

The Hazard from the Job



FIG 4-5 - Each year, thousands of persons glean product and service information at the National Safety Congress and Exposition where hundreds of companies exhibit their wares and tell about their services

Purchasing

The safety department should have excellent liaison not only with the engineering departments but also with the purchasing department

It should be the duty of the safety department to devise and put in writing the safety standards that will guide the purchasing department. These standards should be set up so that the hazards involved in a particular kind of equipment or material being purchased are eliminated (as by substitution of a safe material for a dangerous one) or guarded for the protection of the worker, the machine, and the product.

The purchasing agent is not concerned closely with educational and enforcement activities, but he is vitally concerned with many phases of the engineering activities.

It is his duty to select and purchase the various items of machinery, tools, equipment, and materials used in the establishment, and it is his responsibility—at least in part, and often to a considerable degree—to see that in design, manufacture, and particulars of shipment of all these items, safety has received adequate attention.

In one example, a lead hazard occurred in the unloading of litharge (PbO), which was shipped in 10-gallon paint pails with covers. These pails arrived, either in trucks or in boxcars, with a film of litharge on the outside. When they were moved, a lead concentration in the air 30 to 40 times the permissible limit was produced.

Several possible solutions were considered and tried, but the fundamental answer was to eliminate the hazard by having the purchasing department specify a rubber gasket