

# Reforms to the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)

## Introduction

NICNAS was established under the Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989 and is responsible for assessing the risks of industrial chemicals that are manufactured in or imported into Australia.

Manufacturers and importers of industrial chemicals need to be registered with NICNAS and ensure that relevant substances are either already on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS) or assessed as 'new' chemicals.

Typical products that may be imported by ATA members that would be caught by NICNAS Legislation are:

- Moulding and Playdough type product
- Bubble solutions
- Toy cosmetics
- Craft products such as paint, glue and associated materials
- Ink in pens and other graphic materials included in toys
- Chemistry sets

It is therefore expected that many, if not most ATA members would need to be registered with NICNAS and affected by the Legislation.

However, ATA Members are generally not expected to be experts on chemicals and would expect that their industrial chemical imports would all be low risk or meet relevant standards for children's products. They would expect that all of their chemical imports would already be on AICS and would call NICNAS for help in the case that they couldn't identify an entry or require the supplier to adjust the product formulation.

ATA members are unlikely to introduce 'new' chemicals to Australia.

## Reforms

NICNAS is in the process of consulting on reforms to the Scheme intended to reduce the regulatory burden on importers and manufacturers by streamlining assessment processes and refocusing assessment effort on higher risk industrial chemicals.

The main impact of the reforms is to allow manufacturers and importers of 'new' chemicals to assess the chemicals against risk matrices for human health and the environment and determine if they would be:

- Exempt from any assessment, reporting or advice
- Require pre-market reporting and an annual compliance declaration

- Require pre-market assessment by NICNAS

Risk matrix—human health					Risk matrix—environment					
Hazard Band	D			Assessed						
	C		Reported				Assessed			
	B	Exempted				Reported				
	A									
		1	2	3	4					
		Exposure Band								
						1	2	3	4	5
						Exposure Band				

It is expected that the great majority of 'new' chemicals would fall into the 'exempt' or 'reported' categories and so allow for a faster and less expensive introduction of these chemicals.

## Impact of Changes on ATA Members

Members will benefit from modernisation of the administrative side of NICNAS:

- Easier registrations and updates
- Easier searches of AICS and links to assessment and hazard information

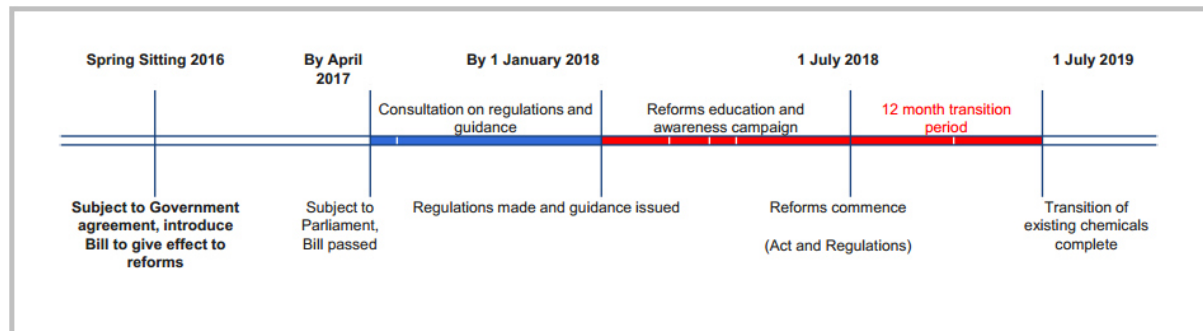
The reforms to the requirements around importing and manufacturing new chemicals should have little impact on ATA members, but may give some increased expenses over time due to less new chemicals being added to AICS.

- The reforms aim to streamline the introduction of new chemicals by allowing that chemicals can be categorised as exempt or reported and thus require less assessments.
- Exempt and reported chemicals may not get added to AICS so that over time ATA members may not find all of the chemicals that are used in their products in the database.
- For chemicals that are not in AICS, ATA members would need to treat them as 'new' chemicals (even if they aren't).
- Importers of 'new' chemicals need to assess the chemicals to determine their position on the human health and environment risk matrices
- ATA Members may not have the skills in house to be confident in performing these assessments and should not rely on the assessments of their vendors.
- ATA Members or their suppliers would therefore need to engage a qualified independent assessor to make the assessment and determine required actions for chemicals that are not in AICS.
- The number of such chemicals would be initially small, but may rise over time.

The overall cost of this is expected to be small in comparison to the savings from other sectors such as those major importers or manufacturers of chemicals so it is not anticipated that it can be avoided.

## Timing and Required Actions

The reforms will not be fully implemented until at least July 2018.



ATA Members should be aware that the changes are happening.

There is no action required by ATA members to prepare for the changes.

## Further Information

Members requiring further information on the reforms or that would like the ATA to take a position on their behalf can contact [compliance@austoy.com.au](mailto:compliance@austoy.com.au)

Alternately, NICNAS is very happy to provide training or education to members directly. Please contact the Reforms line on 02 8577 8837 to arrange this.