Introduction

By Dr Sylvia Lachberg, UWA’s Biosafety Manager and WABN Facilitator.

Welcome to our first edition of the WABN News!

I would like to welcome all the new members of WABN – which is all of us! WABN launched on the 22nd of February 2011, by making its website live and inviting new members to join. I have known some of you WABN members for some time now, whilst others of you I have only just had the pleasure of meeting. I am very excited about us all having our own network now, to help us to keep in touch with each other and to share our biosafety knowledge for everyone’s benefit.

The WABN News

The WABN News is a newsletter written by the members of the Network, letting each other know about how we manage biosafety in our organisations. We aim to put together two Editions of the WABN News in this first year. Issue 1 has been written by WABN members at UWA. We hope that you will all want to contribute articles to the mid-year Edition – so think up a topic and get writing! Some ideas for articles include:

- how your organisation manages the administration of your GM Dealings
- how you keep your facilities compliant – the buildings and the people in them
- how you collect and treat your various laboratory wastes
- how you cultivate a culture where researchers will report accidents and breaches

The WABN mailing list

When you want information from all your fellow WABN members, the best way is to email our mailing list wabn@admin.uwa.edu.au. Bernadette will assess the request, to make sure it is appropriate, and then mail it out to all the WABN members. Individual members can then email you back directly to help you with your enquiry. If we get inundated with requests to the mailing list, we will combine the emails together in a list and send out no more than one email per week to members.
The WABN website

Our website http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/biological/wabn is the first port of call for any WABN information, so bookmark it. It shows:

- a list of the WABN members that are happy to be contacted directly for their biosafety expertise,
- copies of the WABN News,
- the email address for the WABN mailing list,
- application details for prospective new members.

Calling for new members of WABN

WABN aims to build up its membership network to encompass the entire biosafety community in WA. We are targeting Biological Safety Officers, Lab Managers, Lab Technicians, and IBC Members. If you can think of any of your colleagues who would benefit by being members of WABN then please invite them to contact Bernadette Bradley at wabn@admin.uwa.edu.au.

Online Gene Technology Course offered by UWA

There is now an online version of Sylvia Lachberg’s famous Gene Technology Awareness Session, that has been running for many years as a seminar.

This course is free for UWA staff and students, and available to external people for a small fee. All WABN members also get free access to this training course. If you would like access to the course then please email wabn@admin.uwa.edu.au. Please consider if the courses might be useful for members of your own organisation to purchase as part of their biosafety training.

Sylvia Lachberg from UWA presented her Gene Technology Awareness Session in person during 2010. In 2011 this course is now offered online and is free for WABN members.
ABSANZ Launched

On the 31st of January 2011 the Association of Biosafety for Australia and New Zealand (ABSANZ) was launched. We are sure that ABSANZ will provide valuable information and training in Biosafety. WABN will have very strong linkages with ABSANZ. We strongly encourage all Biosafety Professionals to join ABSANZ. The website is shown below, and the text below it is a copy of the launch email.

Welcome to the Association of Biosafety for Australia and New Zealand (ABSANZ) website. ABSANZ is a not-for-profit organisation that was registered with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) on 23 November 2010. (ACN 147502556)

ABSANZ has applied for Membership with the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (to be approved at next meeting on 18 February 2011)

www.absanz.org.au
We are thrilled to include you in the public launch of the Association of Biosafety for Australia & New Zealand (ABSANZ).

ABSANZ has been created in response to a proposal put forward at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Society of Microbiology. ABSANZ goal is:

“Strengthening Biosafety linkages and collaborations within Australia & New Zealand”

We invite you to become a Member of ABSANZ to support this goal and enjoy the myriad benefits Membership offers, which include:

- Access to ‘Members Only’ section of website, which includes educational materials, discussion papers and useful website links
- Discounts on conferences, training and workshops run by the Association
- Exclusive opportunities to provide conference and workshop materials at ABSANZ run events
- Access to LinkedIn Group, providing a secure chat space to access and share expertise, network with other biosafety professionals and keep abreast of developments in biosafety
- Receive news of significant changes and events affecting biosafety
- Voting rights to elect ABSANZ key members, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer
- Input into the development of ABSANZ Strategic Plan; and
- Ability to influence the direction and future of Biosafety

Membership is just $75 per annum (incl. GST) and commences annually from 1 February, so join now to make the most of your Membership by visiting www.absanz.org.au and subscribing.

Please forward this email to anyone you feel may be interested.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

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A copy of the ABSANZ launch email.
Australian Standard AS/NZS 2243.3 Updated

On the 17th of September 2010, the Australian/New Zealand Standard 2243.3 was updated. It is now called AS/NZS 2243.3:2010 Safety in Laboratories Part 3: Microbiological safety and containment. The new version has an extra 80 pages, and features a re-classification of the microbiological Risk Groups. We all need to read the new Standard, update any required lab practices, and re-train our researchers. UWA staff can access Australian Standards through the UWA Library. Standards are also available for purchase from SAI Global http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/default.aspx for around $200.

IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations Updated

On the 1st of January 2011, the 52nd edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations comes into force. It includes some changes to the packaging requirements for transporting infectious substances, dry ice and GMOs. The following text has been copied from the latest World Courier Newsletter. To find out about the changes, we recommend that you update your Dangerous Goods Training with World Courier.

World Courier Newsletter

Significant Changes to IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations

In the 52nd IATA DGR there are a number of regulatory changes that may affect your shipments in 2011.

State and Operator Variations: AC-02 has now been listed on operator variation. It requires a 24-hour emergency response telephone number preceded by the words "Emergency Contact" or "24-hour number" preferable in the "Handling Information" box.

New Packing Instruction Numbers for Substances in Classes 3,4,5,8 and 9, Division 6.1 and UN2814 / UN2900
PI620 - This is the packing number assigned to infectious substances in Category A (UN2814 and UN2900). It was previously Packing Instruction 602. The change in number aligns the numbering with the other modes of transport.

PI954 - This is the packing number assigned to carbon dioxide, solid (dryice) and was previously Packing Instruction 904.

PI959 - This is the packing number for genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMO) and genetically modified organisms (GMO), (UN3245). The packing instruction has been revised to the same structure and format as Packing Instruction 650. This includes a new diamond-shaped marking for UN3245 that must be applied to the outside of the outer packing.

If you need further assistance with your Dangerous Goods Shipments or wish to clarify any of the above information, please contact our World Courier Customer Service Team on tel: 1800 023 560

Reminder
World Courier offer a variety of training courses in Dangerous Goods Certification, re-certification and Cold Chain Management. These can be arranged either externally or at your premises.
With these new regulatory changes now in effect, this may be the right time to educate anyone that is involved with the handling of Dangerous Goods.
If you wish to find out more information please visit our website (Asia-Pacific/Training) www.worldcourier.com or phone 1800023560