FLASHPOINT

Winter 2011

ICI 1984

Have we made any progress?

Tamahere 2007

NZ INSTITUTE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES MANAGEMENT

USEFUL ORGANISATIONAL CONTACTS

NZ Institute of Hazardous Substances Management
(formerly the Dangerous Goods Inspectors Institute)
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.

Responsible Care NZ
www.responsiblecarenz.com
Box 5557 Wellington 6145
Responsible Care NZ works closely with industry partners to successfully implement the Hazardous Substances legislation. This is achieved by implementing and promoting the international SH&E protection initiative practised by the chemical industry in more than 53 countries world-wide.

The NZIHSM works alongside Responsible Care NZ to enhance professional knowledge and capability.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.govt.nz
The government agency administering the HSNO regulations with extensive information on working with hazardous substances.

Ministry for the Environment
www.mfe.govt.nz
The Ministry administers 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 the Institute know at office@nzihsm.org.nz.

A world in balance?

Oh, to live in a world of balance!

Science teaches us that processes like to achieve balance: each force continues until it finds an equal and opposite force, a spark at one spot will heat up the spots around it and in turn be cooled until an equal temperature is achieved.

Human interactions too can be a question of balance with democratically elected officials being balanced by those of differing viewpoints most although differently striving for the 'common good'. The media also has its moments where, by reporting on the actions of officials, it encourages balance – although as in the recent *News of the World* revelations, society too insists on balance and minimum standards on the part of media.

In the hazardous substance industry we have been fortunate over the past 100 years that past plankton trapping the Sun's power has fuelled the 'oil age' to provide modern humans with a treasure trove of chemicals and energy to make our life easier and give us free time for comfortable living. This process also requires balance with many arguing that the incessant burning of carbon fuels without the balanced treatment of waste products, could lead to excessive global warming, tipping the balance of nature to a state not suitable for humans.

As we reach the date of 'peak oil', if we don't cook ourselves first, we need to find alternate energy sources and chemicals to maintain our state of comfortable living. However, when the oil is spent, the world's gas reserves should last a bit longer which is positive, but this too must be tempered against the balance of safety to ourselves and the environment. Safety and balance of gases are mentioned by a number of contributors to this issue, along with statistics, safety measures and the commencement of a 'best practice' manual for hazardous substances.

The Environmental Protection Agency, too, will be engaged in the process of maintaining balance between the suppliers, the users, certifiers, the environment and the public and we wish it well in this endeavour!

President John Hickey

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Cover photo:

Various standards of practice

Flashpoint

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Major changes to lpg certification

by Jack Travis

After some due investigation in to the certification process for LPG cylinders, ERMA (now the EPA) has come up with some major changes due now in March 2012, HRC09001.

It states:
Location Test Certificate Requirements
New control: hazardous substance locations with >100kg and < 300kg must be test certified by an EPA-approved test certifier at least once in the lifespan of the installation (this would usually be after installation). Thereafter, an alternative verification process (through an EPA-approved code of practice) can be used to demonstrate compliance.

The code of practice referred to is owned by the LPGA and it has been in discussion with ERMA with regard to the content during its inception. The main thrust was to negate the need for the continual issuing of location certificates by test certifiers – a fact that didn't please many self-employed test certifiers.

ERMA had previously given the industry a helping hand by allowing test certifiers to issue for up to three years on one certificate. But obviously this wasn't seen as enough for the industry, which had lobbied to increase the trigger level for certification up to 300 kg.

So, now we have the gas suppliers taking on the responsibility to ensure that the sites maintain compliance after the first location certificate has expired. Quite a responsibility I'd say, when you think they have had since 2004 to ensure their customers were holding a current location certificate for quantities over 100 kg.

But then, I'm at a loss to understand why the LPGA advised ERMA that there were a large number of uncertified sites and more time was required to get them all certified. Some would not have made the grade being under buildings, and too close to entrance ways into buildings or sources of ignition. All of which were getting re-supplied on a regular basis by the gas companies who are members of the LPGA and have the professional expertise to ensure compliance. Many of these problems were, and will be, picked up by inspections by either the test certifiers or the enforcement officers.

Some test certifiers didn't believe that they, or our enforcement officers, had the powers to ensure there were no openings under the buildings and that it was a problem to be left for the gasfitters to sort out. I'm afraid I couldn't agree with that philosophy. We are all here to reduce risk, and anyway, the regulatory wording says any opening located below the top of the cylinder and within a metre – not ANY opening into a building. This, of course, covers cylinders up to 100kg, so even those not requiring certification.

In-situ fills

Now add to the mix the recent developments with in-situ fills at sites and the introduction of the larger 220 kg cylinders, and problems seem to compound. Ideally the gas suppliers should be ensuring their customers notify the enforcement agency of any changes from exchange to in-situ fill, so a new location certificate can be issued. Not to mention that they should be telling their customers that they need to get a new certificate.

These in-situ fill sites pose a greater risk as LPG vapour is released during the filling

Cylinders installed next to hot water boiler.

process and, as a result, the hazardous zone is increased from 1.5m to 3.5m. Are the industry employees ensuring that the new isolation distances are met or that the installation of standard electrical equipment does not intrude the hazardous zones?

No notificiations

I can advise that, in my enforcement area, to date I have not received any formal notifications of a change from exchange cylinders to in-situ fills. I have also been advised by other HSNO officers that they are experiencing the same and in a number of cases they have come across installations of non-compliance through the installation of air conditioning units or isolation distances breached because of a change to in-situ fills.

I hope the new changes work and we don't see an increase in incidents, but the previous performance of the industry does not give me confidence.

I think in the first few years it would be very advantageous to have all or as many as possible of the sites >100 kg monitored albeit on a random basis by HSNO Officers, to ensure compliance is achieved. The EPA should be encouraging Dept. of Labour to include this in their initiatives for the next year.

Jack Travis is the HSNO technical specialist with Tauranga City Council.
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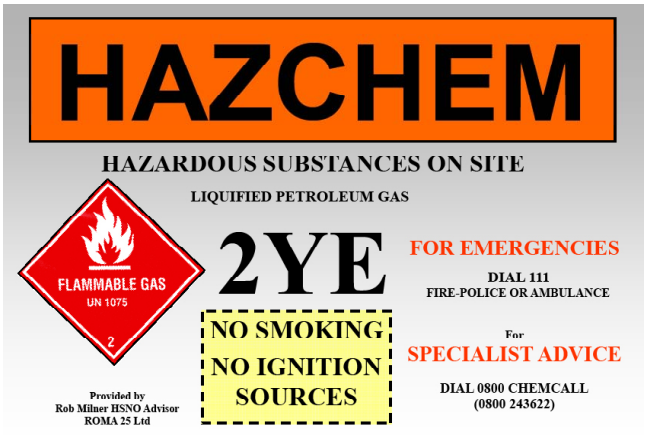

Where are the statistics?

One of the basic tenets of a democratic society is the assumption by all members of society that each member has basic rights and that society will treat each person fairly, guided by documents such as the Declaration of Independence, or in New Zealand's case, legislation such as the Bill of Rights or the Treaty of Waitangi.

Most laws concern the safety and treatment of people and the environment in which they live. Media such as newspapers and the Internet provide an insight into the performance of elected officials, but these should be balanced in the interests of fairness as is evidenced by the recent events at the *News of the World* where public perceptions of fairness may have seen to be breached.

One method, which is often used to influence the public, is the use of statistics and in any democratic society it is also important that these are "true, objective and fair".

At a recent public seminar, concerns over potential safety issues were down-played with the repeated comment "Where are the statistics, where are the statistics!"

It is correct that statistics form an important part of any risk analysis, although for a safe system it can be argued that this must be tempered with suitable safety controls so that the statistics do not occur. To address this perceived imbalance we are fortunate that many of the New Zealand government agencies have openly published statistics to assist the process some of which are as follows:

The Ministry of Economic Development Energy Safety Unit published the following summary of LPG incidents in their LPG analysis of 23 November 2010 Observations based on analysis of trends, consequence and frequency for the seventeen-year period between 1993 and 2009: (Source: MED, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Analysis | Executive Summary and annual incident data | 2009 Summary of Reported Electrical and Gas Accidents)

34 fatalities

- There were 27 fatal accidents, that resulted in 34 fatalities.
- Non-camping cooking equipment was involved in 10 (37%) of fatal accidents, resulting in 15 (44%) fatalities.
- Cabinet heaters were involved in eight fatal accidents resulting in nine

fatalities. Five of these eight fatal accidents were within last three years.

- 18 of these 34 fatalities involved fire or explosion (in 16 accidents); 15 fatalities involved carbon monoxide poisoning in 10 cases.
- There is no clear long-term trend to indicate any change in the number of fatal accidents over the last 17 years.
- There have been 305 notifiable accidents, and 85 (28%) of the total 305 notifiable accidents and 172 (38%) of the 453 non-notifiable accidents were caused by poor assembly, connection, installation of or alteration to an appliance.
- A total of 135 notifiable injury accidents caused injuries to 187 people.
- Cooking appliances were involved in 40%, and cabinet heaters 26% of injury accidents.
- Close to two-thirds of injuries were caused by these two types of equipment.
- Of the total 305 notifiable accidents, 145 (47%) involved fire or explosion that did not result in casualty.
- A total of 453 non-notifiable accidents were reported to Energy Safety. No accident trend has been demonstrated over this period.
- 149 (33%) accidents involved cabinet heaters, 91 (20%) involved containers, 68 (15%) barbecues and 59 (13%) cooking equipment.
- Over 66% of non-notifiable accidents involved fire or explosion and more than 28% involved gas escape.
- 27% of the total 758 notifiable and non-notifiable accidents were reported by Department of Labour or local body inspectors.
- The main causes of the notifiable accidents have been: incorrect assembly, connection, installation or alteration (29%), incorrect operation (13%), lack of maintenance (12%), and operating close to flammable material (7%).

Incident Register

If we consider the two major categories of hazardous substances, namely the Flammables (Class 1-5) and the Poisons (Class 6,8,9), are flammables the major area of concern?

While the full reporting of some hazardous incidents has been partially intermittent, data obtained from media and ERMA sources can generate an indicative incident table,such as shown below. From this table, a number of items that can be determined:

Number of incidents

It would appear that the reported incidents range between 4 to 20 per week.

Severity of incidents

Fortunately most HS incidents can be rapidly solved at source and an average of 10% of all incidents have a moderate effect and serious injury to people and the environment including death. It is arguable that the poisons have even a greater impact than flammables and should also be addressed in all HS certification.

The future

In an ideal world it would be positive to see full reporting and the numbers of hazardous substance incidents decreasing over time.

However, whatever the statistics, if safety of individuals is an important facet of our community, then a high value

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HAZARDOUS INCIDENTS REGISTER
Yearly Records

		LEVEL INCIDENT			CLASS INCIDENT		
Date	Duration (Months)	1: Minor	2: Medium	3: High	1-5: Flammable	6-9: Poison spillage	TOTAL INCIDENTS
July 06-June 07	12	217	18		81	154	235
July 06-June 07	12	257	19		80	196	276
July 08 - June 09	12	170	23		66	127	193
Total	36	644	60		227	477	704
%		91%	9%		32%	68%	
Past 6 month records July 09- Dec 09	6	423	49	7	102	377	479
%		88%	10%	1%	21%	79%	100%

NOTES
These Incident statistics are obtained from ERMA records and media reports and may not include all HS incidents in a period
INCIDENT LEVEL
Lvl 1: Little discernable effect on people or the environment, minor effect on property or some social disruption, controls adequate
Lvl 2: Localised, short term, medium effect on people & environment, < 2 deaths, some disruption to surrounding area, controls adequate
Lvl 3: Significant longer term damage to people, or environment, one death, disruption to surrounding community, controls appear adequate

EPA succeeds ERMA

The Environmental Protection Authority has taken over HSNO Act responsibilities and functions from ERMA, along with administration of nationally significant proposals under the Resource Management Act, and permitting exports and imports of hazardous waste and ozone-depleting substances.

In January 2012, administration of the Emissions Trading Scheme and New Zealand Emission Unit Register will also become part of the EPA, and consenting in the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf is expected to come under the new department on July 1, 2012.

The board of the new EPA is chaired by former Wellington mayor Kerry Prendergast and includes David Faulkner, Anake Goodall, Tim Lusk, Graham Pinnell, Taria Tahana, Gillian Wratt, and former ERMA chair Richard Woods. ERMA's Rob Forlong has been appointed CEO.

As well as continuity of HSNO-specific knowledge at board and CEO level, all former staff of ERMA have transferred to the EPA.

Chair Kerry Prendergast says the new organisation will strengthen New Zealand's environmental management. "By consolidating similar technical and regulatory skills, the new EPA will provide national leadership on environmental issues and bring greater clarity to New Zealand's environmental management.

Rob Forlong says his focus will be on ensuring the EPA provides consistently high levels of service, promptly, professionally, and is easy to deal with. While it is 'business as usual' in the hazardous substances area, the move to the EPA will coincide with a new area of focus.

ERMA's legacy

"The hazardous substances part of the HSNO Act came into effect in 2001 and the first five years were focused on transferring chemicals from the old legislation into the HSNO Act framework. Some 5000 substances were transferred individually by Gazette Notice (primarily explosives, dangerous goods, toxic substances, pesticides, and veterinary medicines).

"The ability to group substances and develop group standard approvals, from December 2005, enabled ERMA to transfer approximately 110,000 notified toxic substances into HSNO.

"With transfer completed by July 2006, the next five years were concentrated on refining the applications process and developing approval products for new substances, ranging from full assessments through to 'rapid' assessments with reduced information requirements for new substances that are similar to or less hazardous than existing substances.

"Approval processes for people and equipment were developed and refined, and the compliance regime was targeted in three areas – test certification, supporting enforcement agencies and providing information to industry on what they need to do to comply.

"Some high profile reassessments were undertaken (1080 and methyl bromide), where the controls and conditions on existing substances were scrutinised and adjusted."

The establishment of the EPA marked another five-year milestone in the history of hazardous substances, he said.

"As well as continual review of our processes to ensure best use of our resources, we will focus on finding ways to make a bigger difference to reducing risk through the reassessment programme, and on improving compliance."

Rob Forlong

The not-so-grand chancellor

Christchurch's leaning tower, the Grand Chancellor Hotel, suffered more damage in the two big June shakes, along with many other buildings in the CBD.

But it is still standing, unlike several smaller buildings for which the latest shakes proved the final straw. Christchurch City Council's Lyn Osmer says the major HSNO problem with the Grand Chancellor is the removal of the 220kg main lpg supply tanks that require heavy lifting gear to move them. It was going to be a difficult job even before the extra damage on 13 June.

Lyn was finally allowed in to inspect them a couple of weeks ago and ensure the cylinders were properly isolated. Left 'live', any any sudden collapse could have, in theory, created an explosion that would have added substantially to the devastation and collateral damage in the area.

Obviously the tanks will need to be moved before the planned 'top floor down' demolition starts, but given the tanks' location, that is in the 'when necessary' category. Lyn says the engineers are still working out how to remove the cylinders as Tatteresals Lane, which is normally used to service the cylinders, is blocked with building debris and too dangerous to approach.

Some items have been removed from the ground floor of the Grand Chancellor, however, guests who were staying in the hotel in February are still waiting to have their possessions returned.

Gas companies have been permitted into the red zone to retrieve gas cylinders, says Lyn, and USAR went through and turned off as many gas cylinders as they could find immediately after the February earthquake. Some premises, however, have still been too dangerous for this to take place.

The slump of the hotel is evident in the windows.

The 220 kg cylinders dwarfed in the blocked service area.

Lyn has been involved with MWH in identifying buildings that have gas/underground tanks, etc on-site so demolition contractors can be made aware of the hazards and reticulation connections are turned off before demolition commences.

Service stations seem to have come through the June shakes in one piece but Lyn says some domestic underground diesel tanks will need to be removed as they have become polluted with water.

Accident scenario good training

Accidents and incidents can happen anywhere, at any time, and escalate without warning. Ports of Auckland's engineering team was put through its paces recently in a simulated emergency that involved a forklift carrying an IBC of a toxic flammable liquid crashing into a barrier, accidently knocking a person to the ground and spilling an unknown amount in the process.

Three staff members were injured as a result: two with head wounds and in a semi-conscious state, and another mildly injured after knocking his head. The realistic scenario, staged to test the team on its first aid and spill response, was organised and run by Quality Environmental Consulting that recently offered a hazardous substance team training exercise, to whom to supply one sentence why its company should win.

The first employee on the scene makes an initial assessment of the three injured in the simulation.

Ports of Auckland's winning sentence was: "The Ports of Auckland should win this as we have experience in handling hazardous substances every day and are willing and able to take charge of, or provide assistance to, any incident in the CBD involving hazardous substances, thereby showing we are a responsible member of the community in Auckland and more than just a port."

The scenario began with one person initially arriving at the scene, thinking only two people were injured, until he saw another acting unpredictably, displaying symptoms of a head injury and causing a nuisance. First aiders were called to the incident to attend to the 'victims' and other staff members on hand were asked to manage the chemical spill. The "focus on injured staff was good, making sure everyone was OK" reported Environmental Health & Safety Officer, Gillian Somerville.

Good test

An unknown amount of substance spilled from the IBC prior to the spill kit being utilised, however it "was a really good test of our spill kit and the bunding when used was really effective", said engineering process developer Phil Eades. The Ports of Auckland team handled the scenario well, despite the "victims not helping at all" and first aiders having to contend with the presence of blood. The QEC consultants and team members had plenty of good ideas to improve the response even further following the debrief, including Phil's suggestion to "yell more". Of course, safety of staff is always the

Full PPE should be worn, even in a simulation – an important refresher lesson learned.

priority in these situations, but a spill of hazardous substances on the site can harm the environment if not dealt with properly. A spill outdoors may run into the storm water system and pollute soils, nearby streams, rivers, beaches or groundwater. Learning how to manage these in an emergency is a key skill that is best learnt through a 'real' scenario.

Like any incident, spills and medical emergencies can happen at unexpected times and often not in the manner you planned for. If an emergency incident occurs, the better prepared you are, the more likely it will be effectively managed. All sites that use or have the potential to use hazardous substances should ensure their staff are trained and have access to the correct personal protective and spill response equipment. In addition, up-to-date and accurate safety data sheets need to be close by so that staff are able to handle spilt chemicals properly.

Training benefits

There are a number of benefits to running emergency scenarios like this one. Firstly and most importantly, staff are better prepared to respond to a real life event, reducing the likelihood of a serious outcome to people and/or the environment. A scenario can also provide a boost to staff morale and confidence in workmates – even if the scenario goes badly, constructive feedback can really help focus the team on issues and get traction for addressing specific issues.

Another key benefit, from a company point of view, is being able to tick off some of the regulatory requirements, such as meeting ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices requirements 7.3.3, 7.3.4 and/or 7.4.1 and meet HSNO emergency plan testing requirements under the Hazardous Substances (Emergency Management) Regulations 2001.

The scenario was designed to test the engineering teams' response to an unusual event. To affect this, QEC placed hazardous pictograms on the 'chemical' container. The liquid in the container was in no way harmful to people or the environment.

Online notification

John Hickey 0800 854444

All notifications of hazardous work can now be completed online, saving time and effort.

While fax and email notifications of hazardous work will continue to be accepted, the online system will make it faster and easier for employers and contractors to let DoL know about any hazardous work they're planning to start.

www.nzihsm.org.nz

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should be placed on the 'protection of people and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous substances'.

While it is hoped that the practice of compiling and reporting incidents and statistics to educate us all, is retained in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as before, it is also hoped that safety issues are not trivalised in the case where suitable statistics are not available.

Photos worth a thousand words

by Rob Savory

Mention HSNO regulations to the average bloke and the shutters come down very quickly. Show him a photo of HS best practice and the reaction may well be, "Hey, we could do that!"

By way of improving safety in the workplace, NZIHSM is compiling a hazardous substances practice guide, a manual in plain English, illustrated with photographs from a wide range of industries where HS are manufactured and/or used. NZIHSM's Hazardous Substances Practice Guide will be updated continually and be available to the general public via the institute's website.

Solid Energy has kindly consented to the Institute using its Hazardous Substances Management Standard as a starting point.

You are invited to contribute suitable photographs and we are more than happy for them to include your company's name and/or logo. I am is compiling this landmark document.

Each section of the manual will feature:

- a summary of relevant HSNO requirements, written in plain English;
- a list of key references;
- photographs, with captions highlighting good HSSHS practice, including any features which fall outside of HSNO regulations.

For example:

Class 3 Hazardous Atmosphere Zone

- No sources of ignition within the control zone.
- Class 3 Pictogram.
- Good ventilation.
- No incompatible substances.
- PPE signage.

- Emergency shower.
- No trip or slip hazards.

Oxy-acetylene trolley

- Regulators and gauges all clean and in good working order.
- Flash-back arrestors on the regulators
- Flash-back arrestors on the handpiece.
- Hoses in good condition.
- Hoses coiled up with no kinks or sharp bends.
- Cylinders properly secured.

NOTE: Trolley has been tested for stability in an earthquake.

Content needed

Using the following table of contents as a framework, please email your photographs, with captions, plus any constructive comments to Rob (qnz@xtra.co.nz).

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Part Four:
Hazardous Substances not covered by HSNO

Part Five:
Individual industries. This is the second stage of the manual (details to follow).

Part Six: General references

Part Seven: Acknowledgements

ICI to EPA: Are we seeing progress?

On 21 December 1984 a fire broke out at an ICI Chemicals warehouse in Auckland and what made this fire significant was not only the loss of an employee's life, but the presence of chemicals that combined in an unprecedented cocktail for the firefighters who attended the incident.

Over 150 firefighters attended the fire (pictured) and many of these later developed symptoms such as rashes, lethargy and headaches consistent with exposure to toxic substances.

Lessons that became apparent from the ICI incident were the needs for workers, the public and the emergency services to early gain knowledge of the hazardous substances and risks present. Items such as a list of hazardous substance, signage and compatibility of substances present would have been useful. Plumes of chemical clouds covered the surrounding areas with little protective equipment being available. A child's swimming pool was the main method of decontamination for saturated emergency personnel. Imagine being the fifth swimmer in!

Post-accident it became clear that in spite of a vast array of legislation such as the Explosives Act 1957, Dangerous Goods Act 1974, Toxic Substance Act, Pesticides Act, Animal Remedies Act, Fertiliser Act and a variety of other legislation, many of these were not well understood. The lack of understanding applied to many government officials, let alone workers and the general public in the pre-internet age.

So while there may have been laws 'against IT', many were not sure what 'IT, with regards to the control of chemicals, was until after the incident, hardly a preventative approach.

Photo: Roy Breeze, NZFS.

From November 1988, the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on Pollution and Hazardous Substances recommended the streamlining of existing legislation controlling environmental pollution and hazardous substances. In 1996 the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act was born with implementation from 2006 and like much legislation still seems to receive criticism.

However, integration of all 'hazardous substances' under the one Act (HSNO Act) and its regulations following the simple hazardous properties, namely Flammability (Class 1-5 regulations) or Toxicity (Class 6,8,9 regulations) has, in general, simplified the process (in spite of a few Government gazette legislation items being added to mop up missing items).

Five components

In simple terms the five basic components of the HSNO process are as follows:

1. have a Hazardous Substances Register (list of substances);
2. a person in charge and trained approved handlers provide local advice;
3. Emergency Response Plan: a site plan and drawings showing chemical locations and HS zones along with emergency procedures is required;
4. security, signage, segregation, separation and secondary containment to safe levels is required;
5. additional controls of volumes and ignition sources are required for flammables. The process controlling this, however, was not particularly simple with the Ministry for the Environment and part of the Ministry of Development formulating policy and ERMA administering the policy. A variety of agencies including the Department of Labour, local authorities, Customs and Police were tasked with enforcing the policy.

To maintain consistency with the single legislation, the policy and administration of these functions have also now been amalgamated into the Environmental Protection Agency. This should be a positive move and it does appear that the amalgamation to a single legislation should lead to greater cognisance, consistency and compliance for a safer environment around hazardous substances.

We look forward to wonderful results!

John Hickey
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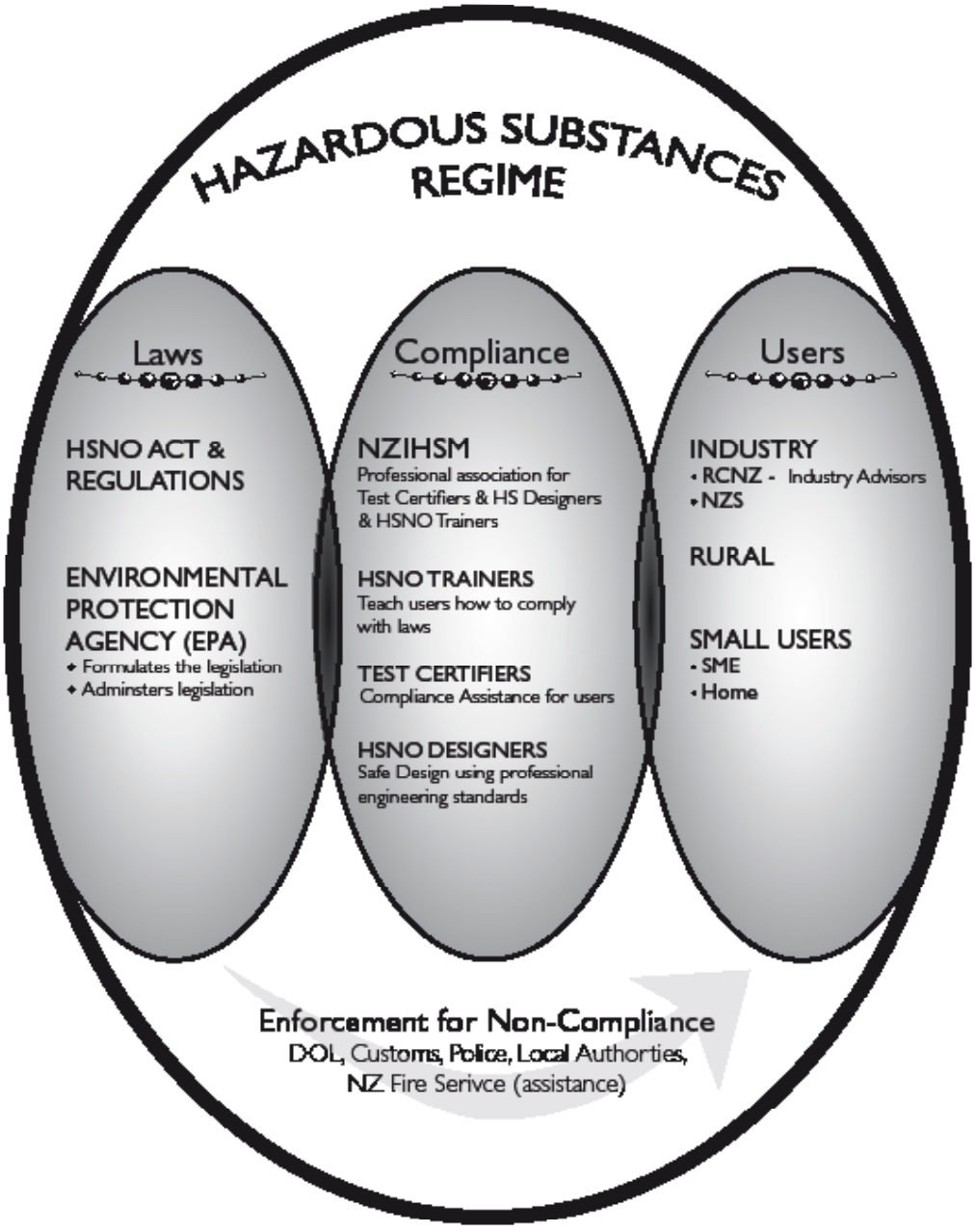

Notes:
NZIHSM - New Zealand Institute of Hazardous Substances Management
RCNZ - Responsible Care New Zealand

Uncle Archie

Hello HS PRACTITIONERS!

Pike River

We still remember the results of uncontrolled flammable gases in unfortunate events of the Pike River mine near Greymouth. The Commission of Enquiry is now underway with media reports concentrating on many experts highlighting potentially unsafe practices, further enhanced by the cancellation of the mine inspection and certification. WOW!

LPGA Code of Practice

At a recent test certifiers presentation, the 'owner' of the LPG codes of practice admitted that LPG delivery drivers are not likely to be trained to review ongoing issues such as signage, adequate ventilation, ignition, local low points and security, and in a crude paradox of the postal system, the LPG will always get through and be delivered with drivers unqualified to vet the system safety. WOW!

Self-certification for LPG now implemented!

In spite of Pike River critiques on the cancelling of mine inspectorates, Tamahere issues and other similar incidents, the proposed 'self certification' of LPG facilities is also now being implemented! LPG cylinder storage may be self-certified for up to 300 kg LPG provided an unsighted LPGA Code of Practice is followed. There were safety gaps in the circulated draft of the CoP and there will be no regular independent checking of this. Large LPG tanks do not need to be checked by test certifiers, nor pressure vessel certificates sighted prior to issuing a location certificate. WOW!

NZIHSM seminar

Archie has heard the recent NZIHSM seminar and AGM was a great success for all who attended. The Institute is profitable and in fine heart. Hickey was re-elected as president with Linda re-appointed to keep an eye on him and a solid committee to assist. Excellent presentations were received from Graham Black on the design of gas plants and the steel industry and Peter van de Laar of Weta who gave an interesting address on the use of hazardous substances in the film industry.

All other speakers ably assisted in making the seminar a worthwhile event for the issues regarding the management of hazardous substances.

Environmental Protection Agency

ERMA is no more, for many of us it is almost like the loss of a friend! But not to worry – the Environmental Protection Agency is now here with ERMA's Rob Forlong as the CEO of the new organisation and additional environmental facets from the former Ministry for the Environment and Ministry for Economic Development being incorporated in the new agency. Best wishes to them all!

Hazardous substance practice manual

At the NZIHSM AGM, the Institute endorsed a great idea put forward by Dr Rob Storey who is co-ordinating and implementing an NZIHSM practice manual to provide photos and examples for 'good' HSNO practice for Users.

As always, the success of this positive idea will depend on ALL of our input, so you are encouraged to send Rob 'good practice photos and details' for inclusion through office@nzihsm.org.nz along with a contact for permission if this is required.

If you want to send your comment, you can send it to archie@NZIHSM.org.nz. The ideas expressed in this column are not necessarily the views of the NZIHSM or Flashpoint and in some cases the NZIHSM frankly does not approve!

Annual general meeting

Highlights during the 2010-2011 year for NZIHSM included seminars in Auckland and Wellington and a meeting in Christchurch, said president John Hickey in his report to the AGM recently.

"The Code of Ethics and List of Advisers have been updated and placed on the website, *Flashpoint* magazine continues to be regularly published and well received by most in industry, the government and users as the predominant commentry on HSNO.

Flashpoint has raised our profile in the marketplace and has proved to be a good information tool for the NZIHSM."

The president thanked RCNZ for the help it had given us over the past few years.
Various inputs to proposed legislation and opinions have been provided to legislators, some of which is heeded and other items still being actioned.

The issues for the new year are a continuation of input into HSNO issues and a raise in profile as the 'voice' of the HSNO industry.

Election of executive:
The current executive along with three new members – Paul Banks, K Stidder/L Peake (shared position) and Rob Savory – elected.

The 2011-2012 NZIHSM committee (from left) is: Kareema Yousif, Peter Keller, Geoff Mayes, Phillip Tse, John Hickey (president), Colin Pullan, Anthony Lealand (editor), Paul Banks, Karyn Stidder, Linda Amitrano. Absent: Jack Travis, Peter Roche, Rob Savory.

Secretary's report and financials:
The profit & loss sheet was tabled and discussed with the Institute still receiving some sponsorship from industry sources and continued to be profitable with a healthy balance sheet.

General proposals/business:
Name change
A member of NZIHSM with regards to changing our name. The the general consensus of the executive was that this was not a good idea. However, we have postponed discussion of this until the next executive meeting

Press releases
Phillip raised the possibility of the NZIHSM issuing press releases when misinformation is spread into the marketplace with regards to chemicals/hazardous substances.

Website
Continuous updates to our website are undertaken with the committee welcoming valuable contributions.

HSNO practice folio
Rob Savory gave a presentation to the meeting of a 'Best Practice Manual' he put together based on documents from a client of his. This is showing photos of the best and safest way to store dangerous goods etc. Rob Savory agreed take charge of this manual and compile subject to executive appoval.

Seminar speakers
Graham Black, a well-respected chemical engineer addressed us on the HSNO aspects of gas plants to steel. Peter Van de Laar of Weta Workshops also discussed the HSNO aspects of the creative sector. These two presentations by accomplished practitioners were of great use from an industry users perspective.

Following this Geoff Mayes (ERMA) and John Hickey (Abstel-Glyde) led sessions on legislation and design aspects of the HSNO regime.

The seminar was most useful to all concerned and NZIHSM would like to than all who partook especially Linda for her administration and the speakers.

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