

INFORMATION FOR NOMINEES

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Chemical Safety is calling for nominations for membership on the Advisory Group on Chemical Safety (AGCS).

In order to assist nominees, the following information is provided in this document:

- The role of the Office of Chemical Safety in chemical regulation in Australia;
- A short outline of the functions and scope of the AGCS; and
- The desired background and qualifications for prospective members.

THE OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY

All chemicals use in the community must comply with Commonwealth legislation that mandates the assessment of any potential human health risks. Based on such human health risk assessments, a number of Australian government agencies regulate the use of these chemicals in agriculture, industry and medicine, ensuring coverage in food, water, air and soil.

The Office of Chemical Safety, within the Department of Health and Ageing includes the national industrial chemical regulator (National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme [NICNAS] www.NICNAS.gov.au). The Office is responsible for the human health risk assessment of agricultural, veterinary, industrial and domestic chemicals, including cosmetics. In addition to the safety assessment of new chemicals, the Office also undertakes safety assessment of existing chemicals through its Review program to ensure their continued use does not pose unacceptable risk to human health and safety

The Office of Chemical Safety provides human health risk assessment advice and establishes public health standard for chemicals to a number of other government departments including the Australian Safety Compensation Council, the Australian Pesticide Veterinary Medicines Authority and the Department of Environment and Heritage.

ADVISORY GROUP ON CHEMICALS SAFETY (AGCS)

FUNCTION

The Advisory Group on Chemical Safety (AGCS) will provide expert advice to the Director of the Office of Chemical Safety on human health (occupational & public) matters relating to the safety assessment and use of agricultural, veterinary, industrial and domestic chemicals, as well as cosmetics.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Advisory Group will:

1. At the request of the Director of the Office of Chemical Safety, provide expert advice as required on the safety assessment of veterinary, agricultural, industrial and domestic chemicals, as well as cosmetics in the following areas:-

Toxicology/Clinical toxicology

Occupational Health and Safety

Public Health Risk Assessment

Chemical Monitoring

Exposure Assessment

Best Practice Methodology in hazard and risk assessment

Health Standards

Chemical use practices (agricultural, clinical veterinary, industrial and/or domestic/consumer)

2. At the request of the Director of the Office of Chemical Safety, provide advice on technical and scientific developments in the fields of regulatory science as they relate to human health and safety.
3. Have no decision making authority.
4. Will be subject to a conflict of interest clause *herein*.
5. Members will be bound by prohibition of disclosure of confidentiality clauses in the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* and *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992*.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

Advisory Group member appointments will generally be for 2 years, renewable for maximum period of 4 years.

Each member is appointed on the basis of their individual skills, knowledge and expertise and holds their appointment at the discretion of the Office. Appointments will be made through an open process of nomination via a call for expressions of interest. The Director of the Office of Chemical Safety reserves the right to appoint members directly.

Conflict of Interest

Appointments will be subject to the fulfilment of the conflict of interest clause. The underlying principle is to avoid the existence of conflicting roles and interests that may

impact adversely on a member's judgement and advice provided to the Director of the Office of Chemical Safety. To ensure objectivity and mitigate any potential conflicts of interest, AGCS members can not be involved in providing strategic direction to a government or private organisation, if the same organisation seeks formal advice from the Office of Chemical Safety.

Confidentiality

Members may, on occasion, be provided with confidential material. Members shall not disclose this material to anyone outside the Advisory Group and shall treat this material with the utmost care and discretion and in accordance with terms of their confidentiality agreement.

Remuneration

The Office will meet AGCS member's expenses that include; a daily sitting fee and/or negotiated preparation time, a full economy air fare or equivalent, accommodation and the cost of meals. Payments will be guided by Departmental procedures.

MODUS OPERANDI

The Advisory Group will consist of experts with demonstrated experience in the fields of toxicology, human health risk assessment (public and occupational) and/or the use of chemical in one or more of the following areas; agriculture, veterinary, industry and/or domestic/consumer.

The Office of Chemical Safety will chair and provide all secretariat support of AGCS meetings.

INDICATIVE WORKLOAD

The Advisory Group is expected to meet twice per year, and members may also undertake ongoing work on specific projects in small working groups.

Matters referred to AGCS may be considered out of session, with specific members nominated by the chair to take the lead in provision of advice on matters referred to the committee.

Members will be expected to consistently attend meetings and undertake other duties related to the group work program as required.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Members will be selected against specific criteria by an established selection committee. The selection criteria will align with the AGCS terms of reference, with members being selected on the basis of their demonstrated experience and/or scientific expertise in disciplines relevant to human health risk assessment and/or chemical regulation.

Specifically, the Office of Chemical Safety is seeking individuals with expertise in the following areas:

- Toxicology/Clinical toxicology
- Occupational medicine
- Epidemiology/Pharmacology

- Human Medicine/Public Health
- Chemicals Risk Assessment/Exposure modelling
- Best Practice Methodology in hazard and risk assessment
- Chemical use practices (agricultural, veterinary, industrial and/or domestic/consumer)

For further information please contact the AGCS Secretary, on (02) 6289 3278 (AGCS@health.gov.au).