



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY

Dangerous Goods (Explosives)
Regulations 2000

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a regulatory impact statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000.

The principal objective of the proposed Regulations is to provide for the safety of people and property in the manufacture, storage, sale, transport, use, disposal and import of explosives. Other objectives are to provide for the safe location of ships containing explosives while in port; to provide for the establishment and implementation of safety management systems in factories; to regulate the manufacture, storage, transport and use of explosives in mines and quarries; to prohibit the misuse of explosives; and to prescribe matters for the purposes of the **Dangerous Goods Act 1985**.

The proposed Regulations will replace the Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 1988 which are due to expire on 30 June 2000. The regulatory proposal largely embraces the technical requirements of the existing 1988 Regulations, but with some improvements in language and structure in order to assist those to whom the proposed Regulations assign duties.

A number of new provisions are included in the proposed Regulations. The licensing regime has been made clearer in that each major activity requires a licence. In addition to current licences, licences will be required by road and rail operators who transport explosives and by pyrotechnicians. New provisions also apply to the permissible uses of Chinese firecrackers and theatrical fireworks displays. Other changes will require factories manufacturing explosives to prepare Safety Management Systems, and bring explosives-related activities in mines and quarries under the proposed Regulations.

The costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations are outlined in the RIS. The RIS concludes that the costs of the proposed Regulations are sufficiently low that they could readily be justified by the benefits.

Two alternatives to the proposed Regulations are considered in the RIS: a code of practice to support the general duties in the **Dangerous Goods Act 1985**; and a change in the scope of regulation or range of duties. Because of the particular risks presented by explosives-related activities, neither were considered to be consistent with the community's expectation that risks to public safety be effectively managed. The code of practice option is considered inappropriate, because control of the highly specific risks posed raise matters for regulation rather than guidance. It is considered that a reduction in regulatory scope or range of duties could leave activities of potentially high risk unregulated and compromise a level of safety assurance expected by the community.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. Copies may be obtained by contacting WorkCover publications (telephone: (03) 9641 1333; facsimile: (03) 9641 1330).

Written submissions on the RIS and the proposed Regulations should be directed to the following address by no later than close of business 30 May 2000. All submissions received will be treated as public documents.

Explosives Regulatory Package
Chairperson, Explosives Policy Group
Strategic Policy and Research Branch
Victorian WorkCover Authority
GPO Box 4306
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Any enquiries about the draft Regulations should be directed to the Chemical Technology Unit (telephone: 9641 1559) while enquiries about the RIS should be directed to the Regulatory Assessment and Support Section (telephone: 9641 1373).

BOB CAMERON
Minister for WorkCover

Gazette Services

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