

**SUMMARY OF MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
VINYL CHLORIDE
OSHA REGULATION 29 CFR 1910.1017**

Exposure Levels

Action Level:	0.5 ppm (8 hour)
PEL:	1 ppm (OSHA 8 hour)
STEL:	5 ppm (OSHA 15 min.)
TLV:	5 ppm (ACGIH 8 hour)

Surveillance

Required if exposure exceeds action level, or if a worker is exposed to a single large release in an emergency situation.

- a. History -- general plus history of alcohol intake, hepatitis, work history, prior exposure to hepatotoxins, blood transfusions, and hospitalizations.
- b. Examination -- general plus attention to liver, spleen, kidneys, skin, connective tissue, and pulmonary.
- c. Lab -- required are: total bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, SGOT, SGPT, and GGT. Other lab tests at discretion of physician (PFT, LDH, UA, liver scan, Hepatitis B screen, protein) abnormal results to be repeated ASAP, within 3-4 weeks.
- d. Repeat Surveillance: Annually
 Every 6 months after 10 years of exposure

Emergency

No treatment standard -- exposed workers are to have appropriate surveillance.

Reports

Records to include:

- Statement of suitability for continued exposure and statement of suitability for use of respiratory protective equipment.
- Removal from possible contact is required if the worker's health is or would be "materially impaired" by continued exposure (i.e.: If persistent abnormal labs or exam pending further evaluation.)
- Report to be provided to employee upon request.
- Medical Records to be kept for duration of employ plus 30 years.

PHYSICIAN'S WRITTEN OPINION OSHA REGULATIONS

Vinyl Chloride

A statement of each employee's suitability for continued exposure to vinyl chloride including use of protective equipment and respirators, shall be obtained from the examining physician promptly after any examination. A copy of the physician's statement shall be provided each employee.

Acrylonitrile, Asbestos, Benzene, Ethylene Oxide, Formaldehyde, Laboratory Workers

Physician's Written Opinion -- The employer shall obtain a written signed opinion from the examining physician which shall include:

- (*Note: The benzene standards states that it shall "be limited to".)
- (*Note: "Occupationally pertinent" is only found in the benzene standard.)
- 1. The occupationally pertinent results of the medical examination and tests performed.
(*Note: "Occupationally pertinent" is only found in the benzene standard.)
- 2. The physician's opinion as to whether the employee has any detected medical condition(s) which would place the employee at an increased risk of material impairment of the employee's health from exposure to the appropriate OSHA regulated substance.
- 3. Any recommended limitations upon the employee's exposure to the appropriate OSHA regulated substance or upon the use of protective clothing and equipment, such as respirators.
(*Note: The ethylene oxide and asbestos standards add the term "personal protective", etc.)
- 4. A statement that the employee has been informed by the physician of the results of the medical examination and any medical conditions resulting from exposure to the OSHA regulated substance which require further explanation, examination, or treatment.
(*Note: The standard for acrylonitrile, formaldehyde, and laboratory workers do not specify "resulting from exposure, . . .".)

R&S 143033

(*Note: The formaldehyde standard does not address provision of the results, but that the employee has been informed of "any medical conditions which be aggravated by exposure to formaldehyde, whether these conditions may have resulted from past formaldehyde exposure or from exposure in an emergency, and whether there is a need for further examination or treatment.")

The employer shall instruct the physician not to reveal in the written opinion specific records, findings, or diagnoses unrelated to occupational exposure to the OSHA regulated substance.

(*Note: "Records" is only found in the benzene standard.)

(*Note: The benzene standard phrases this portion as "... diagnoses that have no bearing on the employee's ability to work in a benzene-exposed workplace.")

The employer shall provide a copy of the written opinion to the affected employee within 15 days.

(*Note: Fifteen days is the most conservation time frame.)

CMME/BCME

Any physician who conducts a medical examination required by this paragraph shall furnish to the employer a statement of the employee's suitability for employment in the specific exposure.

Any records required shall be provided upon request to employees.

Laboratory Workers

The employer shall obtain a written opinion from the examining physician which shall include the following:

1. Any recommendation for further medical follow-up.
2. The results of the medical examination and any associated tests.
3. Any medical condition which may be revealed in the course of the examination which may place the employee at risk as a result of exposure to a hazardous chemical found in the workplace.
4. A statement that the employee has been informed by the physician of the results of the consultation or medical examination and any medical condition that may require further examination or treatment.

*The written opinion shall not reveal specific findings of diagnoses unrelated to occupational exposure.

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENT
HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM
DOW CHEMICAL U.S.A.
VINYL CHLORIDE
DR - 0114-1986

HEALTH HISTORY:	Every year*
PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS:	Every year*
BLOOD CHEMISTRIES:	
<u>Hepatic</u> : Total Biliruben, Total protein, Albumin	Every year*
Globulin, Alkaline-Phosphatase, GGPT, SGOT,	
SGPT, LDH	
HANDS-ON PHYSICAL EXAM WITH	
ATTENTION TO LIVER AND SKIN	Every year*
IN AREA > 10 YEARS:	
HEALTH HISTORY	Every 6 months*
BLOOD CHEMISTRIES	Every 6 months*
HANDS-ON PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (SKIN)	Every 6 months*

*OSHA MANDATED:

REFERENCES: DOW TOX FILE NO.: K -001711
FR 1910.1017
29 CFR Pg 766-772

Health Surveillance Council
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llk*

