

# News Brief

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## Christmas Edition



A new Prime Minister and revitalized Cabinet, an encouraging economic outlook, historically low unemployment, increasingly prescriptive (and arguably weakened) workplace health and safety legislation – not forgetting the latest bout of earthquakes – set the scene for an interesting 2017.

The regulatory ‘step change’ in our approach to reducing unacceptable workplace casualty lists is regrettably ushering in a new ‘Risk Averse’ era. More prescriptive legislation imposing additional responsibilities on directors and management, while allowing poorly performing industry sectors to escape the requirement for a trained health and safety representative and soon a competent chemical handler, will not deliver the sought-after reduction in workplace death and injury statistics.

Legislating for employees to be competent to safely manage chemicals and able to provide employers with prompt, onsite compliance advice (Approved Handlers) is a vital and necessary contribution to achieving the government’s ambitious workplace casualty reduction goal. Relying on employers to voluntarily continue upskilling employees involved with chemicals is commendable but ignores increasing prosecutions arising from employers failing to honour existing and well-established legal obligations, such as paying staff the minimum wage, paying taxes and passing on employees’ KiwiSaver contributions.

Our steadily increasing membership confirms conscientious employers recognize the need to keep abreast of changing workplace health and safety performance and compliance standards, reflected in the priority finally accorded to safely managing workplace chemicals.

Controversial chemical management regulations, further delayed due to their complexity, remain the priority for your Association’s advocacy to not further degrade best industry practice in chemical safety under the guise of ‘simplifying compliance’.

The overhaul of the faltering Test Certification regime is increasingly urgent as experienced Test Certifiers give up their licences. Your Association believes exchanging the flawed but ultimately effective mandatory Approved Handler requirement for a responsibility under general employer obligations to train employees, is high risk, undermines compliance and complicates enforcement.

### Another Gold for Owens



Logistics provider **Owens** has earned a rare second PRINCE Gold® award for the Kahu St Auckland depot. The award recognises overall excellence in safety, health and environmental performance, with emphasis on safe chemical management. Site Manager Jeremy Williams paid tribute to the concerted team effort required to re-qualify, given the additional compliance obligations arising from new, prescriptive workplace safety legislation.

*L to R: Owens Site Manager Jeremy Williams, RCNZ Director and NIWA Chief Executive John Morgan and RCNZ Chief Executive Barry Dyer.*



The second Mainfreight business to qualify for the prestigious PRINCE Gold® certification, specialist dangerous goods carrier

**Chemcouriers** will soon join Owens. Mainfreight is a NZ \$2b global logistics company founded in 1978 by Bruce Plested with a lone truck and NZ \$7K. The global organisation employs 6,300 staff in operations throughout all five continents. Well done Owens and Chemcouriers.

**Croatia Welcomed Into Global Responsible Care® Family**



Hosted within the Croatian Chamber of Economy and supported by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and Responsible Care NZ, the Croatia Responsible Care Group has been accepted as the latest full member of the International Chemical Industry Association’s Responsible Care Leadership Group (RCLG).

The successful Chamber Chemical sector initiative, led by Renata Florjanić, makes Croatia the 66th country to encourage and enable the safe management of hazardous substances and dangerous goods (chemicals) throughout the product life cycle by implementing Responsible Care®.

*CRCG Executive Renata Florjanić is congratulated by RCLG Chairman Patrick Vandenhoeke of Belgium-based Solvay SA. [Yes, Patrick’s shirt does depict the Periodic Table and No, you can’t order one from us! – Ed]*



**A Warm Welcome to Auto Shine Car Care Products and Visentia Ltd**



Auto Shine Car Care Products have been manufacturing and distributing household and car cleaning products in in New Zealand since 1990.



Led by two of New Zealand's most experienced water treatment specialists, NZ-owned Visentia provides a high quality service to customers in the food and beverage, timber processing, pharmaceutical and building products sectors.



is buying US-based JM Huber Corp’s silica business for US\$ 630m. The purchase complements **Evonik’s** recent US\$ 3.8bn acquisition of the additives business from Air Products and Chemicals, expanding Evonik’s access to new markets in India and throughout Asia.



**Dow Chemical** has launched a US\$ 206bn joint venture with oil giant Saudi Aramco to supply aromatic solvents, resins and isoprene to customers within Plaschem Park, a huge chemical complex being developed in the Saudi coastal city of Jubail.

Dow Chairman and Chief Executive and previous ICCA Chair Andrew Liveris, will head US President elect Donald Trump's influential Manufacturing Council which advises the Secretary of Commerce on ways to revitalise US industry.

In response, Dow is building an Innovation Centre in Midland Michigan, while digesting the merger with Dow Corning.



### Sustainability

Canada is to implement national carbon emission charges of CA \$10 per metric tonne in 2018 and progressively rising to CA \$50 per metric tonne by 2023.



Fossil fuel advocate and climate change sceptic Oklahoma District Attorney Scott Pruitt has been nominated to lead the US Environmental Protection Agency.



The World Meteorological Organization announced the hottest year on record, with temperatures 1.2°C above pre-industrial times. Warming will most affect the Middle East and India, however New Zealand will not be exempt. Elevated sea temperatures and rising carbon dioxide levels are expected to result in an increase to 0.95°C above the 1981-2010 average.



The future of the historic Paris Agreement, the first comprehensive climate pact supported by 194 signatories is in danger of being undermined by the proposed withdrawal of the United States.

The agreement recognises that urgent action is required to combat the human contribution to climate change is progress.



### Ross Sea Sanctuary

The United States and New Zealand led the creation of the world's largest marine protected area, 1.55m square kilometres on the doorstep of Antarctica.

The 25 member Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) approved the Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area, the habitat of iconic endangered Emperor penguins, Crabeater seals, orcas, and Minke whales.

Fishing is banned and access monitored. Now, if we can only teach hunted whales to map read.



### Free Trade Setback

The proposed rejection by the incoming US Administration of the long-awaited and hard-fought Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) involving 12 Pacific Rim countries represents a major disappointment for free trade negotiators and a setback for globalisation.

Signed by the respective trade ministers in New Zealand in February 2016, the controversial agreement represents 40% of global trade and seeks to provide a comprehensive model trade pact acceptable to even the most protectionist administrations.

Given the reported pro-TPP views of key cabinet Trump appointees, it is perhaps premature to predict the demise of the ground-breaking agreement.

China is now expected to exploit the hiatus by actively pursuing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) involving the 10 Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries, together with regional trading partners China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand is a foundation signatory.

Senior APEC officials meeting in Vietnam discussed the RCEP while voicing their concerns regional economic growth is threatened by stubbornly weak commodity prices and new fears of rising US protectionism. They propose a free trading bloc between Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) members and the Pacific Alliance countries of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, with participants taking responsibility for identifying and encouraging initiatives to develop regional economic co-operation.

APEC Chairman, New Zealander Dr Alan Bollard notes APEC's voluntary, consensus-based approach to innovative policy making is well suited to identifying and expanding free trade opportunities. Given there will always be multi-national trade groupings, it seems counter-productive not to press ahead with free trade opportunities as they emerge. New Zealand continues to pursue bilateral trade deals in the Middle East, India, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the European Union.



### **New Head of WorkSafe NZ**

Chief Executive Gordon MacDonald has returned to the UK after guiding a restructured WorkSafe NZ through the first 2½ tumultuous years, presenting the 'Regulator view' in various forums in a determined effort to improve understanding of the implications for businesses arising from the new Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) 2015.



Replacement Chief Executive Nicole Rosie, ex Director, Health and Safety at dairy giant Fonterra, takes up her new challenge this month.

Meanwhile, your Association is seeking a WorkSafe NZ industry 'Industry Partnership' relationship which will add value to both organisations. It is important workplace inspectors have the requisite knowledge and tools, such as our CHEMSAFE® compliance software, to accurately assess compliance with workplace chemical safety obligations. Our members' expertise can significantly support and enhance the ability of enforcement officers to carry out their expanded responsibilities.



### **Are You Covered 24/7?**

Our popular **CHEMCALL® 24/7 emergency advisory response service** is easing the strain on hard-working employees, while also enabling quick access to sound safety advice when things go wrong. A cost-effective **CHEMCALL®** subscription delivers peace of mind, particularly as we enter the holiday period.

Recent examples effectively dealt with by our **0800 CHEMCALL®** responders:

- Agriculture:** Advice regarding overdosing sheep with drench and animals eating pesticide.
- Children:** Infant drank 200ml of sodium hypochlorite.
- Fire Service:** Advice on safely managing bulk fertiliser and agrichemicals in a burning barn.
- Restaurant:** Kitchen staff affected by overuse of dishwasher detergent.
- Water:** Several incidents involving water treatment chemicals, ranging from spa pools to rural water supplies.
- Workplace:** Product splashed into unprotected eyes; minor spills which would have unnecessarily involved the emergency services.

## New Home For Christmas



Displaced by last month's earthquake, your Secretariat is now established in temporary quarters in Solnet House, 70 The Terrace. Contact numbers remain the same.

As we reflect on the long-running conflict in the Middle East, terrorist attacks in Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt, together with fatal earthquakes in Japan, the Solomon Islands, Sumatra and in our own adventure playground, New Zealanders have a great deal to be thankful for.

Joanna, Ken and Barry wish each of our members and partners, together with both discerning NewsBrief readers, the very best for the Festive Season.

May you enjoy a refreshing and safe Summer break with family and friends.



The office closes on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016  
and re-opens on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017, following Wellington Anniversary Day



Ready for your holiday?

packed the car...

... locked the door

... remembered the kids

**SIGNED UP TO CHEMCALL?**

## MEET YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATION

Call us for peace of mind while you enjoy your well-deserved break

- Wherever certain chemicals are present, the law requires a 24 hour emergency phone number to provide detailed product information.
- Chemcall meets your emergency preparedness, providing peace of mind.

**TALK TO US TODAY!**

Email: Ken @ [responsiblecarenz.com](mailto:responsiblecarenz.com)

Phone: 04 499 4311



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OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

**ON CALL 24/7**