

All the latest local & international spill control news....

2016 Annual General Meeting

The 2016 AGM will be held at a date to be confirmed before 30 November next. The AusSpill Board hopes that as many members as possible can attend, so that as many views as possible can be heard.

Welcome New Member

We are very pleased to welcome our newest member - 3M Australia - Commercial Solutions Division | Cleaning & Workplace Safety. The Association appreciates the value of another high profile global corporation entity joining with us, to offer its knowledge in achieving our policy goals.

Farewell to Enretech Australasia

Last April AA received the resignation from the Association of Enretech Australasia. The Board has since expressed its appreciation for Enretech's contribution as a founding member in helping to establish AusSpill as Australia's spill control industry association. Thanks also to Neville Morris for his input as a Board member. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Membership Drive 2016/17

Contact with new prospective members has continued throughout the year. While the harder economic climate can be a barrier to joining or remaining in Associations, the clear commercial advantages can still be there in growing the industry together, via the conduct of productive industry initiatives to achieve improved outcomes for both members & their clients.

Given that we are a small industry sector we are now looking further afield for prospective members among waste, fire, safety & environmental industries. If AA members can identify any potential member from those groups or within your client base, please do not hesitate to pass on their details to the Secretary for follow-up.

Chairman's Message.....

Welcome to AAN'S Mid-Year issue

It has been an interesting year so far and the common thread of discussion has been in the main that it has been a bit tough for business out there. A lot of businesses (and Governments!) are struggling financially and closures are announced weekly. These affect all industries and flow down through the chain. Perhaps the fact that spills happen regardless of prevention and planning through accidents mean that there is still a need for our products and services and environment protection remains a strong priority.

AA's Activity so far this year.....Australian Standards Review

AS 1940-2004: the public submission period to AS 1940 2004 'The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids', has closed and we await further news from the Standards Australia ME-017 Committee's current review. Via this standard AusSpill made a very positive start to achieving its core aim of becoming the key Australian spill control reference point for Federal/State/Territory government environment protection regulators. Following AA Board member Nathan Cartwright's successful presentation to the two (2) day ME-17 Committee Melbourne meeting in October 2015, we trust that AA's input will be constructively used.

The inclusion in Australian Standards of bunding performance criteria for portable bunding products remains a challenge for our Association.

AS 3780-2008: the ten (10) year review of this standard, which covers 'The storage and handling of corrosive substances', is due to begin before the end of 2016. The purpose of this Standard is 'to promote the safety of persons, property and the environment where corrosive substances are stored and handled, by providing requirements and recommendations based on industry good practice'.

AS 2714-2008: the ten (10) year review of this standard, which covers 'The storage and handling of organic peroxides' is due to begin its review in early 2017. This Standard's purpose is 'to promote the safety of persons, property and the environment where organic peroxides are stored and handled, by providing requirements and recommendations based on industry good practice'.

It's worth noting that after consultation in 2007 with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop these Standards as an Australian standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

Absorbency Testing Program

Members will have received the draft document 'AusSpill Association Absorbency Testing Program Explanatory Note' for their comment & I encourage them to closely review the proposed process for testing of their absorbents. As you know, one of AusSpill's May 2012 launch foundation policies is to:

'Implement Industry standard test methods in order to provide an impartial performance appraisal of absorbent materials and a method for identifying absorbent types (Hazchem/chemical, Oil & Fuel/hydrocarbons, General Purpose)'.

The achievement of this important AA policy goal will result in the provision of an independent reference point for Australian consumers to compare individual products' claimed absorbency performance with independent testing by a NATA-accredited laboratory. Again, setting and meeting standards for performance of our products can only enhance the credibility of our individual companies and provide our clients with surety they expect.

AA Logo

When the AA test program is completed, please remember to use your AA logo when you are advising your clients of the performance of your spill kits.

Spill Kit Standards

Thanks to all members who participated in the comment and voting process for this 'Industry Standard'. There has been some reaction which is good! Change never is easy but we are still trusting that in time, the benefits of safety and identification for the clients and legislators will be worthwhile and, AA's recognition of the need to implement improvements is valued.

More information

Please feel free to call me (0418 821 009) or our Secretary Kevin Herbert (0418 679 131) if you want any further information on any of the matters raised in this AAN edition or visit our website at www.ausspill.com.au for general background information.

Best wishes

Trevor Prentice

Chairman



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