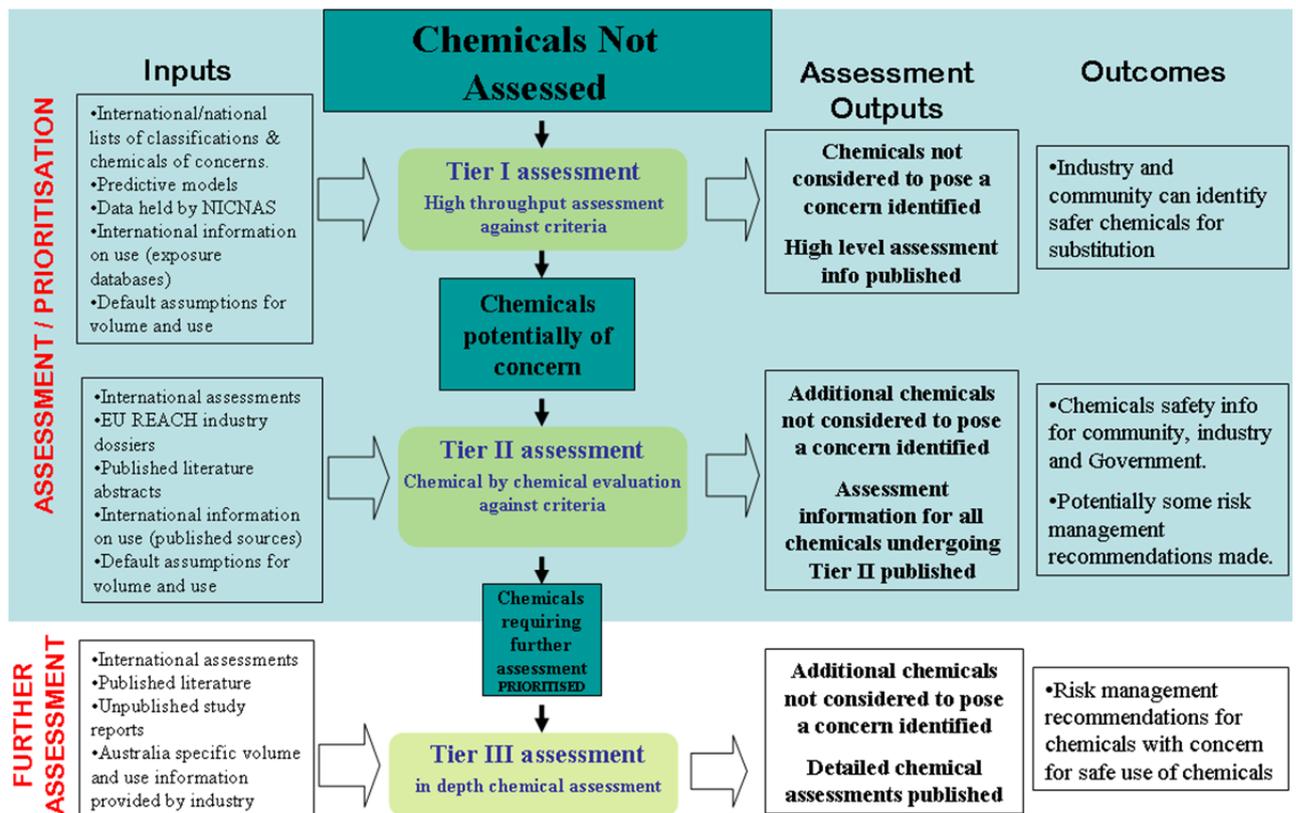


Factsheet 3: IMAP – Better Chemical Safety Information

The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is addressing the unknown human health and environmental impacts of unassessed industrial chemicals on Australian national inventory¹. NICNAS has developed an innovative framework, Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation (IMAP), to accelerate the assessment of these chemicals. For further details refer to IMAP Factsheets² 1 (*Overview of IMAP*) and 2 (*Implementation of IMAP Framework – Stage One*).

The IMAP Framework, illustrated in Figure 1, delivers assessment outcomes at each of the assessment tiers. The level of detail in the assessment output at each tier reflects the required relative assessment effort.

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

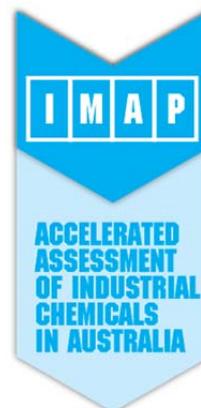


Tier I Assessment

The Tier I assessment is a high throughput approach using tabulated electronic data (that is either publicly available, held by NICNAS or can be readily generated using predictive modelling), that can efficiently be applied to the health, environmental and exposure indicator criteria for chemicals on the national inventory.

The primary aim of the Tier I assessment is to identify those chemicals that are not expected to pose an unreasonable risk to workers, public health and the environment so that further assessment resources are not expended on these chemicals.

IMAP: Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation



NICNAS will publish a statement that these chemicals have been determined not to pose an unreasonable risk to workers, public health and/or the environment. The statement will also contain details of the use category(s) considered in the assessment.

Tier II Assessment

The Tier II assessment is an evaluation of risk on a substance-by-substance or chemical category-by-category basis. The Tier II hazard and risk information (combined with any information from Tier I) will be summarised in a Tier II assessment report, that has been developed in consultation with relevant standard setting bodies and stakeholders. The Tier II assessment report will provide information on:

- chemical identity
- import, manufacture, use and current restrictions/regulatory controls
- key health or environmental hazard information, and
- human health or environmental risk characterisation.

Recommendations on regulatory controls for safe use made to the relevant standard setting body will also be included where applicable. Where a more detailed assessment is required to determine the risk of the chemical, the chemical will be recommended for a Tier III assessment. All Tier II assessment reports will be published.

Tier III Assessment

Tier III assessments are conducted to address specific concerns that could not be resolved during the Tier II assessment. Two main types of Tier III assessments are anticipated, those for which more complex consideration of the data collated during the tier II assessment is required and those for which additional information needs to be obtained to more accurately characterise the risk.

Publishing Assessment Outcomes

During Stage One, around 3,000 chemicals will be screened and assessed and the outcomes (including recommendations for risk management measures) published in several batches on the NICNAS web site. This will include Tier I, Tier II and some Tier III assessments. This should increase chemical information flow and enhance chemical management.

Due to the difference in the risk characterisation criteria for human health and environment and to ensure maximum efficiency in the assessment process, human health and environmental assessments will be conducted separately. The progression of chemicals through the tiered assessment process and assessment outputs may differ for human health and environment.

The timing of the publication of assessment outcomes on the NICNAS web site will align with the publication of the *Chemical Gazette*. Opportunity for consultation will be available through a 28-day public comment period for all assessments.

For further information please contact NICNAS:

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- ➔ 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)

² www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/Existing_Chemicals/Chemicals_On_AICS/IMAP_Factsheets.asp

IMAP: Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation

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