

# WHAT'S YOUR POISON?

*Safe Work  
Australia  
on Traffic  
Management*

*World Safety  
Day*



*New Vic  
Road Laws  
Give Cyclists  
Space*

# What's New in May?

Welcome to our May Safety News.

This month we look into safe storage of chemicals and share the new updates from Safe Work Australia on traffic management as well as the new Victorian law to protect Cyclists on our roads .

Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> April is World day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers' Memorial Day. Read on to see how you can get involved.

Ben Olih is taking a sabbatical for 3 months, but will return in July.



**Andrea Rowe**

***Stay Safe!***

## Safety Webinar – 11 May 10am

We invite you to join us at **10am on Tuesday 11 May** for our free monthly webinar to keep you up to date on workplace health and safety. Gary and the team present short informal sessions of only 20 to 30 minutes on topical issues and answer your questions.

[Register here](#)

*Missed our last webinar? View them [here](#)*

## SAFETY ACTION TEAM



**Gary**



**Stephen**



**Katie**



**Ben**



**Miriam**



**Sarah**

# What's Your Poison?

## Gee, That Tastes a Bit Strange!

Emergency crews were called to a Melbourne childcare centre in April, where twelve children were treated after accidentally drinking cleaning chemicals, when detergent was mistakenly put into a drink.

All 12 children who drank the liquid were treated by paramedics at the scene but did not need hospital treatment.

Also last month, a Russian woman was rushed to hospital with poisoning after drinking hand sanitiser, which was in a mineral water bottle that she purchased from a café.

The woman took a sip from the bottle labelled as "mineral water" and spat out the mouthful of sanitiser immediately, but still required treatment in hospital for two days. The cafe admitted to keeping the hand sanitiser in a water bottle.

During the COVID 19 pandemic there has been an increase in poisonings from alcohol-based hand sanitisers, in Australia and overseas.

The incidents serve as an important reminder for businesses to store and label chemicals correctly.

Where possible, chemicals should remain in original containers with the supplier's label and if it is necessary to decant the chemical into another container, use only clearly labelled containers intended for chemicals.

Chemicals should never be stored in food or drink containers and must be stored separate to food or drink e.g. never in the refrigerator with other food and drinks and out of reach from children.



*Chemicals in food containers*

## How to correctly label a decanted chemical

All decanted chemicals must be clearly and correctly labelled. This includes containers of waste or process by-product but does not include containers that are immediately used and cleaned or disposed of.

### Victoria

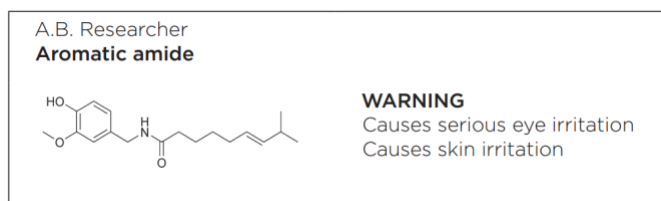
Decanted hazardous substances containers must include the name of chemical. Decanted Dangerous Goods (DG) need to be labelled with; the name, DG class label and sub-risk.

### WHS States Australia (all jurisdictions except Victoria, and WA):

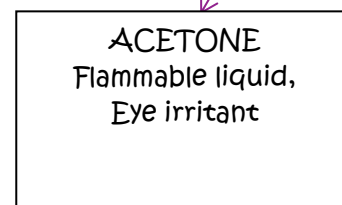
Decanted hazardous chemicals, research chemicals or samples must be labelled with:

- the name of the chemical and
- applicable hazard pictograms or hazard statements for the chemical.

Example label for a research chemical or sample



Both of these are acceptable labels for a decanted chemical



### Western Australia

Hazardous substances must be labelled with:

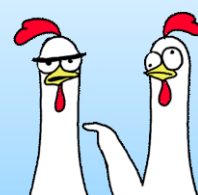
- the brand name, trade name, code name or code number specified by the supplier of the hazardous substance; and
- the risk phrases and safety phrases that apply to the hazardous substance.

*Note: If you do decant into a used food container, fully remove the food label and re-label the container correctly.*

[Click here](#) to download the Labelling Decanted Chemicals fact sheet.

## Joke of the Month

My people skills are fine...  
It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.



# Update: Safe Work Australia Traffic Management

Safe Work Australia has recently updated its workplace traffic management guidance to include information on working on or near public roads.

When managing traffic on a public road you must ensure the safety of workers and the public. This could include installation of barriers or warning devices to ensure workers and vehicles stay separated.



[Click here](#) to view the updated traffic management guidance as well as practical measures on managing the risks of working on public roads.

## Cycling Safety – Victoria’s New Law

Cyclists are among the most vulnerable road users. A person riding a bike is 34 times more likely than a vehicle occupant to be seriously injured in a crash.

While incidents from passing a cyclist is not the leading cause for cyclist road trauma, a person on a bike can be vulnerable in a passing scenario. For example, a vehicle’s larger mass and speed can act like a wave of pressure, threatening to destabilise a rider.

When passing a bicycle rider, drivers must now, by law, give a clearance of:

- at least one metre in speed zones up to 60km/h, and
- at least one and a half metres in zones over 60km/h.



The penalties for not complying is either an on the spot penalty of 2 penalty units (\$330) or a maximum court penalty of 10 penalty units (\$1,652)

For more information, [click here](#).

# 2021 World Day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers' Memorial Day Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

World day for Safety and Health at work and Workers' Memorial Day provides an opportunity to reflect on how to prevent work-related occupational diseases, deaths, injuries and illnesses. It is also a day to remember those that have died from a work-related injury or illness.

By raising awareness of work health and safety (WHS) issues and taking action to manage and reduce health and safety risks at work, we can help prevent further work-related fatalities and injuries.



## How to Get Involved?

- [Download](#) Safe Work Australia's poster to raise awareness in your workplace.
- use #worldWHSday2021, #SafeDay or #IWMD2021 on social media and sharing Safe Work Australia's social media posts.
- have a chat about workplace health and safety in your physical or virtual work meetings.
- attend a virtual Workers' Memorial Day event in your area.
- arrange a safety expert to speak at your workplace.
- watch the [XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work: Prevention in the Connected Age](#).

Visit your [state and territory regulator](#) websites for information and local activities for World Day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers' Memorial Day on 28 April.