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Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing
NICNAS

Meeting Paper

Nanotechnology Advisory Group
4th Meeting – 29 May 2009

Agenda Items 7: Updates and reports on national and international activities and developments in nanotechnology

PURPOSE

To provide updates on NICNAS work in the domestic and international arenas.

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Issues

In order to build up NICNAS technical capacity to assess the HSE impacts of nanoparticles, NICNAS is now considering a technical consultancy to review the literature in terms of the HSE impacts of specific nanomaterials of current interest to NICNAS, namely:

- titanium dioxide
- zinc oxide
- cerium oxide
- silver
- fullerenes
- carbon nanotubes.

In developing a business case for such a proposal, NICNAS is currently assessing their coverage in several existing literature reviews, including those (being) undertaken by the TGA, Safework Australia and the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

These reviews (some are currently in draft form and not yet publicly available, others have been supplied to members on the CD of relevant literature) have addressed specific nanomaterials of relevance to specific portfolio interests. On this basis, NICNAS has identified potential areas not reviewed, such as in relation to:

- the public health effects of cerium oxide;
- the dermal absorption of carbon nanotubes and fullerenes.

As part of developing a business case for commissioning a review of literature in these specific areas, NICNAS will first need to assess whether significant numbers of primary literature exists that would warrant commissioning an external consultant.

Recommendation

NAG members provide their views on the availability of any literature on:

- the public health effects of cerium oxide;
- the dermal absorption of carbon nanotubes and fullerenes.

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Attachment B

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