

**MINISTERIAL INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN WORKPLACES**

The Department of Labour's progress towards the fulfilment of the recommendations

	<p align="center"><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Identified as follows:</p> <p>Priority recs. (9, 11, 12, 14, and 18)</p> <p>Recs. with long-term significance (6, 21)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Agency</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Action Report</b></p> <p>This report indicates what action will be taken and by when. This is version 3: Action taken as of December 2004.</p>
	<p>General</p>	<p>OSH</p>	<p>The report's recommendations are central to our current work activities and our planning for the 2004/05-year.</p> <p>The Department of Labour's Occupational Safety and Health Service (OSH) has contacted the Environmental Risk Management Agency (ERMA), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) and the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) to bring to their attention the findings of the report and to discuss how these agencies might best contribute to the implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>A synopsis of the submissions made to the inquiry has been developed to inform ACC's gradual process panel.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>That in the administration of the regulatory framework that governs the workplace safety and health risks of exposure to the toxic effects of hazardous substances, the important role of the HSE Act, and of the 'identify, eliminate, isolate, minimise, protect' duties in particular, should be acknowledged and reflected in practice on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>OSH</p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Not only does OSH agree that it is sensible to apply the HSE Act's "systematic management of hazards" framework to hazardous substances; it is required of employers and others by the HSE Act. This approach has been consistently applied to date by OSH in administering both the HSE and HSNO Acts. In particular this approach to the management of hazardous substances has been advocated since August 1997 in the Approved Code of Practice for the Management of Substances Hazardous to Health (MOSHH ACOP) by illustrating how sections 7 to 10 of the HSE Act are applied to the control of hazardous substances.</p> <p><b>Current action:</b></p> <p><b>The Environmental Risk Management Authority has initiated a strategy that aims to progressively reduce the adverse effects of hazardous substances on the environment and the health and safety of people and communities through:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ improvements in the risk management of substances in use; and</li> <li>▪ a progressive shift to the use of substances with inherently reduced risk,</li> </ul>

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<p>2 That research should be initiated by OSH to investigate the extent to which employers, particularly those in small to medium enterprises, find the <i>MOSHH ACOP</i> a useful guide to HSE implementation and do, in reality, adopt its recommendations.</p>	<p>OSH</p>	<p><b>Immediate action taken:</b></p> <p>The NZ Chemical Industry Council is developing a suite of HSNO Codes of Practice for Approval by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMANZ). The Approval process relies on interested parties contributing their experience and expertise to ensure the Code represents a primary means of compliance by reflecting the performance requirements of Industry, regulators, and the community.</p> <p>A draft approved code "Managing Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods in the Workplace" was posted on the NZCIC website on Tuesday 18 January 2005.</p> <p>It is intended that this code replace the Health and Safety in Employment Code of Practice "Management of Substances Hazardous to Health (MOSHH)".</p> <p>OSH is also considering alternative methods to provide similar guidance. In particular web-based information and opportunities that may arise through training provision. A number of international models are being investigated e.g. the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) essentials website developed by the Health and Safety Executive in the UK <a href="http://www.coshh-essentials.org.uk/">http://www.coshh-essentials.org.uk/</a>.</p>

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3	<p>That consideration should be given to whether the <i>MOSHH ACOP</i> would be more effective if enacted as a regulation under HSE.</p>	OSH	<p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>This recommendation will be informed by the results of rec. 2 above. At this stage it is thought that the provision of a suite of information (described above), the control regulations made under the HSNO Act, and the general duties of the HSE Act will together provide a substantial improvement both in terms of guidance information and of the regulatory environment.</p>
4	<p>That consideration should be given to the introduction of requirements for the provision of MSDSs by way of regulation under HSE, pending HSNO requirements in that regard coming into force.</p>	OSH/ ERMA	<p><b>Immediate action taken:</b></p> <p>While supporting the intention behind this recommendation, OSH is of the view that the outcome would create confusion amongst manufacturers and suppliers of hazardous substances, and would not progress matters any faster.</p> <p>The Hazardous Substances (Identification) Regulations 2001 require suppliers of hazardous substances to provide Safety Data Sheets. A HSNO Code of Practice on the preparation of Safety Data Sheets is in the final stages of being approved. Suppliers will be required to develop Safety Data Sheets as hazardous substances are transferred to HSNO controls. As explosives, flammables and toxics have already transferred; progress will be made faster under the HSNO regime than passing regulations under the HSE Act.</p> <p>OSH is working with ERMA to investigate the best means to make Safety Data Sheets readily available to small businesses and inspectors.</p>
5	<p>That OSH should review Regulation 67 of the Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995 with a view to clarifying the extent to which manufacturers and suppliers are obliged to provide information as to the safe use of</p>	OSH	<p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>OSH will provide advice to the Minister of Labour on options for reviewing regulations made under or saved by the HSE Act.</p>

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6	<p>plant and equipment on matters, such as local exhaust ventilation, required to operate that plant and equipment safely where the use of Hazardous Substances is intrinsic to that operation.</p> <p>That in the implementation of the injury-related information project under Part 8 of IPRC as it relates to occupational health issues, early consideration be given to supplementing that project, and the administrative databases upon which it is currently proposed to conduct that project, with a range of more specialised occupational health data collection initiatives, including ones designed to provide epidemiological information, and to those initiatives being undertaken separately from that project.</p>	DOL/ STATISTICS	<p>Should such a review proceed, an examination of regulation 67 could be included.</p> <p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p><b>Information Manager</b> The Department of Labour has undertaken a considerable amount of work on an occupational disease data set. This work was put on hold until the Information Manager had substantially established the "injury" database and was able to comment on the practicalities of incorporating disease data, or whether alternatives should be considered. OSH has written to the Information Manager to seek their comment on this recommendation.</p> <p><b>NOHSAC</b> The National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee has commenced a comprehensive review of New Zealand's occupational disease surveillance systems. More information on the Committee's work programme can be found at <a href="http://www.nohsac.govt.nz">http://www.nohsac.govt.nz</a>.</p> <p><b>In particular see the following</b></p> <p><b>National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee Work Programme August 2003 – June 2004</b></p> <p><a href="#">The Burden of Occupational Injury and Disease in New Zealand</a></p> <p><b>National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee Work Programme July 2004 – June 2005</b></p>

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7	<p>That a programme of research should be established to determine more accurately the incidence and prevalence of exposures to the hazardous substances, and other hazardous substances, in the health, printing and manufacturing sectors and the health consequences of those exposures.</p>	NOHSAC	<p><b>Completed:</b></p> <p>A copy of the Inquiry report has been sent to the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee. In August 2003 the Minister asked the Committee to provide independent advice on the report's recommendations, particularly those relating to research.</p> <p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p><b>The first NOHSAC report <a href="#">The Burden of Occupational Injury and Disease in New Zealand</a> provides a review of the burden of fatal and non-fatal occupational disease and injury in New Zealand.</b></p> <p><b>This review will play a key role in providing an independent assessment of the measures that would deliver the greatest benefit for the prevention of occupational injury and disease, and in developing an evidence-based approach to occupational health and safety issues.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee work programme outlined above comprises special reports on more detailed issues to follow on from the first report on the burden of occupational disease and injury: This includes:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Review of Methods and Systems used to Measure and Monitor</a></p>

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8	<p>That OSH should approach the subject of MCS as an occupational health issue by accepting the reality of the effects of MCS, by maintaining an actively open mind on the questions of the status and cause of MCS, and by emphasising the taking of all practicable steps to reduce the risks from exposure to the Hazardous Substances, and other hazardous substances,</p>	<p>OSH ACC MSA CAA</p> <p>Health professions</p>	<p><b>Ongoing:</b></p> <p>OSH's Departmental Medical Practitioners and experts on the NODs panels accept that Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) is a real condition. Each diagnosis has to be made on a case-by-case basis. It should be noted that what a person believes and expects about their symptoms can have an effect on the subsequent course of health events. For a particular individual the exposures that provoke MSC may occur at many times</p>

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	<p>which are associated with the onset of, or which can trigger the symptoms of, MCS.</p>		<p>below the OSH Workplace Exposure Standards (WES).</p> <p>The WES always acknowledges that some (a very few) sensitive people will suffer ill health effects from exposures well below the WES, as the WES is set to protect (only) the great majority of people.</p> <p>The Minister of Labour has asked (8 September 2003) the Minister for ACC to place the subject of multiple chemical sensitivity on the agenda of the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Work-Related Gradual Process, Disease and Infection for ongoing consideration.</p> <p><b>Other reading:</b></p> <p>ERMA report: <b>Multiple Chemical Sensitivities June 2002</b>  <a href="http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-GI-02-1.pdf">http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-GI-02-1.pdf</a></p>
9	<p>That OSH should continue, and give extra emphasis to, its work to improve the NODS system, with particular reference to database issues and administrative support for the work of the NODS panels. OSH should, as soon as practicable, prepare a stock-take of the NODS system for you, including reporting on current problems relating to the NODS database and to administrative support for the NODS system. That stock-take should provide proposals for improvements to the NODS system in light of issues raised in this Report. OSH should incorporate into that stock-take comments from members of the NODS panels on the issues discussed.</p>	OSH	<p><b>Completed:</b></p> <p>Work on improving the NODs database was initiated in 2002 during the Inquiry. Since that time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a full-time NODs administrator has been appointed; and</li> <li>- the existing system has been reviewed and all individual files cleaned up.</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>Further work is now underway on OSH's internal systems to support NODs. In particular the NODs database and the reports generated from the database are included in a comprehensive review of OSH data management. Substantial progress will be made on this review in the 2003/04 year.</p>

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10	<p>That to complement, and encourage support of, the NODS system OSH should develop a regular programme to raise awareness of occupational health issues in the medical profession. That programme should include the distribution of information derived from the NODS system directly to the medical profession. OSH should consider working with ACC to give effect to this recommendation.</p>	<p>OSH ACC</p>	<p><b>Immediate action:</b></p> <p>OSH has asked ACC to consider this recommendation.</p> <p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>The NODs database and the reports generated from the database are included in a comprehensive review of OSH and ERS data management [Workinfo review].</p> <p>This will enhance our capacity to capture and analyse occupational illness data. It will enable regular updates to be issued to the medical community to actively promote the importance of how occupation can affect health. This, in turn, will reinforce our encouragement of medical practitioners to notify OSH of occupational disease.</p>
11	<p>That OSH should review and update the 1992 Glutaraldehyde Guidelines, and other information relating to the use of the Hazardous Substances in the health sector. That review should pay particular attention to the possibility of substitution, to the desirability of isolation, and to the necessity of fume hoods and local exhaust ventilation, and of appropriate spill management and staff information procedures. That review should be undertaken in consultation with the health sector. Practical</p>	<p>OSH</p>	<p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>See comments on recommendation 12 below.</p>

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12	<p>That OSH should, following the distribution of the updated guidelines, audit the way in which exposure to the Hazardous Substances is being managed in the health sector, particularly in radiology, sterilisation and laboratory situations. OSH should ensure that appropriate attention is paid to smaller health work places as well as large ones.</p>	OSH	<p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>OSH has identified nine "Priority Areas" that will be the focus of its activity in the 2004/05 year. "Clean Air" and "Hazardous Substances" are priorities. See Recommendation 17 below.</p> <p>Clean Air is a positive description for the outcome sought from this programme. It covers a variety of health hazards associated with impure air. These include solvents, dusts, hazardous fumes, asbestos and other contaminants. In particular the programme will cover the printing industry, the health sector, fibre-glassing, composite board manufacturers, fumigation processes and timber preservatives.</p> <p>Work in this area has been selected in response to the recommendations of the Hazardous Substances Inquiry.</p> <p>Information materials specific to certain aspects of clean air will be developed or revised.</p> <p>The information obtained on the management of Glutaraldehyde and its substitutes during this programme of work will inform a review of the guidelines.</p> <p>This programme will also flow into all sectors where OSH is undertaking other activities (tailored to each sector's needs).</p>

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			<p>This priority area links to OSH's work on the administration of the hazardous substances provisions of the HSNO Act. OSH has been designated as the lead enforcement agency for HSNO. Work will be carried out across all sectors that use hazardous substances of a high-risk nature, in many cases in conjunction with local authorities. The focus will be on enabling employers to meet their obligations under the HSNO Act and regulations, and in working with ERMA to develop hazardous substances information to assist small and medium-sized operators.</p>
13	<p>That OSH, whilst continuing to implement the 'industry-owned safety council' approach, should also ensure that it adopts a pro-active and lead role in the development and distribution of best practice guidance material.</p>	OSH	<p><b>Completed:</b></p> <p>In July 2003, OSH and ACC developed a joint position statement to clarify their interests in these groups. This statement was revised again in April 2004 and a copy can be found at <a href="http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/420.shtml">http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/420.shtml</a>.</p> <p><b>Ongoing:</b></p> <p>In this statement OSH indicated that, while it will continue to focus on generic guidance material, it will take the lead in developing industry-specific guidance material if it is not satisfied with progress being made by industry health and safety groups.</p>
14	<p>That, in conjunction with the research to be undertaken pursuant to Recommendation 6, OSH should review the terms of <i>MOSHH ACOP</i>, and other relevant codes of practice and guidance documents, with particular regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the needs of small to medium-sized enterprises in the health, printing and manufacturing sectors where use of the</li> </ul>	OSH	<p>In regard to the <i>MOSHH ACOP</i> please see recommendation 2.</p> <p>In OSH's view, the implementation of this recommendation should be broadened to examine the best means of informing small to medium-sized enterprises on the safe use of hazardous substances.</p> <p>To this end:</p> <p><b>Immediate action taken:</b></p>

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15	<p>Hazardous Substances is involved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experience in the UK with <i>COSHH Essentials</i>, and with the electronic availability of control guidance sheets</li> </ul> <p>with a view to the <i>MOSHH ACOP</i> being supplemented by industry-specific initiatives in New Zealand which provide practical guidance similar to that provided by the <i>COSHH Essentials</i> control guidance sheets.</p>	ERMA	<p>Meetings have been held with MfE, ERMA and the NZ Chemical Industries Council to discuss their intentions regarding information supporting the HSNO Act;</p> <p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>An examination of the best means of informing small to medium-sized enterprises, and employees is currently being undertaken. This includes consideration of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) essentials website developed by the Health and Safety Executive in the UK <a href="http://www.coshh-essentials.org.uk/">http://www.coshh-essentials.org.uk/</a> and the opportunities that arise from the provision of training (particularly towards national qualifications) and the general provision of written materials.</p> <p>ERMA New Zealand produces a wide range of publications such as newsletters, bulletins, protocols and guides. ERMA has the following codes of practice available or under development that are relevant to this recommendation.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Code of Practice</th> <th>Approval Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Signage for Premises storing Hazardous Substances</td> <td>September 2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Safety Data Sheets.</td> <td>Submitted for approval.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labelling of Hazardous Substances.</td> <td>Being developed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labelling of Agrichemicals</td> <td>Being developed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Other ERMA information relevant to this recommendation:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Step by Step Guide to Finding Controls and Other Useful Links [pdf - 90kb]</a></p>	Code of Practice	Approval Date	Signage for Premises storing Hazardous Substances	September 2004	Safety Data Sheets.	Submitted for approval.	Labelling of Hazardous Substances.	Being developed	Labelling of Agrichemicals	Being developed
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			<p><a href="#">HSNO Control Regulations (user guide)</a></p> <p><b>Compliance Guides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="#">Electroplaters</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Chlorine</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Printing Industry</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Dairy Farmers</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Vegetable Growers</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Sheep &amp; Beef Farmers</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Fruit Growers</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Arable Farmers</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Drycleaners</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Water Treatment</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">LPG</a></li> <li>o <a href="#">Turf Management</a></li> </ul>
16	That specific work be carried out within OSH on an ongoing basis to review available international information with a view to	OSH	<b>Immediate action taken:</b>

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	<p>assessing its relevance to, and possible adaptation for use in, New Zealand.</p>		<p>OSH established the position of Project Manager – Knowledge Management in January 2003 to, amongst other things, better and sooner meet its customer needs and to promote customer self help. Consequently, among the Knowledge Management Programme Objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ identify information needs of internal and external customers; and</li> <li>▪ develop policies and procedures for the collection, capture, organisation and sharing of information.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing action:</b></p> <p>This would include a review of how OSH might best use materials produced in other jurisdictions.</p>
17	<p>That, as part of its occupational health industry plan, OSH should review the series of audits of particular sectors that have already been carried out by it with a view to determining a systematic process for audit, involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a process for identifying sectors for audit, which should pay particular attention to the issues of latency and individual sensitivity in occupational health issues</li> <li>• a pre-audit process, including a survey of the industry involved, undertaken in consultation with relevant industry groups to provide clarification of issues to be focussed on during the audit and, where these do not already exist, best practice guidelines</li> </ul>	OSH	<p>Each year OSH reviews the areas to which it gives priority. In the 2004/05 year priority will be given to the following areas under a focus on the provision of clean air.</p> <p><b>Clean Air Priority Areas:</b></p> <p><b>Dusts:</b> (Silica, Lead, Arsenic, Asbestos, Hard metal disease, Wood dust)</p> <p><b>Fumes:</b> (Welding)</p> <p><b>Organic Dusts and aerosols:</b> (Urine spray, Piggeries – ammonia, Grain dusts, Chicken farms, Enzymes, Moulds and other fungi, Potting mix)</p> <p><b>Toxic Gases:</b> (Carbon monoxide, Fumigation)</p> <p><b>Pesticides</b></p> <p><b>Solvents and other chemicals:</b> (Timber preservation, Printing, Fibreglassing,</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• audit of issues identified against best practice guidelines</li> <li>• following audit, encouragement of appropriate employer/employee behaviour relative to those guidelines, involving over an appropriate period of time and on a transparent basis:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the use of informal advice</li> <li>- the use of improvement notices</li> <li>- the implementation of more formal enforcement methods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p><b>Spraycoating)</b></p> <p><b>Hydrogen Sulphide</b></p> <p><b>Oxygen Depletion</b></p> <p><b>Using Workplace Exposure Standards</b></p> <p><b>Multiple Chemical Sensitivity</b></p>
18	<p>That given the information already available, OSH should audit the printing and boat-building industries on the basis identified in Recommendation 17</p>	OSH	(see recommendation 17 above – part of Clean Air priority area)
19	<p>That OSH review its use of the term 'best practice' where referring to preferred or recommended ways of achieving HSE compliance.</p>	OSH	<p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>OSH will review its use of "best practice".</p>
20	<p>That, notwithstanding the desirability of the promotion of excellence and the adoption of absolute best practice in occupational health matters, greater emphasis should be placed, particularly in small to medium-sized enterprises, on the more fundamental need to ensure the adoption of best practice in the sense given to that term by this Inquiry; that is, practice commensurate with the 'all practicable steps' standard.</p>	OSH	<p><b>Ongoing action:</b></p> <p>Advice contained in codes of practice and guidelines will align to the "all practicable steps" standard of the HSE Act.</p>

**MINISTERIAL INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN WORKPLACES**

The Department of Labour's progress towards the fulfilment of the recommendations

	Recommendations	Agency	Action Report
21	<p>Identified as follows:</p> <p>Priority recs. (9, 11, 12, 14, and 18)</p> <p>Recs. with long-term significance (6, 21)</p> <p>That OSH should review its current enforcement policy – particularly as regards section 7 of HSE - with a view to taking better account of the issues of latency, and the inherent difficulties of cause and effect, associated with occupational health issues. OSH should explicitly acknowledge that proactive enforcement action focusing on system failure or inadequacy, including by way of infringement notices and prosecutions, may be appropriate even where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no specific instance of the occurrence of an illness or injury, or</li> <li>• although there has been a specific instance of the occurrence of an illness or injury, there may be difficulties in establishing the cause of that illness or injury.</li> </ul>	OSH	<p><b>This report indicates what action will be taken and by when. This is version 3: Action taken as of December 2004.</b></p> <p><b>Medium term:</b></p> <p>The enforcement of section 7 of the HSE Act will be enhanced with the introduction of the Infringement Notice regime. This specifically provides for an infringement fee of not less than \$800 and not more than \$4000 for a breach of S 7(1). An operational policy has been developed to give guidance to HSE inspectors on the application of infringement notices. HSE inspectors have been trained and are now able to issue infringement notices.</p> <p>How infringement notices and/or prosecutions might best be used to promote compliance with S 7(1) will be informed by the development of a “compliance strategy” that is in development.</p> <p>In regards to the question of latency the Health and Safety in Employment Amendment Act 2002 made changes to allow an inspector to start the proceedings in the District Court within 6 months of the Department of Labour <u>finding out about the offence</u>, or within 6 months of when they should have found out about it (e.g., where there was sufficient media coverage that the Department should have been aware). Previously the HSE Act required an inspector to take action within 6 months of a breach occurring, which had a significant impact on an inspector’s ability to take any action when the latency period of an illness was such that harm did not become apparent for some time.</p> <p>It should be noted that OSH:</p> <p>(a) has always used enforcement action as a proactive tool to address systems failures in order to prevent harm; and</p> <p>(b) an inspector is not required to link a breach of legislation to a resultant harm before an enforcement action is possible.</p>
22	That you refer this Report to the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee for their information and	Minister of Labour	<p><b>Completed:</b></p> <p>A copy of the Inquiry report has been sent to members of the National Occupational</p>

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The Department of Labour's progress towards the fulfilment of the recommendations

	Recommendations	Agency	Action Report
	<p>Identified as follows:</p> <p>Priority recs. (9, 11, 12, 14, and 18)</p> <p>Recs. with long-term significance (6, 21)</p>		<p>This report indicates what action will be taken and by when. This is version 3: Action taken as of December 2004.</p>
23	<p>The Inquiry therefore recommends that, when the gradual process panel ('the Panel') is established, you invite your colleague the Minister for ACC to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>request that the Panel review glutaraldehyde, other aldehydes and solvents for inclusion in Schedule 2 of IPRC, at least to the extent of the traditionally recognised effects of dermatitis, rhinitis, and asthma, and perhaps also to</li> </ul>	Completed	<p>Health and Safety Advisory Committee (NOHSAC) [sent 25 July 2003] and the Minister requested (27 August 2003) that the committee provide independent advice on the report's recommendations.</p> <p>The NOHSAC released two reports on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2004 that provide an analysis of the Burden of Occupational Injury and Disease in New Zealand. Copies of the reports can be obtained at <a href="http://www.nohsac.govt.nz/reports.html">http://www.nohsac.govt.nz/reports.html</a></p> <p>NOHSAC estimate that each year in New Zealand there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>about 700-1,000 deaths from occupational disease, particularly cancer, respiratory disease and ischaemic heart disease</li> <li>about 100 deaths from occupational injury</li> <li>17,000-20,000 new cases of work-related disease</li> <li>about 200,000 occupational accidents resulting in ACC claims, about half of which result in disability and about 6% in permanent disability.</li> </ul> <p>The Minister for ACC has written to the Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Work-Related Gradual Process, Disease or Infection to give effect to this recommendation. The Panel will provide independent advice to the Minister for ACC on issues relating specifically to work-related gradual process, disease or infection.</p> <p>The Panel will provide opportunities for occupational health and safety experts and others to provide independent advice in an area where advances in medical knowledge are constantly challenging current assumptions and which requires continuous scrutiny.</p> <p>The Panel is expected to report to the Minister for ACC towards the end of 2004 to early</p>

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	<p>the extent of neurotoxicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>request that the Panel place the subject of multiple chemical sensitivity on the agenda of the Panel for ongoing consideration.</li> </ul>		<p>2005.</p>