



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

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11 August 2017

Ms Audrey Jamieson
Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTH BANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Jamieson

Application to amend Poisons Standard to include helium

The ACCC has submitted an application to the Chemicals Scheduling Secretariat for the inclusion of helium in the Poisons Standard. Our application seeks two additions to the Schedules of the Poisons Standard. Helium supplied to consumers by hire or purchase for domestic/household use (for balloon inflation) is to include an aversive and be included in Schedule 6. Industrial and commercial supplies of helium without an aversive are to be included in Schedule 7 to prevent their supply to consumers.

The ACCC is also consulting the industrial gas industry and helium suppliers about potential amendment of the simple valve and nozzle arrangement on helium gas canisters as a secondary mechanism to reduce the ease of use of these products in suicides.

The ACCC will keep you informed of the outcomes of the scheduling application and our industry consultations.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Wendy Cooper of this office.

Yours sincerely

Mr Neville Matthew
General Manager
Consumer Product Safety Branch