

EMBARGO ON RECORDS RELATING TO POSSIBLE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE/DEFENCE PERSONNEL EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS AND SIMILAR MATERIALS

Purpose

1. To advise that the Directorate of Records Management Policy (RMP) is imposing a Defence-wide disposal embargo on records relating to possible Australian Defence Force (ADF)/Defence personnel exposure to toxic chemicals and similar materials.

Background

2. In response to legal proceedings, RMP is imposing a Defence-wide disposal embargo on records relating to possible ADF/Defence personnel exposure to toxic chemicals and similar materials. This new embargo will subsume the extant *Exposure to Beryllium* embargo.

3. The disposal embargo suspends the National Archives of Australia's (NAA) permission to destroy any relevant records that could otherwise be legally destroyed under current records authorities issued by the NAA and designates any relevant records as not suitable for destruction through normal administrative practice.

Length of freeze

4. The records embargo is effective from 21 August 2013 and will be reviewed 12 months from date of release. The embargo will remain in place until lifted by RMP.

Records affected

5. The disposal embargo covers all records relating to possible ADF/Defence personnel exposure to toxic chemicals and similar materials listed in [annex A](#). The embargo extends to all Defence records held in all areas of Defence, other agencies and organisations including state and local offices.

6. This disposal embargo will subsume the extant *Exposure to Beryllium* embargo, as Beryllium is included in the chemicals/materials listed in [annex A](#).

7. If you have any records relating to possible ADF/Defence personnel exposure to toxic chemicals and similar materials in your possession, whether in hard copy or electronic form, or know where any such records might be held, please contact Ms Sandra Bennett, Director of Litigation, Defence Legal by telephoning (02) 6266 4276 or by emailing sandra.bennett1@defence.gov.au.

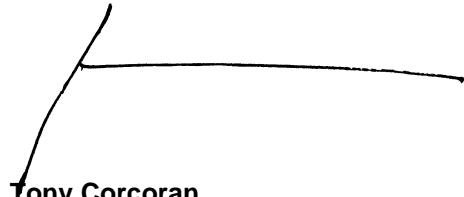
Implications of embargo on sentencing

8. The disposal embargo means that, although the records may continue to be sentenced, no disposal action of any kind may be undertaken. Records must not be transferred to the NAA or otherwise disposed of.

Further information

9. Further information relating to Defence disposal embargoes and NAA disposal freezes is available from the [Records Management Policy Freezes and Embargoes website](#).

10. Questions about this embargo can be directed to RMP via email to drmp.policy@defence.gov.au.

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Tony Corcoran

Assistant Secretary, Freedom of Information and Information Management
Defence Support and Reform Group

Annex:

A. [Toxic chemicals and similar materials](#)

Distribution: Defence Restricted Network, overseas

Contact Officer:

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TOXIC CHEMICALS AND SIMILAR MATERIALS

Acetone
Acrylic paints
Adhesives
Avgas
Avtur
B1 Solvent
Barium chromate
Beryllium metal
C395 grease
C5A antisieze
Carbolene
Copper and barium sulphates
Diesel
Engine and propeller oils
Ethanol
Freon
Gamlen water soluble degreaser/cleaner
Greases
H515
Hydraulic oil
IPA
Loctite primer
MEK
Molybond dry film lubricant
Molybond Molybdenum Disulphide grease
Paint strippers
Polyurethane paints
PR1422
PR148
Sealant
Solvents and degreasers
Tolulene
Turco paint stripper 'yellow peril'
White spirits
Yellow chromate