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Aerosol Course Back By Popular Demand!

If you missed the first **Introduction to Aerosol Technology Course**, run in June last year, you have another chance to benefit from the experiences of our line-up of expert speakers, as the course will be run again in Sydney on 12-13 August 2010.

Perfect for those starting out in the industry or wishing to refresh their knowledge, the course gives delegates a greater understanding of the components that make up our unique packaging solution, how aerosol technology works and, importantly, what affects aerosol performance. We have tailored the course in response to feedback from our first group of delegates, and will now also have a session on understanding particle size.

If you would like to attend the course, please register your interest by emailing training@futureaerosol.com. You can also find more information on the course on www.aerosol.com.au. Information on the 2010 course will be uploaded to the website in April.



More Changes to APVMA on the Way?

Opening the ABARE Conference on 2 March, Agriculture Minister Tony Burke expressed concern at the red tape associated with pesticides regulator, the APVMA. He announced that he was working with his Ministerial colleague, Lindsay Tanner, on a reform of the agency to deliver more speedy decision-making and greater efficiencies.

The announcement comes at the same time as his Department is examining transferring control of use from the States to the APVMA – a move that could see APVMA levy payers burdened with anywhere from 10 to 30 million dollars in additional costs.

The Association continues to lobby for the exclusion of low risk products – such as household insect sprays and home garden products – from the APVMA registration regime.



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Pattern of Shift to Cost Recovery - a Worrying Development

The seemingly inevitable shift of *control of use* responsibilities from the States to the APVMA, and hence to levy payers, is only one of several examples where States and government agencies are seemingly keen to shift costs to industry.

The Department of Health and Ageing is currently consulting on moves to change current arrangement for the scheduling of poisons and medicines. This will see new cost recovery arrangements introduced that will likely lead to new charges for companies seeking a rescheduling and a shift of overhead costs to agencies like the APVMA (that will in turn seek to recover these extra costs from levy payers).

For more information on the proposed changes see: www.tga.gov.au/regreform/drcris.htm

(Comments close on 16 March.)

Guidance on Environmental Claims Issued



In January 2010, the Australian Association of National Advertisers issued a 'Practice Note' for the AANA Environmental Claims in Advertising and Marketing Code (which was released in late 2009). The Practice Note provides more detailed information to help advertisers and marketers adhere to the Code, which came into effect on 1 January this year.

More information at: www.aana.com.au/documents/EnvironmentalClaimsCode-September2009.pdf and at www.aana.com.au/documents/AANAEnvironmentalClaimsCode-PracticeNote-Edit1Dec09.pdf

National Packaging Covenant

The current five-year Covenant arrangements are due to expire on 30 June 2010.

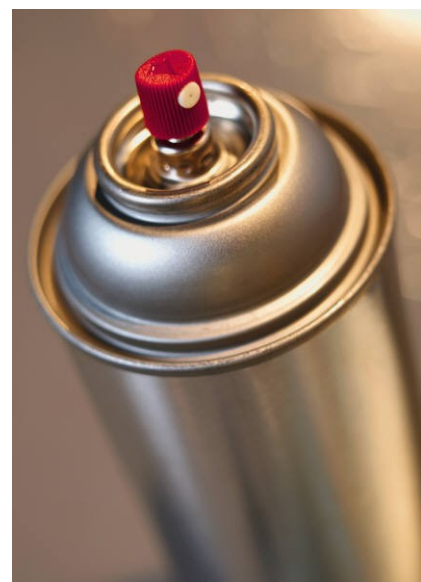
In November 2009, Federal and State Environment Ministers approved in principle a new 'Australian Packaging Covenant' (along with a possible 12-month transitional period to any new regime).

The revised Covenant will significantly streamline the requirements on signatories while providing strengthened governance and compliance procedures to ensure confidence in the delivery of outcomes.

It includes a greater emphasis on the sustainable design of packaging, and will also provide more investment in workplace recycling, public place recycling and litter reduction projects.

Current requirements for Action Plans, reporting and financial contributions will largely stay the same. The latest (December 2009) draft text is available at:

www.packagingcovenant.org.au/documents/File/Draft_Aust_Packaging_Covenant___4_Dec_09.pdf



Anti-Graffiti Measures in Force in WA (& Tasmania)



WA's Criminal Code Amendment (Graffiti) Act 2009 (discussed in our last newsletter) came into force in the State on 1 January.

A similar restriction on the sale of spray paints to minors is also now in force in Tasmania. This means that such restrictions are now in force in all States (excluding ACT and the NT).

If you are interested in aerosol paints and are not receiving regular email alerts on developments with regards to spray paints and graffiti, please [contact](#) us.

Concerns Expressed about New National Product Safety Law

Submissions released on the Treasury website reveal growing concern from several industry sectors about the possible implications of the new National Product Safety framework which is timed to come into force by the end of 2010.

The new law will include a mandatory reporting requirement on suppliers of goods to notify the Federal Consumer Affairs Minister when their products are 'associated' with a serious injury requiring hospital admission or death.

They will also introduce consistent national powers for the recall and ban of goods which, through reasonably foreseeable use, will or may cause injury to any person.

For more information, see: www.treasury.gov.au/consumerlaw/content/implementation_plan.asp



'Contact the Association if you would like regular email alerts on developments with regards to spray paints and graffiti.'

EUROPEAN NEWS

A·I·S·E

REACH Exposure Assessment Tool ('REACT')

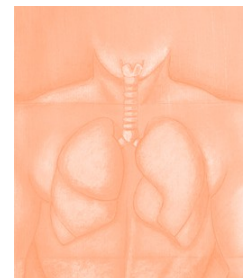
The A.I.S.E. REACT Consumer Tool allows quantitative estimation of systemic consumer exposures to substances that are present in preparations used by consumers. The tool calculates substance exposure via inhalation, dermal, and oral routes separately and also provides a summation of all the relevant exposure routes.

The tool can also calculate Risk Characterisation Ratios (RCR) for the different exposure routes separately and for the overall exposure. SCRs are only calculated provided that substance specific hazard data values (e.g. DNELs) are entered in the User Input worksheet by the user.

The tool does not provide hazard data values and these need to be defined by the user.

Calculation of air concentrations for inhalation exposure to Air Fresheners is performed using the BAMA/FEA Indoor Air Model [see www.bama.co.uk/regulatory .]

The Tool and its User Manual are available at: www.aise.eu/reach/exposureass_sub3.htm



FEA Guide on Particle Size



The new 2008 edition of the Aerosol Dispensers Directive requires that ...

'the person responsible for the marketing of aerosol dispensers is under an obligation to analyse the hazards in order to identify those which apply to his aerosol dispensers.

Where appropriate, this analysis shall include a consideration of the risks resulting from the inhalation of the spray ejected by the aerosol dispenser under normal and reasonably foreseeable conditions of use, taking into account droplet size distribution in conjunction with physical and chemical properties of the contents.'

To assist marketers understand their new obligations, the European Aerosol Federation, the FEA, has issued a new guide which discusses how to measure particle size distribution of sprays.

[As particle size is only one element of aerosol product design, the Guide does not cover how the data should be used for risk assessment. It also does not examine issues associated with nanomaterials].

The document has been co-sponsored by A.I.S.E. (Association for soaps, detergents and maintenance products), COLIPA (European Cosmetics Association) and RIFM (Research Institute for Fragrance Materials).

The 64-page publication examines four measuring techniques which can be used to measure particle size distributions of sprays:

- Laser diffraction
- Impaction
- Time-of-flight spectroscopy
- Use of Occupational Hygiene Devices

The guide costs 50 euro and is available for purchase via www.aerosol.org/FEA_order_form.doc.

Note that our 2010 Introduction to Aerosol Technology Course will also include a new session on this emerging and important issue.



**A REMINDER
that the FEA
Aerosol Congress
will be held in
Rome from
21 to 23
September.**

With the event now only being held every three years, this is an excellent opportunity to attend THE international aerosol event.

The Congress website is at www.aerosolrome.it and the detailed programme should be available by April.

EU VOC Restrictions - The Way Ahead

The Final Report of the review into the EU Deco Paints Directive was released in November 2009. It provides some insight into likely directions for future VOC restrictions in Europe.

What started out as a review of a Directive limiting the VOC content of decorative paints became a far-ranging proposal for VOC restrictions on a wide range of consumer products – many in aerosol format.

The more draconian suggestions – such as a 10 percent cap on VOC content for deodorants and antiperspirants and an extension to aerosol paints and insecticides – were dropped from the final report but several proposals provide cause for industry concern. These include calls for:

- a limit of 90 percent VOC for hairsprays
- a limit of 5 percent VOC for window cleaners
- antiperspirants, deodorants and hairsprays to bear a label showing VOC content.



OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HSNO - New Zealand

Further to the item on this subject in our November/December newsletter, in late January ERMA announced its preferred position on the issue of extending the current Group Standards exemption for products labelled in accordance with the labelling requirements of Australia, USA, Canada and the EU (which currently expires at the end of 2010).

Following consideration of matters raised at the formal Authority hearing late last year, it has concluded that the best option is to provide for permanent recognition of product labelling from Australia, USA, Canada and the EU. This would be done by retaining the alternate compliance measure provisions and having no expiry date (a precedent already established for cosmetic products).

The proposal has the benefit of acknowledging New Zealand's position as a net importer of most of the products covered by Group Standards and means that as/when/if the listed countries adopt the GHS, such labelling will become the 'norm' in New Zealand - thus providing flexibility in timing and ensuring that few products will need to be re-labelled for the New Zealand market.

[Note that some products - such as pest control - are NOT covered by Group Standards.]

ERMA is currently considering feedback received on the Authority's recommended course of action and a final decision is expected to be notified in late March/early April.

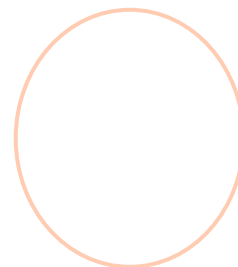
The Association made a submission supporting the proposal.



Meanwhile . . . Another WIN!

In late February, ERMA also released its response to submissions on the Chief Executive initiated application for the modified reassessment of LPG, Propane and Butane, an application which had called for the mandatory odourisation of all LPG. It was encouraging to see that the Authority had accepted the submission from the Association about the importance of the aerosol industry retaining access to unodourised LPG and gave an undertaking that an exemption process will be introduced to allow this to continue.

Note: the call for odourisation follows a tragic cool store fire which claimed the life of a fire-fighter and subsequent investigations and legal actions which suggested that the hydrocarbon refrigerant was not odourised.



STOP PRESS: EU-wide Restrictions on White Spirits mooted

The European Chemicals Agency, ECHA, is currently considering a proposal which may be of interest to parts of the aerosol industry given white spirits' use as a solvent in some insecticide products and biocides.

The proposal comes from Denmark and is for white spirit to be classified as

'Harmful: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through inhalation'.

More details at http://echa.europa.eu/consultations/harmonised_cl_en.asp .

The European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki, Finland, manages the REACH Regulation and the recently adopted Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation.



Need More Info?

For more information on any story covered in this issue of Aerosol News, or to simply give us your comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact the Association Executive Director, Philip Fleming on:

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