

# Security Substances Newsletter



Workplace Standards Tasmania — Issue 1: December 2006

DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

Welcome to the first issue of the Security Substances Newsletter. We aim to produce this newsletter on a regular basis and provide relevant information to shot-firers, individuals and organisations involved with explosives or other Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances (SSDS).

## 1. Shot-firer Permit Application Process

**Anyone applying for a shot-firer's permit must be granted a "Character Clearance" from Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST).**

The Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances Unit (SSDS Unit) of WST, now processes all shot-firer applications - that is, new and renewal applications. In either situation applicants are still required to complete two forms:

1. The Shot-Firers Application Form and
2. The 'Consent to Check and Release' Form, which will provide WST with access to:
  - Tasmanian and National Police Records and
  - Politically Motivated Violence check conducted by ASIO.

You can now submit the two completed forms through any Service Tasmania shop together with the required fee. Applications should no longer be submitted via WST regional offices. The Service Tasmania shop will forward the application to the SSDS Unit. Application forms can be downloaded from the WST website [www.wst.tas.gov.au](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au) under the Security Substances option.

After assessment of the background checks, a clearance letter will be forwarded to applicants allowing them to attend a shot-firer course (new applicants). This letter will also request that applicants proceed to any Service Tasmania shop to have their photo taken for production of a shot-firer permit card. Shot-firer interviews will then be arranged to ensure appropriate endorsements are placed on permits and the application process is formally completed.

Note: For new applicants, background checks will remain valid for a period of six months, and training should be arranged to take place within that time.

## 2. Blasting in Municipal Areas

A reminder that under regulation 72 of the *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998*, a person must not use blasting explosives in a municipal area without the permission of the General Manager of the municipal council and in accordance with directions, if any, given by that General Manager of the council.

### 3. Blasting Records

Records of all blasting operations should be undertaken and maintained to a standard equivalent to that indicated in Appendix A of Australian Standard 2187.2 – 2006 “Explosives — Storage and use Part 2: Use of Explosives”. Extracts from blasting logbooks would be required by WST inspectors as part of any potential investigation, and must be supplied to the SSDS Unit as examples of recent work undertaken for permit renewal purposes. Note that the updated AS2187.2 was published in February 2006. For sales enquiries contact SAI Global on 131 242 or 02 8206 6010 or visit [www.saiglobal.com/shop](http://www.saiglobal.com/shop)

### 4. Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act

The *Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act 2005* received Royal Assent on 1 December 2005 but will not commence until it is proclaimed. As is common with legislation, this Act does not contain extensive detail. Further detail and administrative requirements will be contained in the *Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Regulations* currently being drafted. Part of the regulations will cover safe control of explosives. Consultation with stakeholders will occur during the drafting process. This new legislation will replace the existing Dangerous Goods legislation.

### 5. Security-sensitive Dangerous Substances Act — Addition of Explosives to Schedule 1

It is proposed that explosives will be added to Schedule 1 of the *Security-sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005*. The inclusion, will align the security and supply chain accountability requirements for explosives to the more stringent measures applicable to security sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN). Part of the approval process will require applicants to prepare and submit a security plan detailing their activities with explosives. Further updates will follow providing an opportunity for industry and public comment on this proposal.



Security Sensitive  
Ammonium Nitrate



Proposed addition of Explosives to Schedule 1

### 6. AFER Meeting

The first meeting of the Australasian Forum of Explosives Regulators (AFER), for a number of years, was conducted in Melbourne on September 5, 2006. Representatives from all states attended as well as the Dept of Defence, Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. A major outcome was that AFER will report via the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (formerly NOHSC—the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission) to the Workplace Relations Ministers Council. This will provide a mechanism to implement recommendations/outcomes from the Forum supporting nationally consistent explosives regulations. It is anticipated that AFER will meet twice a year.

**Note: Included with this document is**

- A handout from Alinta Gas with some info for shot-firers
- Absolute Shocker of the Week (Sep 2006)

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