ChemAlert.

Perpetual Research Less Risk

Special points of interest:

- Classifications according to GHS
- ChemAlert v3.3 released
- eLearning for v3.3 available
- Product Spotlight on the Chemical Request module
- First look details on the next release of ChemAlert
- GHS compatibility with ADG code

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GHS references for classifying Hazardous Chemicals

As many of you are aware, the new Code of Practice for the Preparation of Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Chemicals, was published earlier this year. This is an approved code of practice under section 274 of the Work Health and Safety Act (the WHS Act).

The Code of Practice provides for a classification system in accordance with the GHS, including the requirement to include label elements such as pictograms, signal words, hazard statements, and precautionary statements.

Now that we are moving towards the GHS Classification system over the next few years, what references can be used to classify our products? After all, one the benefits of the GHS is to remove the need for testing given the significant amount of data to be available.

Here I have provided a short description of the main databases available for Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Japan for classifying Hazardous Chemicals.

Australia: Hazardous Substances Information System (HSIS):

http://hsis.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/HazardousSubstance

HSIS does not contain GHS data on hazardous chemicals. Instead it still has the Risk and Safety Phrases.

On the Safe Work Australia website (under Publications -> Guidance Material) the 'Guidance on the Classification of Hazardous Chemicals Under the WHS Regulations' can help you to translate the existing classifications

ChemAlert v3.3 released

After two years of dedicated effort by our ChemAlert development team we proudly released v3.3 in July. Some of the great new features and refinements in v3.3 are highlighted below.

Later in this newsletter you can read about the training and eLearning options available to ensure your users get the most out of this version.

Risk Assessment

Multiple Products

A chemical risk assessment must always consider both the product involved and the task being undertaken. In v3.2 each Risk Assessment could specify only one product. In v3.3 you can now specify multiple products in a Risk Assessment.

There are two scenarios in which the multi-product option is beneficial:

1) The task being assessed involves multiple products.

2) For the task being assessed there are alternative products which could be used.

This refinement will reduce the number of risk assessments that need to be undertaken.

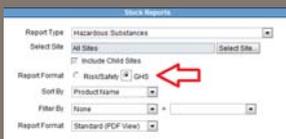#### Custom Control Questions

For the Risk Assessment Controls tab, the administrator can now define a series of standard questions to be answered by assessors (as shown below).

For instance, against the "Substitution" control

Control Questions	New Question...		
Control	**Question**	**Active**	**Delete**
Elimination	Can the chemical be eliminated in its entirety?	☑	🗑
Elimination	Does this process/task need to be undertaken?	☑	🗑
Substitution	Are there any less hazardous chemicals appropriate for the task?	☑	🗑
Substitution	Is the chemical in its least hazardous practical form (e.g. pellet instead of a powder)?	☑	🗑
Isolation	Is this chemical isolated from workers during the task?	☑	🗑
Isolation	Is the chemical stored remote from workers?	☑	🗑

GHS references for classifying Hazardous Chemicals

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to meet the GHS requirements.

It is also worth checking the 'News and Updates' area which documents recent changes to entries (such as an update to Formaldehyde in July 2012).

"There has been no decision to add GHS classifications to HSIS. It is possible that GHS classifications (where these are available) for substances sourced from NICNAS and APVMA will be provided in a separate document rather than in HSIS." Source: Safe Work Australia

Europe: Joint Research Centre's Institute for Health and Consumer Protection

http://esis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php?PGM=cla

This link provides a list of the classification and labelling in accordance with the criteria classified in Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (GHS) as implemented within the EU (Table 3.1).

It also maintains the EU classification and labelling system prior to the implementation of GHS (Table 3.2). That is, the majority of substances you will see in HSIS.

Europe: C&L Inventory Database

http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/information-on-chemicals/cl-inventory-database

The C&L Inventory Database has been newly created in order to assist in the classification of hazardous chemicals in accordance with GHS. Once your chemical is located, the Harmonised Classification will firstly be listed, where one exists, followed by the 'Notified Listings' in order of the number of Notifiers. Basically, you can identify how the chemical is commonly labelled in industry.

New Zealand: HSNO Chemical Classification and Information Database (CCID)

www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/HSNO-CCID.aspx

The CCID database has been available for quite a few years and is an important reference tool for those who wish to classify in accordance with HSNO (i.e. New Zealand's version of the GHS). A conversion table from HSNO to GHS is available from the NZ EPA website.

Japan: National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE)

http://www.safe.nite.go.jp/english/ghs_index.html#results

Although the process required to find a chemical is somewhat laborious (involving the use of one spreadsheet to find an ID number and then another to view the product details) the information provided is quite useful and generally provides a more in-depth rationale for the classification of most chemicals compared to the European or New Zealand databases. (Note that only around 1500 chemicals have been reviewed and this was back in 2006).

Global: eChemPortal

http://www.echemportal.org/echemportal/index?pageID=0&request_locale=en

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) global portal to information on chemical substances. This site allows for simultaneous search of multiple databases including sites listed above (ESIS, HSNO CCID, NITE) as well as HSDB, NICNAS, and many more.

Concluding Remarks

It is important to note that whilst the GHS is a common framework for the classification and labelling of chemicals, it doesn't mean that a particular chemical will be identically classified around the world!

For example, how does Phosphoric Acid compare using the same (or similar GHS classification system)?

EU – CLP/GHS	Japan (NITE) - GHS	NZ (CCID) - HSNO
	Acute Oral – Cat 4	6.1D (Acute Oral – Cat 4)
	Acute Derm – Cat 5	6.1E (Acute Derm – Cat 5)
		8.1A (Corr to Metals)
Skin Corr – Cat 1B	Skin Corr – Cat 1A-1C	8.2C (Skin Corr – Cat 1C)
	Serious Eye – Cat 1	8.3A (Serious Eye – Cat 1)
	STOT Resp – Cat 3	
		9.1D & 9.3C (Env Hazards)

... proving that us scientists often see things differently!

- Vince Pacecca, Chief Scientific Officer

(Feel free to contact Vince (vincep@rmt.com.au) if you would like more information on classification of chemicals under the GHS framework.)

Foreign SDSs that do not have local supplier details are considered *non-compliant* in Australia. Set your ChemAlert preferences to hide foreign products.

In v3.3 there is a new GHS version of the Hazardous Substances report.

The Incompatibilities report has new options and sections, including tabulated summaries.

Make sure you have Auto Product Updates turned on so that you always have the *Latest Product Info and SDS* in your ChemAlert system.

Kate Miller
Trainer / Scientist

John Mavromatis
Business Development

Kevin Harris
Business Development

ChemAlert v3.3 released

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level you could have a standard question like: "Are there any less hazardous chemicals that could be used instead".

For each risk assessment, this question will be displayed on the Controls tab.

Export Risk Assessment List

If you haven't yet tried exporting a list of risk assessments to a CSV file (viewable in programs such as MS Excel) then now would be a good time to try this because in v3.3 many more columns of product and risk data are now included in the exported file.

This may provide a useful summary for sharing between personnel who need to know what risk assessments have been undertaken.

Chemical Requests

One significant refinement to the Chemical Request module is that, from the Chemical Request dialog (the popup window in which you record a new Request or view an existing one), you can add a product straight into the Stock Register and Stock Holdings. i.e. you no

longer need to exit from the Chemical Request dialog and go to the Stock module to enter the newly approved product.

Multilingual

In addition to French, Spanish and Indonesian, ChemAlert is now available in Portuguese and Mongolian.

GHS

GHS compliance has been added throughout - including product reports and labels and selected Stock Reports.

PPE information has been restructured into sections to align with the GHS.

Further Information

There are many other new features and refinements in ChemAlert v3.3. For a summary of these, please contact your Account Manager - who can also advise you on the training options.

We always encourage client enhancement suggestions and these can be sent through to casupport@rmt.com.au.

Meet the team

In this section of our newsletter we will be progressively introducing you to the members of our team so that you can get to know the great people who help us deliver our world-class ChemAlert system and services.

Kate Miller
Trainer / Scientific Officer

Kate is the newest member of the ChemAlert team and conducts onsite and public ChemAlert training courses in Australia and around the world.

Kate holds a Cert IV in Training and Assessment and brings plenty of experience from her previous employment endeavors and with Surf Lifesaving Australia.

When not training, Kate is able to utilize her degree in biotechnology/biochemistry to assist the scientific team with

the research of new and updated chemicals for the ChemAlert database.

Kate also has a Bachelor of Business in Management / Business Law.

John Mavromatis
Business Development Exec

John is our newest Business Development Executive primarily servicing WA, SA, NT and parts of QLD.

John has a range of experience in accounting, sales and management and has a particular passion for great customer service.

He is a sports fanatic involved in AFL, rugby, cricket, basketball and tennis and also loves blues and rock music.

John is able to assist clients with the full suite of ChemAlert services including licensing, eLearning, SDS authoring,

audits and implementations, training.

Kevin Harris
Business Development Exec

Kevin is our longest serving Business Development Executive and services the east coast of Australia and New Zealand.

Kevin served for many years as a professional in the OH&S industry and is always eager to share his wealth of experience on how to achieve best practice in chemical management.

Outside of ChemAlert he is actively involved in Little Athletics Victoria and has a passion for AFL, NRL and enjoys following the race horses — especially during Spring Carnival and is always good for a tip or two.

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."
Benjamin Franklin

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."
B.B. King

ChemAlert DG/ GHS Pocket Guide — contact your Account Manager to request supply.

ChemAlert training - including a new course

Our training department has had a very busy year, especially following the release of ChemAlert v3.3 in July. We welcomed two new qualified scientists to our training team .

Following client feedback we have expanded the range of training courses that can be presented at your premises.

Still available are:

Search + Stock (previously called the Standard course): a one day course focussed on accessing product information, ChemAlert reports and SDS; managing Stock data and generating Stock reports.

Comprehensive (previously called Advanced): a two day course covering all the functional areas of ChemAlert including user administration.

We now also offer:

Search+Stock+Risk: a slightly longer one day course which covers everything in the Search+Stock course (at a slightly quicker pace) and also goes though the Risk Assessment module in detail.

Plus:

We also offer a *Chemicals in the Workplace* course (WA-only) that is designed to raise awareness of the hazards associated with the use of chemicals in the workplace and outlines hazardous chemicals legislation.

Public Training

The ChemAlert public training course is the Comprehensive two day course. It is conducted in capital cities around Australia twice each year.

Public training may be preferred over onsite training when you only have one or two people to be trained.

The next round of public training courses will be in the second quarter of 2013. The training dates will be published on our website when they have been finalised:
www.chemalert.com/training-schedule.html

eLearning v3.3

The latest release of the eLearning system includes a new section on the Chemical Request module.

eLearning is great for companies that are remotely located or find it difficult to get personnel together for an on-site course. It can also be used by people who have attended face-to-face training to refresh them on functionality previously learned, or to teach them new skills (e.g. if they only did a one day course previously).

The ChemAlert eLearning system can be easily deployed to all your users and can also plug into a Learning Management System if required.

The eLearning modules are:

- Quick Tour (Demo)
- Simple Search
- Advanced Search
- Product Details
- Stock Register
- Stock Holdings
- Risk Assessment
- Chemical Requests

First look at what ChemAlert v4 will offer

ChemAlert v4 development is well under way and is an exciting technological step forward.

The two key changes are:

- a new interface that enables ChemAlert to be more readily used on portable devices;
- an Audit Trail that will enable administrators to examine details of user activity.

New Interface

The new ChemAlert interface will automatically detect the available screen size and adjust the layout and content on screen to ensure a functional and intuitive user experience whether ChemAlert is being used on a computer with a wide-screen display or a tablet device with limited screen space. There will be two new search modules (Quick and Advanced Search) and a News module to deliver the latest scientific and product information.

Audit Trail

In response to client requests, the new Audit Trail feature in v4 will log user activity and provide a readily accessible view of this for administrators.

The user actions that will be logged are:

- user login and logout;
- insertion, change and deletion of data;
- batch printing;
- Data Care operations such as backup;
- sending Chemical Request and Custom Product data to RMT.

There are substantial benefits to the Audit Trail. For instance, it will allow administrators to:

- configure audit options;
- review user activity levels;
- identify who made data changes in the case where an inappropriate change has been made;
- identify who has been doing batch printing, backing up data, or sending information to RMT.

If you have a self-hosted ChemAlert system and you find that your IT personnel are too busy to update ChemAlert to the latest version then please consider an RMT-hosted solution instead (aka 'cloud computing'). Your Account Manager can assist with an upgrade quotation.

Product spotlight: the Chemical Request module

The Chemical Request module is probably the most underutilised component of the ChemAlert system.

Its objective is to provide you with a standard process for assessing chemicals prior to introducing them into the workplace.

If ever a question is raised in future about the use of a particular chemical, perhaps as a result of an incident or a general review of operations, the presence of a Chemical Request record in ChemAlert will demonstrate that it was assessed prior to starting to use it.

Undertaking an assessment in the Chemical Request module is akin to doing a preliminary risk assessment. If it is decided to introduce a product which is Hazardous or Dangerous then a detailed risk assessment should also be undertaken via the ChemAlert Risk Assessment module.

With the security options available in ChemAlert you can give some users the ability to lodge Chemical Requests while restricting the actual assessment and authorisation to other (administrative/ managerial) users.

Our training services and the latest version of our eLearning package can help you make the most of this module.

V3.3 service pack

Due for release shortly (via our eDelivery website) is Service Pack 1 for v3.3.

This enhancement release:

- certifies ChemAlert v3.3 for non-English languages;
- improves performance; and
- fixes issues with:
  - Label formatting;
  - Stock search results; and
  - Site tree layout.

Support

In addition to support in the use of ChemAlert, your licence also includes the valuable added bonus of Scientific Support - which gives you access to RMT's team of experienced safety professionals, chemists, toxicologists and industrial hygienists who can provide advice on hazard awareness, chemical handling, PPE, storage, spill response, disposal, environmental considerations, etc.

Support is available via phone (+61 8 9322 1711) and email (casupport@rmt.com.au) Monday to Friday, excluding Australia-wide Public Holidays, between the following hours:

Use of ChemAlert:
6.30am to 6pm WST.

Scientific Support:
6.30am to 5pm WST.

WST: Western Australia Standard Time (GMT+8).

The final word

Whilst most of the focus on the GHS has been centered around the classification of chemicals, as ChemAlert Business Analyst, I find myself more intrigued as to the compatibility of GHS with existing systems; especially the Dangerous Goods code.

After attending a seminar last week specifically looking at the compatibility between the two systems, it struck me that the following example could become common place for Dangerous Goods from 2017.

1. Manufacturer stores product at manufacturer plant: <u>GHS label required</u>.

2. Order received and goods shipped. For transport: <u>DG-compliant label required</u>, typically done by outer packaging label.

3. Supplier receives goods, rips off outer label to meet GHS storage requirements.

4. Client order received, goods shipped. Supplier must obtain DG-compliant outer-packaging label.

5. Client's warehouse received goods, rips off outer label to meet GHS storage requirements.

6. Site order received, goods shipped. Client warehouse must obtain DG-compliant outer-packaging label.

7. Client site receives goods, rips off outer label to meet GHS storage requirements.

8. Goods partially used over time. Requirement for the remaining stock to be disposed of.

9. Client has to source required outer packaging DG-compliant label for transport to disposal site, potentially years later.

Whilst 2016 is quite far off, it will take many government departments, nationally and internationally, to work together to solve this administrative nightmare with the likely changes (in my opinion) being a new revision of the existing GHS legislation.

- Brad Cobb, Business Analyst

"Life is inherently risky. There is only one big risk you should **avoid at all costs**, and that is the risk of *doing nothing.*"

- Denis Waitley