

Dangerous Goods Compliance Limited

Christmas is upon us within a few weeks signalling the end of what has been a very busy year in the Health and Safety, and Hazardous Substances arena. Since our last newsletter a new Act has been passed and more is known about the HSNO landscape to come next year. Below are some questions you need to ask yourself.

As the year draws to a close, industry is starting to wind up in readiness for next year. Hopefully everybody gets a chance to have a break over the holiday period. As a result, DGC will close on 23 December and reopen on 18 January. Essentially three weeks, however, we are on call for emergencies via our normal contact details.

Did you know...

Did you know that the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is now ready for action?

Due to commence in April 2016, the new Act will herald a new culture in New Zealand workplace safety. Exact details of the nuts and bolts are still under consultation, but all will be revealed soon.

The Hazardous Substances merger will be finalised in November and our understanding is that it will comprise of

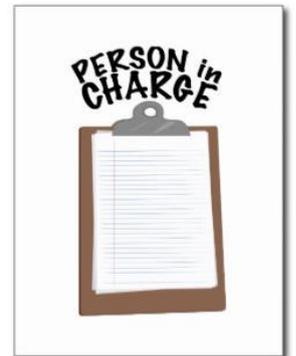
400 pages into 17 chapters. Its intention is to simplify and standardise some of the existing Act which may also formalise the many Guides and Performance Standards currently available. At the moment we wait with anticipation as it may mean some fine tuning or tweaking if there are changes.



Do you know your responsibilities as a PCBU / PIC?

The responsibility of the Person Conducting a Business Undertaking (PCBU), previously the Person in Charge, now encompasses their sphere of influence meaning the circle is now wider for ensuring the new Health & Safety at Work (HSW) Act is followed. In relation to contractors, who are in their own right PCBU's, should they be on another site who is under the control of another PCBU for that site, then the overarching responsibility for HSW is the main contractor on site. Thus subcontractors must report to the main PCBU for

induction and orientation, or at least for information or guidance. This doesn't mean individuals or workers are exempt during an incident as the new Act now makes everybody responsible and accountable. This will avoid the situation last month when a separate contractor commissioned to work on a tank tragically died as a result of igniting flammable vapour where he was working. If there is no other main contractor on site, then the contractor now takes on the mantle of PCBU.



Have you identified all the Hazards at your workplace?

The new HSW Act 2015 under General Risks now makes it necessary to identify all hazardous atmosphere zones (where the flammable vapour is) and any possible ignition sources within this atmosphere zone. Why? It was not specifically part of the previous HSE Act 1993 but because our high fire incident rate, it is now mandatory for PCBU's to identify hazards

with flammable vapour and record them on the Hazard ID Register. Not to do so will open a PCBU to the risk of possible infringement or prosecution should an incident occur where this has not been managed. You can download a template for this on our website:

www.dgcompliance.co.nz/information



Does everybody wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)?

Within the same document there is mention of wearing PPE gear and the consequences via infringements. To the worker, it is understood an instant \$500 fine will occur and will be handled in much the same way a traffic infringement works. The exact details are to be worked out and no doubt further information will

be forthcoming. In relation to Hazardous Substances we recommend all staff (and management) read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to check section 8 which will specifically outline the PPE gear and standard for protection against hazardous substances.



Are you an Importer of Hazardous Substances or a Manufacturer?

From 19th November you have 30 days to register with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), if you use or store imported hazardous substances. This is to tidy up chemical identification and information around labelling, HS Registers, Safety Data Sheets and Group Standards adherence.

EPA registration is the first step to ensure industry further aligns with the Global Harmonising System which also involves fine tuning of the Classification system. You can find more info and download an "Application to Notify a New Chemical" template for this on our website: www.dgcompliance.co.nz/information



Do you have a tank?

WorkSafe NZ has also released a new Performance Standards for Stationary Container Systems. This Performance Standard specifically addresses "grey areas" in the current regulations which may have resulted in subjective

interpretations. Consequently, some tanks on renewal may require remedial tweaking. Tank Designers, Engineers and Tank Fabricators are in the loop as WorkSafe NZ look to establish further compliance and consistency with tanks.



Do you use or store Toxic or Corrosive Substances?

Next year the intention is that any Class 6.1A/B/C substance or Class 8.2A substance may require a Compliance Location Certificate (previously a Location Test Certificate). These substances are considered harmful to human health and can have immediate consequences should

an incident occur. More will be known when the new Hazardous Substance Regulations are issued, however, their introduction may mean a significant change of culture to how we deal with chemicals going forward.



What's happening with Approved Handlers?

Some of you may know of the intention of WorkSafe NZ is to have everybody in the workplace trained to a competent standard by a tertiary NZQA qualified trainer: we urge you to check out our training calendar at: www.dgcompliance.co.nz/training.

This record of training is to be checked by a Compliance Certifiers (previously Test Certifiers) who can hold up a certificate if not done. We will let you know which way HSW and HS training will go in due course.



Office Changes

DGC would like to introduce our new Office Administrator: Linda Soper. Linda will now be your first port of call for your HSNO visits.

Kathy has reduced her hours at DGC, and still continues to assist us with our paper work.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2016.

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