

Security Substances Newsletter

Workplace Standards Tasmania — Issue 2: August 2007



DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE

1. SSDS Act — Addition of Explosives to Schedule 1

It is proposed that later this year parliament will add explosives to the *SSDS Act 2005*, to reflect the security risks associated with explosives and to ensure that the state's regulatory regime for explosives meets nationally agreed principles. An underlying principle of the proposal to add explosives as a security sensitive dangerous substance is that the new arrangements will be consistent with and build upon existing competency and safety requirements for the use of explosives. Information sessions are being held at Launceston on September 5, Campbell Town September 5, Hobart September 7, Queenstown September 12 and Burnie September 13. For further details and to register your attendance contact the SSDS Unit on 6233 8275.

2. Reminder—Storage

Storage in a day box, i.e. a container used at a blast-site for holding daily requirements for explosives, must be undertaken in accordance with AS2187.1. Such a container should be a strong wooden box with a lockable lid and no exposed iron or steel on the inside. It must be labelled appropriately with the words EXPLOSIVES or DETONATORS in red lettering on a white background, at least 75 mm in height. It is vital that day boxes or carry boxes are kept securely locked at all times. Only when they are required for use at a site where an explosion is to be fired or for supply purposes should they be unlocked.

Requirements for vehicles transporting explosives are found in the Australian Explosives Code (AE Code). Under the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Regulations 1998*, all vehicles transporting risk category 3 quantities must be approved by WST. Additionally all drivers transporting explosives at risk category 3 quantities must hold a Dangerous Goods Bulk Drivers Licence (Class 1).

3. Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Legislation Update

Key stakeholders attended a meeting in Hobart on August 2 and were informed about a preliminary version of the draft Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Regulations. It is anticipated a final version of the draft regulations will now be available later in the year. These will be found on the WST website. Further guidance will then be provided about what changes will occur. Feedback will be sought so compliance with the changed requirements can be achieved.

4. WST Website

Recently changes have occurred on the WST website. This is part of a process to ensure uniformity across the websites of all government departments. There are some changes to the site such as the way documents can now be printed. It is hoped the alterations to the website will assist users in searching for information. Please contact the SSDS Unit if you have difficulty viewing or printing documents.

5. Explosives Stolen From Storage Magazine

In late April a significant quantity of blasting explosives was stolen from an explosive storage magazine located in southern Tasmania.

Access into the magazine was achieved by cutting the lock on a boom-gate and removing a heavy metal vent cover and masonry bricks.

Examination of the site found weaknesses of security in the fixing points for vent covers, lack of reinforcement within the masonry walls and the absence of fencing directly around the magazine.

Fortunately the explosives were recovered and those responsible apprehended.

WST urges all shot-firers and magazine keepers/operators responsible for the storage of explosive to review:

- the physical storage and security provided for their explosives
- the accuracy of records keeping (conduct a stocktake on a **regular** basis to confirm that inventory aligns to current stocks)

Penalties apply for failing to meet obligations prescribed under the *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998* and AS 2187.1.

6. AFER Meeting

AFER (Australasian Forum of Explosive Regulators) conducted a two day meeting in Melbourne on May 29 and 30 2007. Representatives attended the meeting from all states and territories, including the Department of Defence, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group (AEISG).

Some of the issues discussed and progressed included:

- state and territory regulators to review and move to adopt consistent requirements to assist industry obtain authorisation for new explosive products
- significant explosive incidents – local and overseas
- briefs on: COAG review of chemicals of security concern, and SSAN Workshop feedback
- review of the 'Marplex Act', covering plastic explosives. Under this Commonwealth Act, it is an offence to manufacture, possess, traffic in, import and export unmarked plastic explosives

Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances Unit — WST

Office: 30 Gordons Hill Rd, (PO Box 56)
Rosny Park, Tasmania, 7018
Telephone: 1300 366 322 (within Tasmania)
(03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania)
Facsimile: (03) 6233 8338
Webpage: www.wst.tas.gov.au
Email: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au