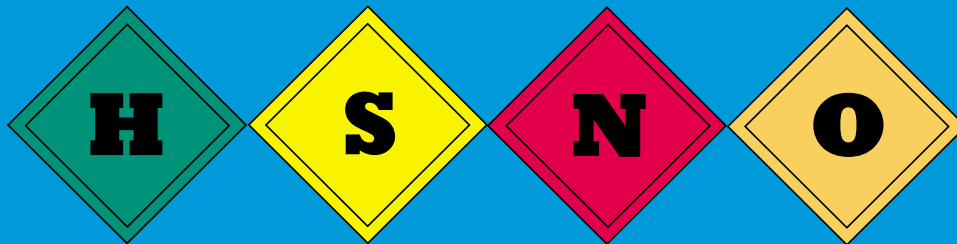


INFORMATION BULLETIN



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND NEW ORGANISMS



March 1999

Explosives function moves from OSH to Defence

From 1 April this year, the Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour (OSH) will no longer respond to IED emergencies or collect deteriorated explosives.

While OSH will maintain an inspection/enforcement role for explosives, the New Zealand Defence Force will take over the role of emergency response and collection of stray and deteriorated explosives. This will include the disposal of flares from vehicles and marine vessels.

This role is currently performed by the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Inspectorate of OSH.

OSH will continue in its existing role up until midnight on 31 March 1999. Contact and emergency numbers, should you require assistance, are listed under Occupational Safety and Health in your local phone directory.

From 1 April, all IED emergencies must be directed to the New Zealand Police, as is the current practice.

Queries in relation to the disposal of deteriorated explosives should be directed to Defence rather than police, as not all deteriorated explosives call-outs are deemed to be emergencies and therefore do not need to be directed to the Police emergency system. The contact number for Defence is 0800-466-225.

All other functions currently carried out by OSH's Explosives and Dangerous Goods Inspectorate will continue, including approvals for importing, transporting, storage and sale of explosives and fireworks.

The changes are a result of decisions made by Government associated with the reform process for the Management of Hazardous Substances and New Organisms. It is anticipated that the sections of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) 1996 relating to Hazardous Substances will commence later this year (date yet to be decided). When the HSNO Act commences, it will repeal the Explosives Act 1957 and Dangerous Goods Act 1974 which the Department of Labour currently administers.

Further bulletins are to be published explaining OSH's obligations and responsibilities under the HSNO legislation.

In the meantime, should you have any inquiries regarding the new Act, please contact the Environmental Risk Management Authority. Phone (04) 473-8426.

