet load.

The IBC can be easily filled and emptied, and even holds more product in the similar space to the typical metal drum equivalent.

No wonder the simple drum is becoming a dinosaur and many industrial sites seem to have large quantities of regimented IBCs replacing drums, and even bulk storage tanks, for the storage of chemicals and hazardous substances in industry.

Is the rise of IBCs a great thing for us all or are we creating a plague of IBCs? The answer to this may be how we care or, indeed, treat the many different and young and old IBCs already being used as low cost storage, process and mixing containers, for almost every chemical, in addition to the transportation function for which they were first designed.

Under the HSNO regulations Gazette 35, Sch 8 Cl 1&2, the HSNO Act requirements and thus Schedule 8 requirements, applies to all stationary container systems with a volume greater than 250 litres. For the purposes of certification only stationary containers require certification when greater than 5000l for all HS liquids other than class 3.1A or 3.1B. However, process containers need to be certified for a capacity greater than 1000l.

Definitions

The Gz35 definitions state:

a 'process container' means a stationary container that contains or is intended to contain a hazardous substance in the course of manufacture or use of the hazardous substance.

A 'stationary container system' means a stationary tank or process container and its associated equipment, pipework and fittings, up to and including all transfer points.

A 'stationary tank' means a tank that is -

(i) used or intended to be used for the storage or supply of 1 or more hazardous substances; and (ii) normally located at a specific place, and (iii) includes all parts and materials for the structural and functional integrity.

Difficulty

A difficulty arises in what standard applies for the design, construction and installation of an IBC as an above ground stationary tank under Sch8, Pt 3, Cl8. It is not easy to identify a standard (eg: NZS/API650, etc) which applies to an IBC as a stationary container outside Cl 8, 2, h which allows a code of practice approved by the Authority and the other items outlined throughout Schedule 8.

In this case, for similar plastic tanks storing 6,8,9 substances, HSNOCOP13-2 Cl7.1.A provides, at least, a minimum requirement for existing plastic tanks along with the other Schedule 8 requirements.

However, on query, some legislators believe COP13-2 was never intended to be used for the treatment of IBCs and under a little-known clause in the Gazette 35 Definitions Stationary tank (c) (ii), does not include "Packaging to which chapter 6.5, chapter 6.6 and chapter 6.7 of the UN Model Regulations apply"

I would bet that most of

A platoon of IBCs waiting for bund or swim.

you didn't see that one. But in essence, this implies that IBCs are not stationary tanks.

To be consistent with Schd 8 Cl 5 where 'Accepted engineering principles and practice is to be applied', the compliance of a stationary container system should be:
(a) practicable;
(b) consistent with accepted engineering principles and practice.

Obviously, ignoring the issues is highly unlikely to provide adequate protection, or ensure a minimum level of compliance.

That being the case, the treatment of the existing IBCs can be as follows:

Senior IBC hopefully nearing retirement.

IBC used as a mixer.

- If the IBC is just used as

- a transport and discharge container, then this is clearly in line with its intended function.

However –

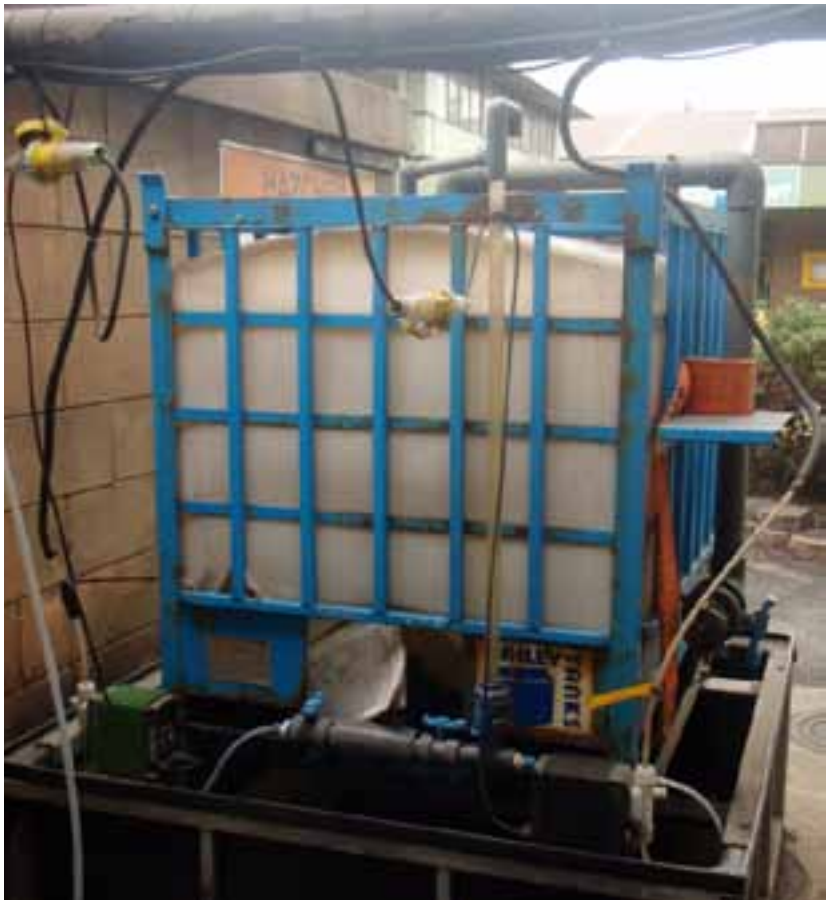
- (i) If the IBC is hardpiped into the process for a significant amount of time, then the structural and functional integrity questions become significant and as a minimum, structural integrity and the signage and secondary containment issues should be reviewed to ensure that any risk of loss of containment is managed in an acceptable manner.

This is often referred to as a minimum of double jeopardy issues covered under the chemical industry's HAZAN// HAZOP procedures for managing process risk.

This is a simple summary of rather a grey area under the legislation for the treatment of IBCs that at present seem to have no code of practice and may often be ignored.

Unless IBCs can be monitored and/or certified as per other HS containers, the positive effects of these containers may indeed turn into a plague of IBCs.

John Hickey is a chemical engineer and test certifier.



IBC hooked up to intensive care.

Recycling plastic containers now mandatory

New Zealand growers must now dispose of used plastic agrichemical containers from participating brand owners through the Agrecovery rural recycling programme.

Under recently revised New Zealand GAP standards, the produce industry's quality assurance programme is recognised by all of New Zealand's leading supermarkets and buyers, and provides a traceable, accountable system from crop to customer for the production of fruit, vegetables, arable crops and olives.

It has tightened its requirements and now stipulates that growers "shall" use the Agrecovery Container programme to recycle eligible empty agrichemical containers.

Horticulture New Zealand's Peter Ensor says that the Agrecovery container programme is supported by 50 of New Zealand's leading agrichemical and animal health companies and the number of collection sites has increased to over 70, covering all major growing and farming areas.

"It's free to use, is fully compliant, has strong industry backing and wide spread accessibility, so it seemed appropriate that using Agrecovery to dispose of empty triple rinsed plastic containers become a mandatory requirement for New Zealand GAP."

Bruce Emerson of 3R Group – the programme manager for Agrecovery – says he's delighted that New Zealand's GAP has recognised Agrecovery as the only safe and fully compliant agrichemical plastic container recycling programme in New Zealand.

"Agrecovery is based on a proven international model, is accredited to ISO 14001 environmental management standard, and ticks all the boxes when it comes to being safe and fully compliant. Basically, we don't cut any corners managing the programme and it operates to best practice right down to ensuring that the plastic we collect is recycled, in New Zealand, into an acceptable end use product."

For full details of Agrecovery Container collection sites nationwide and a list of participating brand owners, visit www.agrecovery.co.nz or freephone 0800 247 326.

www.nrc.govt.nz

Assortments of old part-used chemicals and empty containers are not unusual after a rural 'spring clean'.
Photo: Northland Regional Council.

People power

The power of interest-group campaigning is exemplified for Firework Professionals' Anthony Lealand by the National Rifle Assn of America "doing something" about the practical non-availability of black powder for muzzle loading firearms. It succeeded in having 'properly packaged and tested' black powder reclassified from UN0023 to a special number NA0023 which applied only to such packaged and tested black powder used for 'sporting and cultural' purposes.

This follows along with a number of so re-classified materials/items, he said. The maximum allowable amounts are 25lb in an outer package and 1lb in an inner package. Powder so (re) classified may be shipped as a flammable solid 4.1. "I know that it does not apply outside of the US and Canada. I have no idea if it is allowed to be so shipped in Canada. I also doubt that old-fashioned black powder maroons count as a 'cultural' purpose – but, they might if they were not sold commercially," he said

Black powder so re-classified and shipped is 'only to be used' for such approved purposes. If it becomes used for fireworks or some other purpose, then the storage and paperwork revert back to the 1.1D.

"At least here, we can reach under the bed and remove a can of black powder (maximum of 50lb under the bed) and shoot with it and then return the unused portion to under the bed with no paperwork/records/ etc. However, if it is taken into work and used for, say, making mortar round igniters, then from that point on, that can must be stored in a magazine and accounted for by the gram.

"I find it astounding what the resources of the NRA are capable of achieving," he said.

Methyl bromide decision

The future use of methyl bromide in New Zealand is not expected to be decided until late in the year. A series of hearings around the country recently highlighted the complexity of the issues surrounding the use of methyl bromide, including the availability of alternatives, the feasibility of recapture technology, buffer zones, tolerable exposure limits and health concerns.

Some submitters asked that the use of methyl bromide be prohibited or phased out. Others argued that its continued use was essential and the current safety precautions were appropriate.

The decision-making committee chair, Helen Atkins, said the committee was acutely aware of the complex issues involved, and the significance of the decision to be made. For these reasons, the committee needed time to fully consider all the information it had before it, as well as seeking further clarification on some issues.

Expiry date removed

ERMA recently removed the expiry date from alternative labelling provisions for substances regulated under the HSNO Act group standards.

The provisions, which allow the labelling requirements of countries such as Australia, the United States, Canada and the European Union to be used as alternatives to those required under the HSNO group standards, were due to expire later this year.

Removing the expiry date means the alternative provisions can continue to be used by both New Zealand-based and overseas manufacturers.

The group standards have now been updated and are available on: www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/groupstandards/index.html

Signs of the times !

by Pete Roche

HSNO has been around now for 10 years, as has the accompanying new system of signage – including some that is based on the UN Transport pictogramsand has been with us for decades, and new signage that includes the new GHS picograms, the red edge diamonds.

The NZCIC put out a clear and concise code of practice how signage can be put together based on the UN and GHS pictograms.

Signage for premises and tanks then should be easy to get correct you would think, but think again. Here are some examples of sites with a twist on interperation of what the signs should look like. These are but a few of many around the country that I think all test certifiers and enforcement officers would come across.

Black TOXIC diamond.

Diesel refueling tank with a red 3.1D Flammable Liquid diamond!

Diesel tank showing NON-HAZARDOUS CONTAIN SPILLAGE on side and a Flammable Class 3 diamond on the front.

Orange ECOTOXIC diamond and 5 digit UN number, should only be 4 digits as well as the wrong number for Diesel. Diesel would be UN 3082.

Diesel tank showing NON-HAZARDOUS CONTAIN SPILLAGE on side and a ECOTOXIC diamond on the front, at least the correct diamond is showing.

Diesel tank with a red Class 3 diamond and UN 1270. UN 1270 is for an obsolete number for PETROLEUM FUEL.

Sinning and the art of chemcials

The European Chemicals Agency list of "very high concern" chemicals to undergo special health and safety scrutiny under the bloc's chemical regulation, REACH, is expected to cover about 150 substances by the end of theyear.

The identification of a substance of very high concern and its inclusion on the list is the first step in the new EU authorisation procedure. The chemicals agency underlines that companies may have immediate legal obligations following the inclusion of the substances on the list.

These obligations are linked to the listed substances and products that contain them, and mainly concern the duty of suppliers, producers and importers to provide their customers and consumers with information, notify the ECHA or provide safety data.

The current list is still a long way away from the 270-odd substances identified for priority substitution on a 'REACH SIN List', drafted jointly by public interest groups and NGOs.

However, the list is expected to grow to some 150 substances by the end of 2010 as the authorities "seek to find a balance somewhere between the first official list and the list put forward by NGOs".

Since March 2009, an informal group of six member states – Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands - has been working on a pre-scanning method and grouping of substances to help individual member states to pick the most relevant substances for inclusion on the list, thus speeding up to process of extending it.

Nanomaterials

Further regulatory headaches may lie ahead for a number of chemical companies, as Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said during his hearing in the European Parliament early this year that "it is becoming obvious that REACH is not enough" to cover nanomaterials, suggesting that the EU would take action to remedy regulatory gaps on the matter.

Links

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) press release: REACH Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern for Authorisation Grows (13 January 2010)
European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) press release: Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern brings new duties for companies. (28 October 2008)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA): List of pre-registered substances
Business & industry

European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) press release: Chemical Industry Calls for Unified REACH Approach (16 September 2008)

International Chemical Secretariat: Member States' list of candidates going SIN-size (21 December 2009)
International Chemical Secretariat: The REACH SIN* List (*Substitute It Now!)

Coalition of environmental, health, consumer and women's public interest groups: First REACH hazardous chemicals list is a drop in the ocean (28 October 2008)

Courtesy of EurActiv.com ew webpage for HS incidents

New incident reporting website

ERMA has launched a new web page to allow people to report incidents involving hazardous substances. The objective is to better understand how and why such incidents occur and to allow everyone to take all practicable measures to minimise risk.

While hazardous chemicals are most commonly associated with industrial applications, they can also be found in homes and on farms.

For example, many workplaces contain hazardous substances such as solvents, dyes, explosives and pesticides. Hazards at home can include fuel in the barbecue and lawnmower, as well as bleach, other cleaning products, paints and solvents.

An incident is defined as:
An event involving a hazardous substance that may or may not involve non-compliance with regulatory requirements and/or cause adverse effects to human health and safety or to the environment.

The incidents webpage can be found at www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/incidents.html

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