CALL FOR INFORMATION: NANOMATERIALS

Dear Sir/Madam

The Australian Government regulator of industrial chemicals, the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), is seeking information on the industrial uses of nanomaterials. NICNAS provides a national notification scheme for industrial chemicals introduced to Australia, and aims to protect the public and the environment from any harmful effects of these chemicals. More information about NICNAS can be found at: http://www.nicnas.gov.au/

Nanomaterials are materials designed at the molecular (nanometre) level to take advantage of their small size and/or novel properties compared to the corresponding conventional bulk chemical. There is currently no agreed national or international definition of nanomaterials. While nanomaterials have the potential to provide significant benefits to society, it is important to ensure they are introduced safely.

Nanomaterials are currently of regulatory interest because some research on a few nanomaterials has suggested potential environmental and health impacts. This reflects the nature of nanomaterials in that the particle size is orders of magnitude smaller than conventional bulk materials, and the nanomaterials may have increased capacity for absorption and substantially greater surface area and reactivity. It is important and timely that NICNAS considers nanomaterials, their potential health and environmental impacts, and the ability of the scheme to adequately assess the potential risks of nanomaterials.

Call For Information

A notice directed to all persons who have manufactured or imported nanomaterials or products (mixtures) containing nanomaterials was recently published in the *Chemical Gazette*, February 2006 at:
www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/pdf/2006feb_whole.pdf#page=6 .

NICNAS is seeking information on uses and quantities of nanomaterials imported or manufactured for industrial uses, and use in cosmetics and personal care products. This information will assist in understanding which nanomaterials are available on the market or close to commercialisation, and assist us in focusing our efforts to ensure the adequacy of the regulatory scheme to assess nanomaterials. Importantly, the information will help develop links with industry to aid future dialogue in this review process.

For the purposes of this call for information, NICNAS is requesting information on chemicals specifically engineered to have at least one dimension less than 100 nanometres, (henceforth referred to as nanomaterials). Nanomaterials may be nano-scale (1-100nm) in one dimension (eg surface films), two dimensions (strands or fibres), or three dimensions (particles).

The following specific information is sought for nanomaterials **for 2005, and for 2006 (estimated usage only)**:

- Chemical name, trade name and formula (CAS number if available)
- Estimate of the total quantity (kg/year) of nanomaterials imported to Australia (in raw form or in products) and/or manufactured in Australia;
- Industrial uses of nanomaterials, or the products containing nanomaterials, the concentration of nanomaterials in products and whether any products are available to the public.

NICNAS will analyse the information and prepare a report on the extent and scope of the use of nanomaterials in industrial, cosmetic and personal care products in Australia. Commercially confidential information, such as company details and chemical identity data, will not be published if requested.

Nanomaterials used exclusively as therapeutic goods (such as sunscreens), food or food additives and agricultural or veterinary chemicals, do not fall within the scope of NICNAS, and are consequently outside this call for information.

Responses regarding the nanomaterials are requested on the attached form by 17 March 2006. A separate form should be completed for each nanomaterial. If you who prefer that specific information not be published, please indicate this on the form.

We encourage all manufacturers and importers of nanomaterials used for industrial purposes to provide information. This is an opportunity to share information that will inform NICNAS' considerations of nanomaterials. It will also enable NICNAS to establish links with industry, so that industry can be involved from the beginning in the development of policies and regulation of nanomaterials in Australia.

If you would like any further information, please contact Dr David Stone on 02 85778858 or myself on 02 8577 8890.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Willcocks
Team Leader
Rapid Risk Assessment
NICNAS

16 February 2006

RESPONSE TO NANOMATERIALS - Call for information

Please use a separate form for each Nanomaterial.

Company Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Contact name: email: _____

Phone Number:_____ Fax Number:_____

Details of Chemical (complete as appropriate for each nanomaterial)

Chemical Name:

Trade Name:

Chemical Formula:

Chemical Abstract Service Number (CAS No.):

1. Do you manufacture the above Nanomaterial? (Please circle) Y/N

If yes, please provide an estimate of the quantity you manufacture

_____kg /year:

2. Do you import the Nanomaterial? (Please circle) Y/N

If yes, please provide an estimate of the quantities of chemical you import

_____kg/year:

3. Do you import products (mixtures) containing this Nanomaterial? (Please circle) Y/N

If yes, please indicate the product(s) you **import** containing the Nanomaterial, the concentration of the Nanomaterial in the product (in %), and the total kg of Nanomaterial for each product:

Name/Description of Product concentration (%) kg NM/year

_____

_____

4. Do you formulate products containing this Nanomaterial? (Please circle) Y/N

If Yes, please indicate the product(s) which you **formulate** containing the Nanomaterial, the concentration of the Nanomaterial in the product (in %), and the total kg of NM in each product:

Name /Description of Product concentration (%) kg NM/year

If you indicated YES to one or more of Questions 1-4;
Please indicate what are the uses of the Nanomaterial/nanomaterial-containing products manufactured, imported or formulated by you?

5. Is this Nanomaterial available to members of the public? (Please circle) Y/N

Do you wish that any information provided in this form be kept confidential? YES ☐ NO ☐

Please specify which information you do not wish to be published

All information collected is treated in accordance with strict confidentiality guidelines and in compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988.*
Further information: contact Dr David Stone (Tel: 02 8577 8858; email: david.stone@nicnas.gov.au).

Is your company a small business with less than 20 employees? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please provide an estimate of the time taken to complete this form:
hrs mins

Thank-you. Please send the completed form to:

Dr David Stone
Existing Chemicals
NICNAS
GPO Box 58
Sydney NSW, 2001