

e-bulletin

March 2009

Welcome

2009 promises to be an interesting year for all of us. The current economic conditions are proving to be very trying. At the moment things seem to have stabilised and we can only hope that there is not more bad news to come.

I watch with interest to see how the current situation affects carbon emission reduction efforts as well as global trade policy.

Cheers Glenn

Workplace Exposure Standards

The New Zealand government has recently announced planned changes to the Workplace exposure standards for formaldehyde, wood dust and a number of other materials.

The current workplace exposure standard in New Zealand is 1ppm ceiling level. The proposed new standards are a TWA of 0.3ppm and a STEL of 0.6ppm.

It would appear that these proposed changes are driven by fashion rather than scientific fact as there has been no scientific analysis of the health effects of formaldehyde but simply a review of other standards and the selection of the lowest levels found elsewhere. This I find is a totally unacceptable approach to setting standards. The approach seems to be that “world’s best practice” can be equated to “world’s lowest emission level”.

Submissions from industry were due in on the 31st of March 2009. We will have to wait and see if sanity prevails. [.....top](#)

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

The draft legislation for the Australia emissions trading scheme is now available. The Australian government is still planning to introduce the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in 2010 and hope to have the legislation passed by parliament in June this year but this seems an ambitious target given the opposition to current target and the state of the economy.

There have been some interesting issues raised by green groups about the impact of the scheme on the voluntary emission reduction market. Current carbon credits generated in Australia will no longer

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be valid once the scheme starts because they will be generated from areas covered by the new scheme. This is a huge disincentive to invest in reduction schemes and the voluntary carbon trading market has collapsed in recent times. Secondly the lack of recognition of individual efforts to reduce emission under the scheme has proved to further anger this group who feel that their efforts will only serve to make life easier for the big polluters by reducing the demand for permits and therefore reducing the cost of permits. The solution in their eyes is to account for voluntary reduction in Australia's overall emissions and reduce targets by the voluntary reduction amount and so keep the demand steady for permits. No doubt the debate will continue.

The scheme is likely to affect all industry through increased energy costs but there is compensation available for Emission Intensive Trade Exposed industries, (EITE). The number of companies that will likely be exposed to permit trading is estimated to be only around 1000. The criteria are primarily set at a threshold of 25Kt of CO₂ –e from primary emissions from a facility. Emissions from combustion of bio-mass are excluded.

In light of the draft legislation organisations should be assessing the impact even if they are not required to purchase permits. Actions should include:

- Assess if any compensation is available
- Determine impact on costs
- Evaluate business plans and strategy for increased costs
- Develop and evaluate projects for energy/cost reductions

If you would like some help in this area please give us a call. [.....top](#)

And another thing.....

Signs Technology Took Over Your Life by Joe Mullich, AmericanWay Magazine.

1. Your stationery is more cluttered than Warren Beatty's address book. The letterhead lists a fax number, e-mail addresses for two on-line services, and your Internet address, which spreads across the breadth of the letterhead and continues to the back. In essence, you have conceded that the first page of any letter you write is letterhead.
2. You have never sat through an entire movie without having at least one device on your body beep or buzz.
3. You need to fill out a form that must be typewritten, but you can't because there isn't one typewriter in your house, only computers with laser printers.
4. You think of the gadgets in your office as "friends," but you forget to send your father a birthday card.
5. You sign Christmas cards by putting :-)) next to your signature.
6. Off the top of your head, you can think of nineteen keystroke symbols that are far more clever than :-)).
7. You back up your data every day.
8. You know more about the computer than about all of your friends.
9. On vacation, you are reading a computer manual and turning the pages faster than everyone else who is reading John Grisham novels.
10. The thought that a CD could refer to finance or music rarely enters your mind.
11. You become upset when a person calls you on the phone to sell you something, but you think it's okay for a computer to call and demand that you start pushing buttons on your telephone to receive more information about the product it is selling.
12. You own a set of itty-bitty screw-drivers and you actually know where they are.
13. While contemporaries swap stories about their recent hernia surgeries, you compare mouse-induced index-finger strain with a nine-year-old.
14. You rotate your screen savers more frequently than your car tyres.

15. You have a functioning home copier machine, but every toaster you own turns bread into charcoal.

16. You have ended friendships because of irreconcilably different opinions about which is better, the track ball or the track pad.

17. You email this message to your friends over the net. You'd never get around to showing it to them in person or reading it to them on the phone. In fact, you have probably never met most of these people face-to-face.

18. You don't even read magazine articles anymore, unless someone's keyed them into e-mail and forwarded it to you.

19. You pack the laptop computer first for any trip.

20. You are reading this from a screen.

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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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