

BULLETIN

Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Unit



Reference No: EPA legislation & Dangerous Goods Regulation changes/bo-06-21

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New EPA Legislation & Dangerous Goods Regulations changes begin this week!

Major changes to the Victorian Environmental legislation take effect from 1 July 2021, with the new focus of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) and its inspectorate to now be on preventing harm before it happens. This means that all Victorian businesses must now take proactive and reasonable steps to minimise harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste.

Businesses can comply with the law by identifying, controlling, and managing their risks to the environment.

Most VACC member sites produce some form of Reportable Priority Waste. Businesses producing this form of waste must now ensure:

- Their waste is classified (if unsure how to classify your waste, you can register to have an EPA 'accredited consigner' assist you to classify your waste, email: consigners@epa.vic.gov.au)
- The company collecting your industrial waste must be EPA licensed to do so. If you are having your waste collected by a non-EPA licensed provider, substantial fines will apply.
- **Automotive businesses will need to familiarise themselves with the waste tracker program and register their business if they are a producer of these environmentally harmful wastes (i.e., tyres, waste oils, triple interceptor waste, paints etc.).** Members can [click here](#) for further information and to register. If you currently use the electronic waste transport certificate system, you will now be required to use 'waste tracker'.
- Members seeking further clarification on these new requirements may wish to contact their waste collection providers to see how they can assist you in your compliance to the new system.

In addition to changes around waste, there are a number of other changes in the new legislation. Members are encouraged to conduct a self-assessment of their business by utilising the following checklist [click here](#) in preparation for compliance with the new laws.

Upcoming Webinars for VACC Members – New EPA Laws

On behalf of EPA Victoria, VACC OHSE Unit will be delivering 5 webinar sessions for member businesses which will be specific to the automotive industry to help you comply with the new laws. These include the following dedicated sessions for each of the following sectors:

- Service stations
- Parts recyclers
- Mechanical and dealerships
- Smash repairers
- All remaining automotive sectors

Invitations to these online sessions will be sent to members in the coming weeks.

Dangerous Goods at your site? New notification requirements!

The new *Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2021* (amended Regulations) commence on 1 July 2021. If you are an occupier of premises that store and handle dangerous goods in quantities that exceed those specified in the column headed 'Manifest Quantity' in Schedule 2/item 2 of the amended Regulations, you will need to change the frequency of notification to WorkSafe and provide additional information. Members can [click here](#) to view the Schedule.

WorkSafe must now be notified when specified changes occur to the quantities being stored or the type of Dangerous Goods being stored at your site. This is a reduction in the timeframe for notifications from 14 days to within three business days.

Where no changes occur, the occupier is now required to update their information at least every two years. Previously, it was every five years.

Existing duty holders will have six months from 1 July 2021 to submit a new notification that complies with the new requirements, or until one of the specified changes in circumstance occurs (whichever is earlier). New duty holders will be required to notify in accordance with the amended Regulations from their commencement.

An online notification form has been developed to assist duty holders in notifying WorkSafe. The form will replace the current digital and paper forms on the WorkSafe website. It will be available from 1 July. Once live, you can access the notification form [here](#).

Members seeking further information are encouraged to contact the VACC OHSE Unit on 9829 1265.

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