

e-bulletin

December 2008

Welcome to the 25th edition of the e-bulletin. Time flies when you're having fun! The year seems to have zoomed by. The latest on Formaldehyde is again raised in this edition as well as the latest on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Finally thank you for your support in 2008 and I hope to see you all in 2009. Have a great Christmas and New Year.

Cheers Glenn

Formaldehyde

The New Zealand Department of Labour (DoL) has announced proposed reductions in the Workplace Exposure Standards for Formaldehyde. The proposed new standards are a TWA of 0.3ppm and a STEL of 0.6ppm. This is a significant reduction from the previous 1ppm ceiling value. The change is most concerning because the DoL have not been able to provide any justification for this change apart from the comment that this is worlds best practice. The fact is it is world's lowest levels but the justification doesn't necessarily follow.

The DoL have at least asked for comments and the New Zealand industry is preparing submissions which need to reach the DoL by 31st March 2009.

If you would like to support the submission or make one of your own please contact us for further details.

[.....top](#)

CARB

The reality of the new CARB regulation is starting to bite. Many groups are struggling to meet the January 1 deadline for certification. This has been a result of lack of available resources for certification and testing and poor understanding of the requirements and the need for certification.

ATCA now has third party certification in Australia and can provide services if required.

[.....top](#)

In this Issue
Formaldehyde
CARB
CPRS
One Last Thing
Contact us

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

This week the Federal Government produced the white paper for the carbon pollution reduction scheme (CPRS). This is the final policy statement before the legislation is released detailing our emissions trading scheme.

We have commented before on this but thought it would be worthwhile updating the details.

Firstly it is worth pointing out that only entities that emit more than 25Kt CO₂-e are responsible for remitting permits under the scheme. Scope 1 emissions are the only one's that are considered so electricity use is not considered but if the electricity is generated on site then you would be liable for any emissions. Any emissions from fossil fuels are also considered. Liquid petroleum fuels (petrol, diesel, etc) are accounted for in a slightly different way and unless you are an extremely large user of these fuels the emissions are treated separately.

If you are registered under the NGERs regulation, which has the same threshold as the CPRS, you should be reviewing your emissions for eligibility and establishing a management system to deal with the CPRS.

We can help with resources and systems to manage your liability. Please call us for details.

[.....top](#)

And one Last Thing.....

A Russian couple was walking down the street in St. Petersburg the other night, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining," he said to his wife.

"No, that felt more like snow to me," she replied. "No, I'm sure it was just rain, he said." Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them.

"Let's not fight about it," the man said, "let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing."

As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?"

"It's raining, of course," he answered and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" To which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

[.....top](#)

About Us.

Tech Partners Australia is an independent Technical Service provider to the composite wood panels industry. Glenn Ryan who has 25 years experience in industry runs the organization. His experience covers Quality Management, Technical Service and R&D Management.

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