

## Environment Information Sheet 5

### Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Substances

#### What's the issue with Dangerous Goods?

Poor storage and disposal of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances has over the years caused a number of contaminated sites on Sydney Metropolitan Airports.

Spills and incidents involving poor management of these products also pose a significant risk to groundwater at the airport and to local waterways, including the Georges and Nepean Rivers.



#### Background

Fuel, oil, solvents, paint, adhesives, detergents, herbicides and pesticides, amongst other things, are all classified as Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances and are potentially dangerous or harmful to human health as well as the environment.

Poor storage, handling and disposal of these products not only create a risk to human health, it can also cause environmental (soil, air and water) pollution. The cost to clean up environmental pollution can be extremely expensive.

Storage, use and disposal of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances is controlled under the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and Regulations 2001 (OHS Act 2000 and OHS Regs 2001). Management and clean up of pollution and contamination in relation to these products is controlled under the Airports Act 1996 and the Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997.

If you store or use any Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances on airport you are responsible for knowing what the legislation requires in relation to managing these products and for implementing those requirements.

#### The law and what this means for you at a Sydney Metro Airport

For a complete guide to your responsibilities under the OHS Act 2000 and the OHS Regs 2001 in relation to the storage, use and disposal of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances in your workplace you should refer to the legislation and to WorkCover NSW.

The information provided in this Information Sheet provides an overview of some key requirements for the storage and use of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances.

### Dangerous Goods Register

The OHS Reg 2001 stipulates an employer,

- Maintain a register of the chemicals used within the workplace (Clause 167 & 174ZW), and
- Obtain and maintain Material Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals used within the workplace (Clause 162 & 174 ZW).

Create and maintain a list of all Dangerous Goods and / or Hazardous Substances you use or store in your workplace and obtain the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each product listed. Keep this register and the MSDS in a place that is readily accessible to all employees who may store or use the products listed.

MSDS can be obtained from the supplier or the manufacturer of the product and many are now made available on the internet.

Manufacturers have to update their MSDS at least every 5 years so regularly check to see that you have the most up to date MSDS for each product you hold.

### Dangerous Goods Storage

The OHS Reg 2001 stipulates an employer,

- Separate chemicals that may react with each other (Clause 174S), and
- Provide for the containment of any spills of these products (during both storage and handling) (Clause 174Y).



Store all oils, fuels, solvents, paints, detergents and other potentially hazardous liquids including batteries on plastic pallets or trays and in a bunded and covered area that is isolated from stormwater runoff. The bunded area should be large enough to hold the contents of the largest container stored inside the bund plus 10% of its volume.

Outdoor bunded areas must be covered to prevent rain entering them and washing pollutants out.

Store dangerous goods or hazardous substances that may react with each other separately and in a way that prevents them from mixing.

### Spill Response Equipment

The OHS Reg 2001 stipulates an employer,

- Take immediate action to reduce the risk associated with any spill or leak of dangerous goods and clean up and dispose of the spilled product (Clause 174Y)

Clean up spills as they occur and place drip trays under leaking equipment.

Keep some form of spill response equipment in the vicinity where chemical products are used as well as near chemical storage areas. Base the type and quantity of spill equipment you hold on the type and quantity of chemicals you store and use.



Contain all used or contaminated spill response equipment before disposal to prevent it re-entering the environment. Ensure all waste material is collected by an appropriately licensed waste contractor and disposed as industrial / contaminated waste.

### Disposal of hazardous substances

MSDS contain advice on how chemical products must be disposed.

Store waste products under cover and if they are liquid, store them in a bunded and covered area to prevent any spills entering stormwater or the soil. Spent solvents should be stored in containers with tight lids until collected – Do not allow spent solvents to evaporate as a means of disposal.

As a rule, hazardous wastes cannot go to landfill and can only be discharged to sewer with a Sydney Trade Waste Agreement. Discharge to stormwater is illegal.

When sending waste disposal make sure that your waste contractor is appropriately licensed, the waste is being sent to a facility that can lawfully take it and keep all collection receipts for at least 3 years.

### Dangerous Goods Placarding, Manifests and Notification

If you store Dangerous Goods at or in excess of the **Placard** quantities specified in Schedule 5 'Quantities of Dangerous Goods' of the OHS Reg 2001 you are required to adopt certain Hazchem signaging protocols (Clause 174 ZJ & 174 ZK).

If you store Dangerous Goods at or in excess of the **Manifest** quantities specified in Schedule 5 'Quantities of Dangerous Goods' in the OHS Reg 2001 you are required to maintain a Manifest of the Dangerous Goods stored and used at your premises and you must develop an emergency plan. You are required to communicate both the Manifest and the Emergency Plan to certain parties (Clause 174 ZC & 174ZN).

In addition you when you store Dangerous Goods at or in excess of the Manifest quantities specified in Schedule 5 'Quantities of Dangerous Goods' in the OHS Reg 2001 you are required to provide Notification to Workcover NSW (Clause 174 ZS).



## Training

The OHS Reg 2001 stipulates employers provide instruction, training and information to all employees in relation to the hazards within your workplace and your method for controlling the risks associated with the hazards (Clause 13).

If you store and / or use Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances within your workplace you should, amongst other things, instruct your employees in the following matters;

**Material Safety Data Sheets** – what these are, what information they contain, how and when to use them, where they are held within the workplace and how to obtain a new MSDS when required.

**Chemicals** – How to store and use chemicals safely and the appropriate method for their disposal.

**Emergency Response** – What personal protection is required when responding to a chemical emergency, where emergency response equipment (spill kit) is located, how to use emergency response equipment and how to dispose spent equipment.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – The purpose of PPE and the requirement that employees use it when handling chemicals.

You are required to maintain a record of all induction and training in relation to these matters for at least 5 years (Clause 174ZV).

## Further Information

For further information on the law relating to the storage and use of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous substances refer to:

- WorkCover NSW - phone 13 10 50
- NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 (<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/Acts/default.htm> select the Act and follow the links)
- NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001 (<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/LawAndPolicy/Regulations/default.htm> select the Regulation and follow the links)

For information in relation to the storage, use and disposal of dangerous goods and hazardous substances refer to;

- Dept of Environment & Climate Change, (DECC ) Environment Line - Phone 131 555
- DECC, Information Sheet 7 “Workshop – Containing, handling and disposing of oil and chemicals” and Information Sheet 6 “Hazardous Material and Waste.” ([http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/sustainbus/2007203\\_ss\\_sheet7.pdf](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/sustainbus/2007203_ss_sheet7.pdf)) ([http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/sustainbus/200737\\_ft\\_sheet6.pdf](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/sustainbus/200737_ft_sheet6.pdf))
- DECC Liquid Waste Facts Sheets (<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/liquidwastefs.htm>)
- WorkCover NSW Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances Fact Sheet, Chemicals in the Workplace ([http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/1DED7A08-227F-4670-A6D0-74CEA43CF6FB/0/chemicals\\_in\\_the\\_workplace\\_fact\\_sheet\\_1378.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/1DED7A08-227F-4670-A6D0-74CEA43CF6FB/0/chemicals_in_the_workplace_fact_sheet_1378.pdf))
- WorkCover NSW Code of Practice, Storage and Handling of Dangerous Substances ([http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/4F24910D-B929-4863-A07F-D56732FEE522/0/storage\\_handling\\_dangerous\\_goods\\_code\\_of\\_practice\\_1354.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/4F24910D-B929-4863-A07F-D56732FEE522/0/storage_handling_dangerous_goods_code_of_practice_1354.pdf))

For further information relating to the storage and containment requirements for dangerous goods refer to:

- AS/NZS 3833:2007 The Storage and Handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods, in packages and intermediate bulk containers
- AS/NZS 1940:2004 the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids

For further information in relation to spill containment refer to;

- WorkCover NSW Dangerous Goods Fact Sheet 6, Spill Containment for Packaged Dangerous Goods ([http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/E94B7DF0-746F-42E3-9D79-2F111C5D180C/0/spillage\\_containment\\_packaged\\_dangerous\\_goods\\_fact\\_sheet\\_5216.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/E94B7DF0-746F-42E3-9D79-2F111C5D180C/0/spillage_containment_packaged_dangerous_goods_fact_sheet_5216.pdf))

For further information relating to Dangerous Goods Placarding and Notification refer to;

- WorkCover NSW Dangerous Goods Fact Sheet 4, Placarding ([http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/8713EEB9-1819-4DFE-BD1B-A1334E4DC507/0/placarding\\_dangerous\\_goods\\_factsheet\\_5217.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/8713EEB9-1819-4DFE-BD1B-A1334E4DC507/0/placarding_dangerous_goods_factsheet_5217.pdf))
- Work Cover NSW, Dangerous Goods and Explosives, Licensing Dangerous goods ([http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/OHS/DangerousGoods/Licensing/licensing\\_dangerous\\_goods.htm](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/OHS/DangerousGoods/Licensing/licensing_dangerous_goods.htm))
- WorkCover NSW Guide GDGO1, Notification of Dangerous Goods on premises ([http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/65E1AD2E-4623-4703-B20E-C5B9E5E683D2/0/dangerous\\_goods\\_premises\\_guide\\_to\\_notification\\_GDGO1\\_1385.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/65E1AD2E-4623-4703-B20E-C5B9E5E683D2/0/dangerous_goods_premises_guide_to_notification_GDGO1_1385.pdf))

### DISCLAIMER

*The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and all other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.*