

**Cooperative Arrangement Between  
the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment  
Scheme of Australia  
and  
Environment Canada and Health Canada  
on the subject of  
Sharing Information on New Industrial Chemicals**

**Appendix I - Work Plan  
Year 2**

Revised June 2003

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## Appendix I Work Plan (Year 2)

Areas of Cooperation and Tasks	Responsibility	Additional Comments	Time frame
<b>AREA 1 Expanding Knowledge &amp; Information Sharing</b>			
<b>1. Comparative Analysis of Assessments Methodologies</b>			
<b>A) Joint Lessons Learned Report</b> based on exchange of CEPA/NICNAS assessment reports to date on selected substances	Canada/ Australia	Report is to include: comparisons & lessons learned from the process, retrospective study, assessment reports, & factors influencing the assessment. Report will be broken into 2 stages: 1. 5 substances 2. 3 substances (TBD after OECD TF candidate substances are chosen in Jan 2003)	end May 2003
Finalize Joint Lessons Learned Report	Canada/ Australia	Offer to OECD Task Force for comment	end May 2003
<b>A) 1) Complete study of balance of high priority substances</b>	Canada/ Australia	Remaining high priority substances include: 3 high priority; 1 med. priority; 6-7 priority substance reports shared at request of industry; determine and focus on substances that are most appropriate to review	March 2004
<b>B) Define future goals for comparative work</b> in light of the comparison of the hazard assessments based on retrospective analysis	Canada/ Australia	Future areas of focus to include: models, exposure assessment methodology & risk assessment methodology	TBD

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<b>AREA 2 Scientific and Regulatory Consultative Services</b> <i>(includes progress meetings by phone &amp; e-mail)</i>			
<b>1. Hold monthly teleconferences between signatories to discuss progress and exchange information</b>	Australia/ Canada	Canada/Australia to compile a list of topics technical in nature for future teleconferences (e.g., polywog workshop, dermal absorption, toxicological issues, release scenarios)  Exchange assessment reports at Industry request on an on-going basis	Telecon held 1st week of every month. List of topics - ongoing
<b>AREA 3 Work Sharing on Co-notifications</b>			
<b>1. A) Develop formal procedures for co-notifications (consecutive or simultaneous)</b>	Australia/ Canada	Determine roles and responsibilities; mechanism for CBI approval from industry to share data (information disclosure agreement); framework; timelines; legislative limitations; how to initiate; what is final product.	End of March 2004
<b>B) Develop a strategy to engage industry on co-notifications including promotion</b>	Australia/ Canada	Develop strategy, followed by promotions to industry via presentations at joint gov/ind meetings; workshops; advisory notes, to explain co-notification process and outline benefits for gov/ind in both countries  Report response to New Chemical Task Force	Ongoing - after formal procedures are developed
<b>2. Electronic filing for co-notifications</b>	Australia/ Canada	Electronic filing on co-notifications discuss as an expedited way of work sharing.	Long term - ongoing

Areas of Cooperation and Tasks	Responsibility	Additional Comments	Time frame
<b>AREA 4 Advancing Scientific Development and Scientific Tools</b> <i>(Share results of work on new assessment tools)</i>			
<b>1. Areas of Future Cooperation</b> (See list of sharing activities which have a potential cooperative activity in the future)			
<p><b>List of Sharing Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Smart Tool - Smart Tool is intended to be an on-line notification tool that should expedite the notification and evaluation processes by using a rule-based system to aid in determining whether polymers meet low concern criteria. (Canada forward draft project proposal early 2003)</li> <li>2. ChemSim Model (formerly Probabilistic Dilution Model (PDM) Canada) - ChemSim is a GIS-based environmental exposure estimation tool that is used to predict aqueous concentrations and dispersion characteristics of substances released to watercourses. (Canada shared ChemSim draft discussion paper March 2003)</li> <li>3. Qualitative Structure Activity Relationships (QSAR) - Quantitative structural-activity relationships (used in the assessment process) provide quantitative estimates of physical-chemical and toxicological properties for various classes of chemical substances. (Share information from various QSAR conferences and meetings)</li> <li>4. Polywog workshop, including <u>Resolution of Controversial Issues (ROCS)</u> committee - EC/HC Polymer Working Group used to advance scientific development and develop training programs and materials targeting scientists within the two Departments. (Canada preparing training manual to be shared with Australia by summer 2003)</li> <li>5. Low regulatory risk substances - Chemicals that are either (a) of low risk due to low hazard and/or low or controlled exposure; or (b) has regulatory input from elsewhere taken as sufficient to meet NICNAS requirements (Australia developing an options paper by June 2003 will share draft March 2003. Australia will be determining a method to incorporate fee and/or data reduction for notifications of these substances)</li> <li>6. Classes of well characterized substances in which a high level of knowledge pertaining to risk is known (class waivers) (Canada forwarded example of class waivers. For future: Australia to determine method to incorporate fee and/or data reduction for notifications of these substance types)</li> <li>7. Development of a Proposed Approach to Applying Uncertainty factors (Australia to provide comments to Canadian existing report/approach)</li> <li>8. Assessment Guidance Manuals - These documents describe criteria for determining health and environmental hazards, and level of risk. EC is currently developing GM with Existing substances group on environmental risk assessment (manual scheduled for completion end of 03/04 FY). (Canada shared Table of Contents Feb 2003; Australia and HC to share their respective ToC later in year)</li> <li>9. Report on CBI issues that will affect exchange of notification data - Benefit from work undertaken under OECD Task Force and 4 Corners Agreement and report on these activities.</li> <li>10. Encrypted E-mail - NICNAS and Environment Australia are developing a secure line between Sydney and Canberra for exchanging assessment reports and other CBI. Australia to keep Canada informed of the progress.</li> </ol>			

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<b>AREA 5 Staff Development</b>			
<b>1. Feasibility study to initiate staff exchange</b>	Australia/ Canada	Consider Canada/Australia/US staff exchange. Establish team to determine: Cost? Who should go? Canadian evaluators to Australian or Australian evaluators to Canada (consider Australian coming to North America (US and Canada)? Should it be simultaneous? What are the logistical barriers? How long should they stay? What specific projects will be completed? What are the expectations?	Establish a team by April 2003
<b>AREA 6 Special Projects</b>			
<b>1. Develop a password protected site between Canada and Australia for electronic exchange of (confidential) information</b>	Australia/ Canada	Need to seek industry comment & engage IT Committee in discussions	Long term - ongoing