



Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Australia, National 2020

release notes

STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces the release of its recently updated EHS audit protocol for the Commonwealth of Australia (National). This audit protocol, which covers relevant national EHS requirements, was previously updated in December 2018. The regulatory date for the current release is December 2020. The table below shows the extent of regulatory changes that have occurred since the previous update.

**Number of Legislative Instruments and their Status
(since December 2018)**

Protocol Section	No Change	New	Amended	Repealed
General Environmental	0	0	1	0
Air Emissions	2	0	4	0
Solid and Hazardous Waste	2	0	0	0
Water Resources	0	0	0	0
Above and Below Ground Tank Management	1	0	0	0
Community Noise	0	0	0	0
PCBs	0	0	0	0
Asbestos	0	0	0	0
General Health and Safety	0	0	1	0
Equipment, Machine and Electrical Safety	1	0	0	0
Material Handling and General In-Plant Safety	0	0	0	0
Fire Safety	2	0	0	0
Transport of Dangerous Goods	0	0	0	0
Industrial Hygiene	0	0	0	0
Chemical Management	1	2	0	2
Construction Work Site Safety	1	0	1	0

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please review

highlights of selected new legislation

- **The Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995 were updated** to incorporate new rules for charging refrigeration and air conditioning equipment which came into force on 1 January 2020 to support the hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) phase down and reduce emissions of climate damaging HFCs. These Rules ban charging of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment with a higher global warming potential (GWP) refrigerant than the equipment was designed to use, with an exception for refrigeration or air conditioning equipment that is essential for health or public safety purposes where the design refrigerant is not available.

- **The Product Emissions Standards Rules 2017 were updated** to delay the commencement of the prohibition on supplying an emissions-controlled product that was due to commence on 1 July 2019 for 12 months, until 1 July 2020. The delay will allow an additional 12 months for suppliers and retailers to sell uncertified stock that was imported before the commencement of the import prohibition. Under the *Product Emissions Standard Rules*, certain propulsion marine engines and non-road engines are designated as “emissions-controlled products” which must be certified as meeting the Australian emissions standard, or a recognized foreign standard, in order to be imported or supplied in Australia.

- **The Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989 and the Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Regulations 1990 were repealed** and have been replaced by a new regulatory scheme for industrial chemicals under the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019* and the *Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019*.

- **The Industrial Chemicals Act 2019 (assented to in March 2019) establishes** a new regulatory scheme, the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS), for the importation and manufacture (introduction) of industrial chemicals in Australia. The AICIS replaced the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) on 1 July 2020. The AICIS establishes a new way of categorizing and introducing industrial chemicals that focuses the pre-introduction assessment on higher risk chemical introductions and provides streamlined introduction pathways for lower risk chemicals that are intended to reduce the regulatory burden for industry. It also focuses on post-introduction evaluation and monitoring to help maintain the protection of health and safety of the public, workers, and the environment.

- **The Industrial Chemicals (General) Rules 2019 (effective 1 July 2020) supports** the new industrial chemicals regulatory scheme established by the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019*. These Rules set forth the technical and operational details and the requirements introducers must meet, including the requirement to categorize their chemicals that are not listed on the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals.

- **The 2019 version of the *National Construction Code Series Volume One – Building Code of Australia* was adopted** by the Commonwealth, States and Territories on 1 May 2019. The 2019 version includes new Verification Methods (including the Fire Safety Verification Method); clarifies certain provisions, including those relating to measurement of distance between required alternative exits; introduces requirements for occupiable outdoor areas; and increases stringency of energy efficiency requirements. Amendment 1 to the 2019 edition of NCC Volume One was adopted by the Commonwealth, States and Territories on 1 July 2020. The purpose of this amendment is to: require that a process be followed to improve the quality of and documentation for Performance Solutions; require labelling of aluminum composite panels; and clarify the concession that permits timber framing for low-rise Class 2 and 3 buildings.



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