



Media Release

24th April 2017

OHS Body of Knowledge extended to address process safety

This week the Safety Institute of Australia launches two new chapters for the OHS Body of Knowledge (OHS BoK). Developed in conjunction with the Institution of Chemical Engineers, these chapters on *Process Hazards (Chemical)* and *Managing Process Safety* break new ground in employing a collaborative approach; bringing together the two disciplines of process safety and generalist OHS to develop core knowledge for those working in process environments.

The quality of these chapters represents a strong collaborative effort by the members of the Technical panel and especially the joint writing team of Trish Kerin, Director of the IChemE Safety Centre and Pam Pryor of the SIA and the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board.

Pam Pryor said that these chapters have highlighted the international application of the OHS BoK with international representation on the Technical Panel and international feedback as part of the peer review process.

Patrick Murphy, Chair of the Safety Institute of Australia said that it is gratifying for the work to be recognised by people such as

Andrew Hopkins

“If I were an OHS professional I’d be delighted to have this material gathered together in one place like this. ... An OHS professional who grasps this material will be far more effective as a result.”

and

Dame Judith Hackitt, past Chair of the UK Health and Safety Executive and Past President of IChemE

“I applaud the work of the group who have produced this vital material which will enable process safety specialists and OHS professionals to work together with common understanding of each other’s languages and competences. This is a vital step in moving towards a fully integrated approach to safety which focusses on all of the issues and, most importantly, breaks down the silos in thinking.”

The formal launch of the process safety chapters on the 26th April will be accompanied by a webinar on an Introduction to process safety presented by Trish Kerin. The new chapters are available for download at www.ohsbok.org.au

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See over for information for media.



About the OHS Body of Knowledge

The OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals was developed in response to an identified need to define the collective knowledge that should be shared by Australian Generalist OHS Professionals as a basis for understanding the causation and control of work-related fatality, injury, disease and ill-health. This Body of Knowledge is required as a basis for professional certification and for accreditation of education programs giving entry to a profession as well as to provide a benchmark for continuing professional development.

WorkSafe Victoria funded the development of the first edition of the OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals published in 2012 assigning the copyright to the Safety Institute of Australia with the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board having stewardship to ensure that the development priorities take account of priority topics for OHS education and that the quality and evidence-base reflects current OHS research and leading edge thinking and so provides a suitable standard for OHS education.

The OHS Body of Knowledge is freely available to individuals for their personal professional use. See www.ohsbok.org.au. Organisations and training bodies are encouraged to obtain a license for use. Resources are also being developed for specific chapters.

The OHS Body of Knowledge is not intended to be a definitive statement, fixed in time. Rather it is subject to continual reinterpretation and evolution as people engage with it, apply it, and extend it by research. New chapters are being developed on a number of topics.

Information on the OHS Body of Knowledge of available on the web site and details of new chapters with opportunity for input is posted on <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7026742>

Contacts for the OHS Body of Knowledge

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Safety Institute of Australia (SIA): <https://sia.org.au>

The Safety Institute of Australia Ltd is Australia's peak body for the health and safety profession. Established more than 60 years ago, it has a membership of over 4,000 individuals interested in health and safety in the workplace. It conducts the OHS professional certification program for OHS professionals and OHS practitioners and through the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board accredited university-level OHS professional education.

IChemE: www.icheme.org

With a membership exceeding 44,000 members in over 120 countries, and offices in the Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and the UK; IChemE aims to be the organisation of choice for chemical engineers. It promotes competence and a commitment to best practice, advances the discipline for the benefit of society and supports the professional development of its members.

IChemE Safety Centre (ISC): <http://www.ichemesafetycentre.org/>

The ISC is a not-for-profit multi-company, subscription based, industry consortium, focused on improving process safety. It shares, analyses and applies safety related thinking to advance process safety worldwide.