

NewsBrief

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Responsible Care®
OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY



Pig /猪 (zhū)

As the dust settles on 2018 and the Earth's fourth hottest year, the Year of the Pig brings unresolved challenges for our Members. Riveting issues such as the potential impact of global trade wars, 'Brexit' politics, changes to employment law and of course the future of Spaceship Earth, compete for attention.

Internationally, the focus is on Sustainability and climate change, reflected in a renewed push to ensure a sustainable future for the rapidly approaching nine billion global inhabitants. The global chemical industry is contributing to the UN Sustainability Goals by supporting UN-based initiatives and company inspired 'green' projects, ranging from more sustainable products to cleaning up plastic waste, particularly our polluted oceans.

Local Focus

Nationally, Business confidence remains ambivalent as employers grapple with conflicting forecasts for continuing economic success. The international retreat from globalisation to protectionism and the fallout from Brexit could adversely affect our exports.

A proposed Capital Gains Tax is generating sometimes less than helpful debate about the likely impact on particularly small businesses, already struggling with compliance. Despite continuing low inflation and historically low unemployment, the shortage of skilled labour across the construction, horticultural and tourism sectors inhibits progress.

Employers' added responsibilities for addressing psycho-social issues such as workplace bullying and domestic violence will challenge already stretched, resource-poor businesses.

Economic growth will no longer be the principal government priority. The May budget is to introduce a national 'wellness' policy, according equal priority to reducing child poverty, addressing climate change and the transition to a low carbon economy, together with redressing inequality – ambitious social objectives which will require a robust and expanding economy.



ICCA Gathers in Rotorua

Two key International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) working groups met in Rotorua last November to further the work of the global chemical industry's Responsible Care® safety, health and environmental protection initiative. The Chemical Policy and Health Working Group, together with the Responsible Care® Leadership Group play vital roles in advancing and delivering the global chemical industry's goal of improving chemical safety.

Our industry's contribution to Sustainability through the Responsible Care® initiative is now implemented by 65 associations worldwide. New Zealand was honoured to host delegates from 43 countries, ensuring they were introduced to the best of New Zealand's culture and lifestyle, while enjoying our unique environment

Climate Change Woes Accelerate

Almost 200 signatory countries to the 2015 Paris Climate Accord struggle to develop common performance and reporting guidelines for limiting the rise in global warming to not more than 1.5°C. The UN Conference of the Parties (CoP 24) is the third attempt to establish a process for reducing, uniformly measuring and reporting national progress in cutting GHG emissions.



The non-binding nature of the measures, highlighted by the non-participation of the two largest emitters, the US and China, threatens this goal.



Davos 2019

This year's World Economic Forum of global business leaders, lobbyists and 'influencers' together with activists for the full spectrum from business concerns to social causes, heard a stunning 'call to arms' by environmental 'superstar' Sir David Attenborough.

He reminded delegates of the need for action, not more words, if we are to heed the ICC's warning we have fewer than 10 years to implement effective countermeasures.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries expressed frustration that governments have yet to demonstrate the required sense of urgency. The meeting noted "a rapid and far reaching" transformation of the world's energy, transport and consumer consumption sectors will be necessary to restrain future warming to not more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Global business leaders identified a global recession as their major worry, together with threats to free trade and increasing demands for social change, noting many economies were suffering from self-inflicted wounds, the US-China trade war the foremost example.

A particularly diverse range of speakers included the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Akira Sakano of Zero Waste Academy, Japan. The alliance of CEO Climate Leaders, an informal group of global businesses including BASF, called for a climate deal aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"Climate change is a major threat to our environment, society and economy. But a prosperous, inclusive and low-carbon world is possible".

Speaking for the younger generation, 16 year old climate activist Greta Thunberg put it more succinctly: "I don't want your hope, I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic and act as if the house is on fire".

The 'wake up call' in the recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report presents a dire picture of a steadily deteriorating global environment. Sir David's plea for urgent action may encourage world leaders to deliver something more useful than well-intentioned platitudes. The world is watching.



Plastic Bags To Go

New Zealand is banning all types of single-use plastic bags, representing approximately 1% of New Zealand's plastic waste stream from July 2019. Internationally and locally, plastic food and drink containers, together with cigarette packaging and butts, provide the bulk of the waste polluting our oceans.

Latest research reveals 'one trip' plastic bags represent 1% of plastic litter and the much-maligned plastic bags have the lowest carbon footprint, compared to alternatives.

Project Ocean

A plastic waste cleanup project supported by the UN and the global chemical industry is suffering teething problems with retaining the plastic captured by a towed, floating barrier. Despite increasing innovative plastic recycling initiatives, growing stockpiles of used tyres, batteries and increasingly 'e waste', demonstrate the need for more pragmatic, effective and ethically defensible solutions to safely managing our hazardous waste. At present, much of New Zealand's agrichemical waste is exported to Europe and incinerated.

As plastic waste markets collapse in the wake of China stopping imports, NGOs report the plastic waste we export to Asian countries for re-processing is now being burned or buried, endangering local populations and their environment. It would be timely to review New Zealand's ban on high temperature incineration (HTI), given that a state of the art facility could efficiently destroy much of our waste, while generating energy.



Proposed changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) would place a cap on units needed to meet regulatory obligations. Some commentators are suggesting carbon prices of \$100-\$275 per tonne of emissions. The only eligible tradeable emissions unit (New Zealand Unit) costs around \$25 on the spot market.



EPA And Chemicals of Interest

Following Canada and Australia, the EPA is implementing a list of 'Chemicals of Concern' to better focus resources on monitoring and researching hazardous substances posing a greater threat to people and the environment. Perennial activist targets Glyphosate, Fluoride and 1080 are not included. A re-assessment of the herbicide Paraquat is scheduled for February/March 2019, beginning with a 30-day public submission period. The Paraquat application for reassessment has been published on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/database-search/hsno-application-register/view/APP203301>

This reassessment application contains human health and environmental risk assessments, as well as an economic benefits assessment, using data obtained in the call for information which was open between July and September 2017. The public is now invited to make submissions on the assessment, proposals and concerns contained in the application documents.

Consultation page: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/public-consultations/open-consultations/reassessment-of-paraquat/>. Submissions close at 5pm, Friday 12th April 2019.



EPA Stakeholder Reference Group

Responsible Care NZ has joined the advisory group contributing to the EPA's Hazardous Substances Modernisation Programme. The primary intention is to update our GHS-based chemical management regime, together with implementing an enhanced EPA customer experience.



WorkSafe NZ Academic Sponsorship

Victoria University is to establish the WorkSafe New Zealand Chair in Health and Safety within the Wellington university's School of Health, to provide academic leadership in health and safety research and teaching with WorkSafe NZ funding.

Searching for Rules Pertaining to the Non-Workplace Use of Hazardous Substances?

The EPA Hazardous Property Controls Notice is the place to look. This document is full of wee gems that we should all be aware of, especially when it comes to storing hazardous substances at home or at the bach/crib. It lists the maximum volumes legally permitted to be stored in the 'family home'.



A Reminder - Changes To Employment Law

1 July 2019: Adult Minimum Wage Rate (pre-tax) increases to \$17.70 per hour.

Action Required:

- **Ensure** you update your payroll and employer agreements.
- **Check** whether those in Starting Out and Training roles become eligible for the Adult Minimum Rate.

1 July 2019: Paid Parental Leave increases from 22 Weeks to 26 Weeks

The number of hours an employee can carry out paid work while on Parental Leave increases from 40 to 50 hours during the Parental Leave period. This will further increase to 26 weeks in July 2019.

Through June 2019 and December 2019: Changes to Hazardous Substances Regulations applicable to most businesses. The 2017 changes come into effect with most classes of hazardous substances. Watch this space.

Action Required: Training

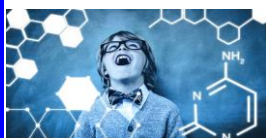
- **Specialist** knowledge to be addressed when training workers and emphasis on importance of comprehensive records (HSWA Regulation 3.0 and 4.0). RCNZ offers **Certified Handler courses**.
- **Removal** of HSNO Approved Handler requirements for Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5 or 6.1C and 6.7A highlights the value of your RCNZ customised, onsite **Competent Chemical Handler training**.
- **Introduction** of additional secure storage requirements (HSWA Regulations 10 and 12).

Transit Depots: New Signage Requirements - All Classes

Compliance Certification, Hazardous Atmosphere Zones, Public and Protected Places and Controlled Zones and Secondary Containment are all affected. Compliance advice for your particular requirements is available from your Association.

New Food Act 2014 Applies to Most Businesses Which Sell or Trade in Food

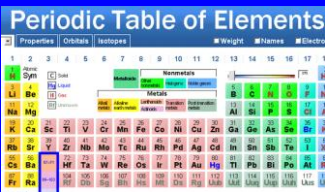
Food safety rules are now tailored to individual operations, rather than a 'blanket' coverage. Register your business and meet the new food safety requirements. The compliance deadline for existing food businesses is **28 February 2019**.



Science Highlights of 2018

- The 'Great Meth House Debacle' when more than 800 people were evicted from their state homes and had their possessions destroyed, after an inaccurate measure of methamphetamine contamination was enforced. Most await re-housing and compensation.
- Supermarkets have implemented a ban on all types of plastic bags given away or sold by retailers, with effect from July 2019. The ban includes all bags up to 70 microns in thickness, including degradable plastics.
- New Zealand-based Rocket Labs successfully put 13 mini-satellites into Earth's orbit. The objects, developed by NASA and collaborating institutions, are trialing a variety of mechanical and analytical innovations for future deployments.
- The continuing successful use of 1080 for pest control faces renewed protest action. Graphic social media coverage of dead native birds dumped on the steps of Parliament proved to be scare-mongering, as none were killed by 1080. Department of Conservation drops in national parks are being frustrated by sabotage of aircraft fuel supplies and hate mail directed at Rangers. 'Smart maps' are being installed where possible.
- Fire-fighting foams commonly known as PFOS and PFOA are still being used, despite a 2006 ban on products containing Perfluorooctanoic Acid. The Ministry for the Environment is investigating claims of water supplies contaminated by the foams.
- The unexpected ban on future onshore oil and gas exploration stunned the industry, resulting in multi-national prospectors foregoing existing drilling programmes and predictions of significant economic loss.
- Efforts to eradicate the devastating cattle disease Mycoplasma Bovis, which was discovered in the South Island last year, are deemed to be succeeding. There are presently 33 quarantined properties, down from 62. Almost 78,500 animals have been culled. New Zealand was the only country in the world without the disease and more than 150,000 cattle will be culled in the next ten years in an attempt to eradicate it.





New Zealand is the first country to mark the 150th anniversary of the UN Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements, discovered by Dmitri Mendeleev.



A Warm Welcome to New Members...



New Zealand owned **Animal Health Direct** provides mineral and dietary supplements, herbal washes, hygiene products and horse and calf bedding to the equine industry, together with metabolics and calving support products to the dairy industry.



Inta-Ag Limited, previously Pukekohe Growers Supplies, provides specialist advice and solutions for all aspects of sustainable vegetable crop production.



MCU Coatings is a global manufacturer of Moisture Cure Polyurea (MCU) marine and protective coatings to protect steel, concrete, aluminium, stainless steel and iron from corrosion.



Auckland-based **Neptune Pacific** supply environmentally waterproofing membranes across NZ and throughout the Pacific and import a range of building industry products.



Rotorua-based **Rainbow and Brown** supply herbicides and herbicide adjuvants and penetrants to the agricultural and horticultural sectors.



South Island-based family business **Superior Fertiliser Specialists** supply family and corporate farms, as well as the dairy, horticulture and viticulture sectors.

...And New Partners to the Responsible Care® Family



Dunedin City Council recently launched three simultaneous waste management projects to reduce waste and lower carbon emissions.



GNS Science is New Zealand's leading provider of Earth, geoscience and isotope research and consultancy services, for the purpose of understanding natural Earth system processes and resources, and translating them into economic, environmental and social benefits.



Hastings District Council's Litter Reduction Strategy aims to provide a long-term, sustainable approach to litter reduction in the city.



Wairarapa District Health Board services a combined population of 45,000 citizens from Martinborough, Featherston, Greytown, Carterton and Masterton

These Are Our Members



Global Responsible Care® icon, Canadian-based **Methanex** received over 300 applications for 14 plant operator positions at their three Taranaki production sites, following the renewal of an ten-year natural gas supply contract.

Ballance Agri-Nutrients is replacing the ageing Port Road, Whanganui plant with two purpose-built facilities in Marsden Point and Whanganui. The multi-phased project will provide a bulk storage and distribution centre for Northland, together with a new packaging plant.



Member Services: **CHEMCALL®**

Last year our unique **0800 CHEMCALL®** subscriber-based, 24/7 Emergency Response Advisory Service saw a major increase in callers seeking help to safely manage chemical-related incidents. A 24/7 New Zealand contact number for emergency advice is mandatory, as well as for Safety Data Sheets and DG consignment notes, from which detailed product information can be quickly obtained.

CHEMCALL® can also provide after-hours emergency contacts and site information to Emergency services, in the event of a site chemical incident. We are now able to store site-specific Chemical Emergency Response Plans for all CHEMCALL® subscribers (on a case by case basis, as subscriber needs will differ).

Air New Zealand requires “24 Hour Emergency Contacts for Knowledgeable Person” when transporting Declared Dangerous Goods (Reference IATA Variant NZ-03), particularly Lithium batteries, which are emerging as an area of concern for transport operators.

Your Association offers specialist chemical safety training, including an onsite Competent Chemical Handler qualification, which fills the gap left by the dilution of the Certified Handler requirement.

Onsite chemical awareness and safety briefings for management and staff, identifying the requirement for specialist training are also popular, particularly in the Healthcare Sector where staff are rarely aware of the personal risk associated with the more hazardous substances they encounter daily.

Site compliance assessments are particularly helpful to employers struggling to ensure chemical safety has been comprehensively addressed. Recent examples include small manufacturing sites and a major healthcare facility. Your Association also offers site Asbestos surveys, together with identifying qualified contractors to carry out remediation or removal where necessary.



Risk Assessments

RCNZ Compliance Manager Ken Clarke in collaboration with 14 transport operators, the NZTA, NZ Police and FENZ are proposing to identify areas of risk facing land transport operators across New Zealand. Findings will be used for future planning and emergency response-based resource deployment.

Preparing A Workplace Emergency Plan

Developing an Emergency Response Plan that will capture “All reasonably foreseeable emergencies” requires looking beyond the stipulated ‘Minimum Plan Content’ of the HSWA HS Regulations. The Minimum Plan Content falls well short of an effective plan, with its sole focus on chemical incidents and how to mitigate them.

“All reasonably foreseeable emergencies” goes well beyond a chemical event, dictating a much wider consideration reflecting the likelihood of an event relating to ‘your’ site.

A “Fire situation involving chemicals” is vastly different to a straightforward ‘chemical spill’, or a simple ‘fire’ not involving any chemicals. A critical first step is to begin with the desired outcome and work backwards, developing the process to achieve your outcome. We can provide advice.



Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire Safety, Evacuation Procedures and Evacuation Schemes) Regulations apply to owners and tenants of buildings used for care or detention, accommodation, public access, employment and the presence of hazardous substances (“relevant buildings”) described in Schedule 2 of the regulations.

From July 2018, all users of relevant buildings must now have ready access to information about provision for persons requiring assistance and how to alert FENZ to a fire emergency. This is in addition to previous regulatory requirements that include ready access to information about:

- Fire fighting equipment for occupant use.
- Routes to places of safety.
- Methods of alerting occupants e.g. fire alarms.
- Location of Assembly Points.

All summarized on clear, distinct and legible signs located in appropriate places throughout the building.

- The required signage must be in place by **January 2019**.
- “Persons with Disabilities” are now “Persons requiring particular assistance”, including the elderly and the very young. Evacuation schemes must include provision for their safety.
- Owners and tenants must ensure employees are trained to assist other occupants to follow evacuation procedures.
- A “Place of safety” for persons requiring assistance must be provided inside the building, unless they can promptly exit the building. Specifications regarding fire separation, sprinkler protection, sufficient capacity and a means of escape from the building are listed in the Building Code A-Z Interpretation.
- The safe locations and the likely number of occupants need to be detailed in the Plan.
- Requirements for information to be included in the Plan are explained in Schedule 4 of the regulations.

NB: It appears trigger levels for hazardous substances have been increased by 5% before requiring an Evacuation Scheme due to their presence.

Existing Approvals

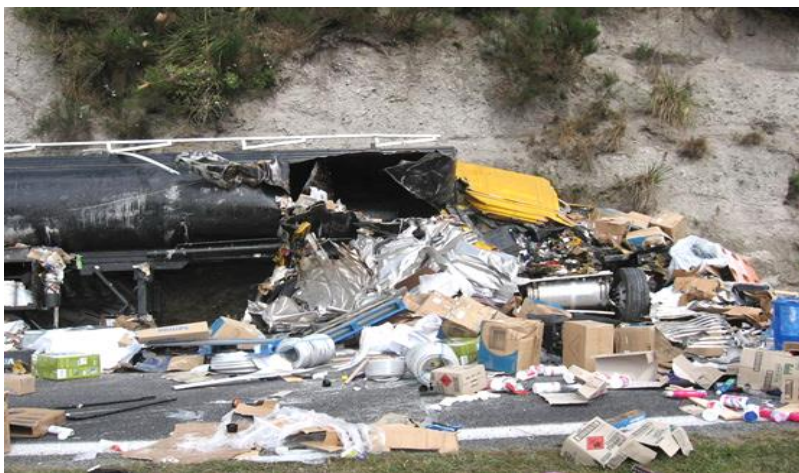
Evacuation schemes prior to 1 July 2018 approved under the Fire Service Act 1975 are approved under the new regulations. This is a summary only; full details are available at www.legislation.govt.nz.

Tank Wagons and ISO Transportable Containers

According to the HSWA HS Regulations, during the Land Transport phase, ISO Containers on wheels, whether trucks or rail wagons, are defined as Tank Wagons for the purpose of regulatory enforcement.

Cylinder Explosion Tragedy in Auckland

A domestic garage explosion in Auckland killed an individual who had been tampering with an approved cylinder. Changing fittings designed to an approved standard is extremely dangerous. For example, left-hand threads are used deliberately to prevent the mixing of hardware - these should never be changed. The incident is a tragic reminder that Standards exist for our own protection.



**If this was your chemical consignment,
what would you do?**

**Let's discuss how our 0800 CHEMCALL®
24/7 ERS can help!**

Call 04 499 4311.