



Responsible Care[®]
OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

News Brief

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Christmas Edition



A new government, a new Workplace Relations and Safety Minister and a long overdue focus on business operators reminding them to safely manage their workplace chemicals. The transfer of the HSNO Hazardous Substances Regulations 2001 into the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) – Hazardous Substances Regulations 2017, highlights a critical yet poorly understood workplace health and safety issue.

There are differences in the revised regulations, however for HSNO compliant businesses, the changes should not prove onerous.

One major change is the introduction of the Major Hazard Facilities (MHF) regulations, which capture more than 200 sites throughout the country. The requirement for safety cases approved by WorkSafe NZ and subject to an annual charge has given rise to considerable resentment and accusations of 'overkill' when matched against industry site performance over many years.

Putting the spotlight on safely managing the chemicals capable of causing harm to people and our environment will boost compliance, particularly by the SMEs comprising 97% of New Zealand businesses – disadvantaged by requiring busy, multi-tasking operators to reference voluminous and confusing reference material which must be correctly applied, often without assistance.

Chemical manufacturers, importers and retailers (Suppliers) have an obligation to help ensure their customers are able to safely manage their products. Responsible suppliers go the extra mile to enable the product to be correctly used and handled through its life cycle. Despite the obvious benefits of effective product stewardship initiatives, there is as yet no official recognition for such value-added policies and performance. Perhaps the renewed focus on workplace chemicals will rectify this discrepancy?

Saving the Planet - Spotlight on Pollution

The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) in Nairobi this month is tackling global pollution evident in our air, land, fresh water, chemicals and waste streams. The 4,000 delegates representing heads of state, governments, NGOs and business leaders are debating the latest UN reports calling for political leadership and partnerships, action on the worst pollutants, life style changes affecting non-renewable resources and increased advocacy to obtain practical and financial support for effective solutions to counter the growing abuse of our increasingly stressed environment.

Air pollution is credited with causing an estimated 6.5 million deaths each year, as 80% of cities fail to meet UN air quality standards. The recent prolonged spell of pollution in New Delhi is a timely example. Fourteen US states and the District of Columbia are suing the federal government for not enforcing smog standards.



Over 80% of the world's waste water enters the environment without any treatment, contaminating cropping land and drinking water for 300m people.

UN Environment Head Erik Solheim told UNEA-3 delegates the complex global issues and decisions required about our energy, ecosystems, natural resources, urban development, production, infrastructure, consumption and waste management demand urgent attention if we are to protect people and our under-siege environment.

Mr Solheim's 'wish list' for a healthier environment includes:

- Abolishing what we don't need
- Making 'better' products
- Curbing plastic use at its source
- Putting a price on plastic which will facilitate collection and recycling

High profile advocates include heads of state, politicians, pop stars, NGOs, children's' groups and TV personalities like US climate change advocate Al Gore and Sir David Attenborough introducing his latest documentary on ocean pollutants.

ICCA countries receiving an honorary mention for proactive responses addressing pollution include India, China, the EU and Kenya. Bans on plastic shopping bags are gathering international momentum.

Despite the President of the UN General Assembly noting "Business are critical to achieving sustainable development", industry contributions were not obvious in Assembly programmes and side events and remain elusive in subsequent reporting. Selected advocacy groups featured prominently during the Assembly and possibly most importantly, on social media.

A Croplife poster highlighting particularly the science/policy/business forum and container recovery and recycling schemes in 57 countries were the most obvious signs of industry response.

Clearly, chemical suppliers face a major challenge to ensure our vital contribution to the UN Sustainability Goals is not only recognized but also appreciated.

Important chemical industry contributions such as sound science, the global product strategy and support for joint projects have yet to emerge in communiques.



Phasing Out Plastic

The government has enacted the ban on microbeads which industry voluntarily implemented last year. The ban is designed to eliminate the minute plastic fragments appearing throughout the marine food chain, underscored by increased international efforts to reduce the plastic debris littering our oceans.



Healthy Trade Balance

Following the APEC TPP meeting in Vietnam, it emerged that New Zealand's trade with 21 APEC economies is worth \$102bn per year. China remains our largest export market, taking nearly 30% of our milk powder, cheese and butter. Visitors and foreign students contribute \$9bn.

Our new government supports the contentious Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership, which emerged battered but alive after Canada surprisingly frustrated final endorsement of the existing text. As a result, 20 provisions have been superseded to retain the support of the 11 members throughout future negotiations.

New Zealand is largely unaffected by the changes and together with Australia, Chile and Canada stands to benefit from the US withdrawing from competing for agricultural products in Japan.

Capacity Building in Africa

Presentations describing how Responsible Care® adds value to corporate activities, while contributing to sustainable development, were a feature of the three day Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) Summit in Nairobi last month. The Summit provided the opportunity to review progress with KAM becoming the Kenya Responsible Care® Association, the first new African Responsible Care® association in 20 years. The ICCA continues to support KAM activities through 2018/19, providing chemical safety workshops for local companies and government agencies, while encouraging greater self-sufficiency by upskilling locals to conduct basic chemical management courses.

ICCA Joint Capacity Building Task Force Co-Chair Barry Dyer presented KAM with a token of Friendship to mark support for the fledgling association.



KAM Chief Executive Phyllis Wakiaga, together with KAM RC Co-ordinator Samuel Matonda accept a Maori sculpture signifying a strong and lasting relationship between KAM and the Responsible Care Leadership Group, from RCNZ Chief Executive Barry Dyer.



‘New’ Chemical Regulations

The advent of updated chemical safety regulations on 01 December 2017 has come and contrary to the hype about ‘new’ regulations, life as we know it continues.

The complex but largely intact hazardous substances requirements continue, much to the relief of those business operators already compliant with their legal HSNO obligations but increasingly confused by ongoing claims of major changes in compliance obligations.

There are changes however and more than 200 primarily SME operators responded to the Responsible Care NZ offer of a free catchup in Auckland last month, explaining major differences between the superseded HSNO Regulations 2001 and the HSWA Hazardous Substances Regulations 2017. The enthusiastic turnout for the event, which was not widely advertised, confirmed the need for effectively conveying to business operators the ‘how to’ of demonstrating compliance – advice clearly not proving effective elsewhere.



2017 Regulatory Roundup

In all the excitement arising from the change of government, earthquakes, rising house prices and waiting for Santa, it is possible you inadvertently overlooked the following important changes to employment law:

01 April 2017

- The Adult Minimum Wage rose to \$15.75 per hour.
- Starting Out and Training rates rose to \$12.60 per hour.
- Contractors can now decide to have tax deducted from their pay at a rate of their choosing. NZ residents can pick any rate from 10% up to 100%. New tax forms are involved and cheaper ACC levies apply.
- Work levies decreased by an average of 10% over 2017-19; ACC will reflect the changes in their invoicing.
- The ACC Safety Discount has been discontinued now that HSWA 2015 is in place.

01 June 2017

- Parents applying for 18 weeks’ parental leave can choose to first use other types of paid leave, i.e. Annual, Alternative, Special and Time Off In Lieu.
- A premature baby (born before 36 weeks’ pregnancy) will be eligible for pre-term baby payments for up to 13 weeks.*

*See also upcoming changes with effect 01 July 2018 (below).

01 July 2017

Motor vehicle levies fell by 12.5%. The new rate will be reflected in the next registration payment.

28 August 2017

Changes to Migrant Worker regulations applicable to visa holders with 'essential skills' who are paid less than 85% of the median wage in jobs classed as 'lower skills':

- After three years, they must leave NZ for a 12-month stand down period before applying for another lower skilled work visa.
- Their family members require their own visas to enter NZ.

01 December 2017

- Revised hazardous substances regulations for safely managing workplace chemicals apply, following the transfer of the regulations from the HSNO Act 1996 to the HSWA 2015.
- There are some changes involved, however compliance with HSNO eases the adjustment.

NB: RCNZ continues to provide advice regarding significant changes to compliance obligations, particularly the dilution of Approved Handler requirements.

Easter Trading 2018

- Local councils can choose whether shops open on Easter Sunday.
- Employees retain the right to decline to work on that day.

01 July 2018

- Maternity Leave increases from 19 weeks to 22 weeks and rises to 26 weeks from 01 July 2020.
- A separate Bill replacing the Opposition's request to allow both parents to choose how they take their leave entitlement, will be tabled in the government's name early next year.

Welcome

to three new members joining the international Responsible Care® family:



Located adjacent to the Kaingaroa Forest, forty year old family business **Donelley Sawmillers** specialises in both traditional and innovative timber treatment. Managing Director Aaron Donelley is proactively addressing chemical safety obligations through the renowned Responsible Care® chemical management system.

Morgan and Shirley Donelley with Stephen Graham



Albany-based **MotoXParts** supply specialist motorcycle parts and accessories from the USA, Italy, UK, Europe and Taiwan to Australasian bikers. As CHEMCALL® subscribers, Craig and his team are now benefiting from the peace of mind provided by our 24/7 emergency response cover.

Based in the wine growing region around Blenheim, **Pacific Rim Oenology Services** have been servicing New Zealand's wine industry with scientific and bio-tech expertise, including sampling of batches from some of New Zealand's best known wine producers, since 1992.



Another Tyre Fire

Accounts vary, however between 5,000-99,000 used tyres stacked on a Taranaki property burned for six hours after being ignited by a grass fire. The owner said the tyres are used to secure customers' silage pit covers after harvesting and denied he was storing the tyres, which would require approval.

'Me Too' on Fuel Tax?

Hard on the heels of the decision to allow Auckland City to impose an \$11.5c per litre (10c per litre+GST) fuel tax to fund a \$20bn infrastructure development, Hamilton City is proposing an \$11.5c per litre impost to reduce rates for residents.

Who will be next?



I'll Be Home For Christmas

Displaced by last year's November earthquake, your Secretariat is now ensconced back 'home' on Level 7, City Chambers in the CBD.



Finally...

Last month, loyal followers of Paddles, New Zealand's First Cat and social media star, mourned her untimely passing. Among those who offered condolences on Twitter was the NZ American Ambassador's dog, Gracie.



Joanna, Ken and Barry wish our Members and Partners, as well as our discerning NewsBrief readers, the very best for the Festive Season, together with a safe and prosperous 2018.



Ready for your holiday?

Got the tent?

BBQ and beer?

Cat in the cattery?

Where did we put 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

Phone: 04 499 4311



Responsible Care®
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ON CALL 24/7