

AEISG POLICY NUMBER 01

Purpose: To restrict the commercial supply of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) in smaller packages.

Background:

Following the tragic events of 9/11 in the USA in 2001, the Australian Government undertook a review and update of a number of security measures within Australia.

One such measure was to review the ready availability of explosives precursors, which resulted in the establishment of a set of national principles covering tighter controls on Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrates (SSAN), agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and implemented legislatively, to various degrees, by the individual State/Territory jurisdictions by the end of 2004. The aim of such SSAN legislation was to restrict access to AN and ensure only authorised persons, with a genuine need and security cleared, could purchase/possess AN from properly authorised suppliers.

At the time, industry also implemented measures to assist this restricted access to AN, such as adjusting fertiliser compositions to reduce the attractiveness of such products for potential explosives manufacture, moving to alternate products, or ceasing the supply of AN totally.

The explosives industry, which had need to continue to manufacture, import, supply, store and use extensive quantities of AN, established an understanding, or 'policy', of not supplying AN in smaller packagings (less than 100 kg) as these were seen to be more easily accessed and handled by unauthorised persons. Such packaged AN was generally not stored in magazines and secure handling by numerous smaller operators in the explosives industry (ie shotfirers, assistants, etc.) was minimal at best.

AEISG considers this 'policy' needs to be remembered, recorded and reinforced, particularly as the security level within Australia has recently been elevated to 'high'.

This policy does not apply to the supply of small quantities of AN for testing purposes or to the supply of small quantities of AN to bona-fide laboratories

Further, this policy does not impact upon the supply of explosives in smaller packagings, such as ANFOs of varying types. These will continue to be stored in magazines as with other explosives.

AEISG Policy:

AEISG Members will agree not to supply, by sale or any other means, ammonium nitrate in small packages of 100 kg or less to any parties regardless of whether the particular party is authorised to possess or not.

Agreed by AEISG Members: 17 November 2015