

Factsheet 2: Implementation of IMAP Framework – STAGE ONE

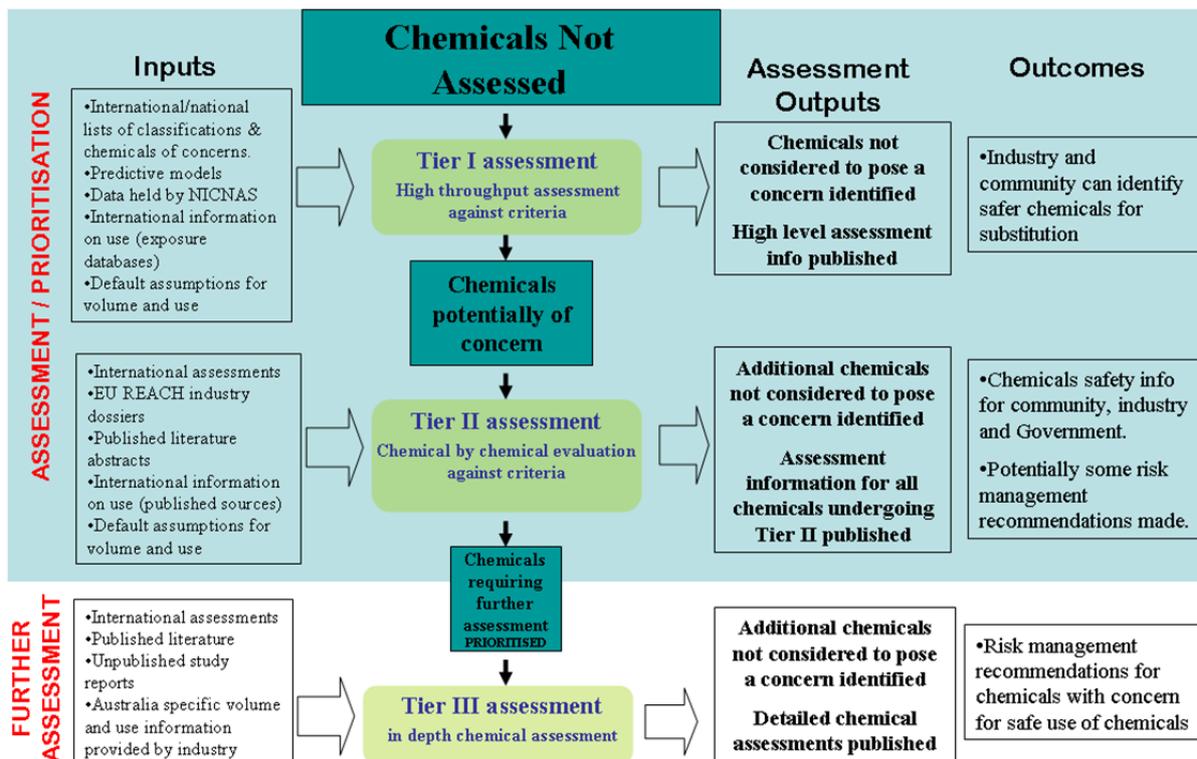
The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is addressing the unknown human health and environmental impacts of unassessed industrial chemicals on Australia's national inventory¹. NICNAS has developed an innovative framework, Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation (IMAP), to accelerate the assessment of these chemicals.

The IMAP framework will be applied to chemicals on the national inventory in a staged manner. During the first stage of its implementation, approximately 3000 chemicals will be screened and assessed.

These 3000 chemicals have been selected from the inventory on the basis of characteristics that stakeholders have identified as priorities for early consideration, and they will be considered through at least Tiers I and II of the IMAP framework (see Figure 1).

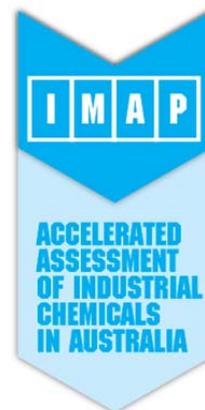
Stage one will run over four years, commencing in July 2012.

Figure 1: Tier I and Tier II Assessment – leading to Tier III Assessment – using the IMAP Framework



IMAP: Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation

National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)
– Australian Government regulator for industrial chemicals –



Selecting Stage One Chemicals

A strong message that emerged from NICNAS' consultation with community, industry and governmental stakeholders during the development of the IMAP framework was:

... certain groups of chemicals (such as those chemicals for which information is already held or which have already been identified as chemicals of concern) should be considered for assessment ahead of the majority of chemicals listed on the AICS.

Included are:

- chemicals for which NICNAS already holds exposure information
- chemicals identified as a concern or for which regulatory action has been taken overseas, and
- chemicals detected in international studies analysing chemicals present in the blood in babies' umbilical cords.

Based on these broad criteria and sources identified, NICNAS collated a list of chemicals to be assessed in Stage One. Sources of information used to identify those chemicals of concern or regulated overseas include the Canadian Chemical Management Program, EU Cosmetic Regulations, EU REACH Regulations, US EPA Programs and OECD chemical programs.

The full list of stage one chemicals can be found on the NICNAS website at: www.nicnas.gov.au. All chemicals are searchable by chemical name, CAS number, assessment status and rationale for inclusion in the list.

Chemicals that have undergone a comprehensive NICNAS assessment, such as Priority Existing Chemicals, (where recommendations addressing OHS, public health and the environment have been published) are not included.

Next steps

NICNAS will commence the assessment of the Stage One chemicals in July 2012, and 800 of these chemicals have been identified for assessment in 2012-13. Regular updates on the progress of Stage One will be provided on the NICNAS website and through publication in *NICNAS Matters* and NICNAS's *Chemical Gazette*. NICNAS will also continue to work with key stakeholders through its advisory groups.

NICNAS welcomes the provision of information by introducers and users of the Stage One chemicals. NICNAS has developed an approach whereby Australian information is not required on the Stage One chemicals in the early prioritisation and assessment stages (i.e. Tiers I and II). However, provision of information on the use of the chemicals in Australia may assist in making a more targeted risk determination in the Australian context.

Opportunity for public comment will also be available on the assessment outcomes in accordance with the intent of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989*. The public comment phase will be notified in the *Chemical Gazette* and on the NICNAS website.

More information

For further information please contact NICNAS:

- ➔ Freecall: 1800 638 528
- ➔ Phone: 02 8577 8800
- ➔ Fax: 02 8577 8888
- ➔ Email: IMAP@nicnas.gov.au
- ➔ Website: www.nicnas.gov.au

¹ The Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS).