

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

### **2015 Annual General Meeting**

*The AGM will be held at Enware's Caringbah (NSW) HO from 1.30pm to 4.30pm – Thursday 5 November 2015. Many thanks to Paul Degnan for again providing a first class meeting venue.*

### **Welcome New Member**

*We are very pleased to welcome our newest member - **Aussie Hydrovac Services** - who is based at Cornubia near Brisbane.*

### **AA Code of Ethics Proposal**

*The Board is to seek members' support for the introduction of an association Code of Ethics.*

*Proposed conditions include membership being conditional on strict adherence to the Code, including demonstration of adherence to agreed AA intra industry standards, and appropriate 3rd party product certification for manufacturers OR accredited training from a recognised training body.*

*The Code aims to:*

- a) Promote the highest standards of customer service, competence, workmanship and conduct by AA members*
- b) Establish a simple and effective complaints handling and disputes resolution procedure, with appropriate sanctions for breaches of the Code;*
- c) Through responsible self-regulation, complement and enhance existing laws and codes governing members; and*
- d) Strengthen the industry standing of AA members by assuring customers and suppliers that they have the right to expect the highest standards at all times.*

*The Code also highlights how AusSpill Association members have a professional and moral obligation to conduct their business and the business of the association honestly, ethically and lawfully.*

### **Membership Drive 2015/16**

*The AA Board will shortly undertake phase 3 of its membership drive, with approaches to some of Australia's big waste disposal companies.*

### **Chairman's Message.....**

Welcome to AAN'S third issue.

Since its establishment in May 2012 AusSpill Association (AA) has grown steadily from five (5) to fourteen (14) financial members. In that time the AA Board has first focused its energy on moving towards the adoption of a spill kits intra-industry standard, which once agreed, will then move towards adoption as an Australian Standard.

It's worth remembering that one of the key benefits of joining AA, is that spill control industry participants have the opportunity for direct, on-going input into the development of industry standards & regulations.

### **AS 1940 2004 Review: Update**

Via our participation since early 2014 in the current review of AS 1940 2004 'The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids', AusSpill has made a most positive start to achieving its core aim of becoming the key Australian spill control reference point for Federal/State/Territory government environment protection regulators.

AS 1940 deals with flammable liquids of dangerous goods Class 3, and its objective is to promote the safety of persons and property where flammable or combustible liquids are stored or handled. Since making our approach in late 2013 for inclusion in the ME-017 Committee's deliberations, AA's arrival as the spill control industry opinion leader has been effectively publicised at minimal \$cost, to a very influential group of regulators/industries including the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Group, Australian Institute of Petroleum, Department of the Premier and Cabinet-SA, Department of Consumer and Employment Protection-WA, Department of Defence, Department of Emergency Services - Qld, Fire Protection Association of Australia, Insurance Council of Australia, Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association & Victorian WorkCover Authority. AA's Nathan Cartwright's presentation to the 27-28 May 2015 ME 017 Committee meeting was very well received, according to Standards Australia management. AA could have spent say, \$50K in advertising its arrival on the regulatory scene and not have received anywhere near the promotional value & credibility that its involvement in ME-017's affairs has so far derived. It takes between 3-5 years to build an industry association's reputation with its respective target audiences, and AA's build is now well & truly underway. Nathan Cartwright's report on the ME-017 Committee's deliberations will be sent to members shortly.

## Standards Development

Steady progress is continuing on two (2) of AA's foundation policy aims:

- **Spill Kits Standard:** The AusSpill Spill Kit Standards sub-committee members (Neville Morris, Ryan Gifford, Kevan Goff, Trevor Prentice) completed their draft proposal for an industry Spill Kit Standard (SKS) as discussed at last November's AGM, with the initial aim of establishing an intra-industry standard. A final proposal document was circulated seeking members' input by 8 May 2015. The AA Board has ratified the voting outcomes summary which was sent to members last week. It is planned to formally adopt the agreed outcomes at the 2015 AA AGM in Sydney on 5 November next. Also, the AGM will be presented with an overview of the path to having the SKS adopted as an Australian Standard.
- **Sorbency:** The goal of this project is the implementation of spill control industry standard test methods to provide an impartial, cost-effective performance appraisal of absorbent materials and also, a method for identifying absorbent types (Hazchem/chemical, oil & fuel/hydrocarbons & general purpose).

The AA Sorbency sub-Committee has held discussions based on an original proposal prepared by Nathan Cartwright. The review committee of Messrs Cartwright, Morris, Aebi, Clark, Gifford & Childs will consider:

- the best method for testing absorbents to an agreed ASTM Standard/s
- what absorbents should be included in this testing
- the test to be recognized by AA so that a manufacturer can choose in which test his product is best reflected.
- the cost of this process and the appropriate laboratory to conduct the tests.
- the administrative & management process, under the banner of AusSpill Association.

## More information

Please feel free to call me (0418 821 009) or our Secretary (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](http://www.ausspill.com.au) for any general background information.

### Best wishes

**Trevor Prentice**

**Chairman**



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