Toxicity and Safe Handling

Aroclors

Inhalation

At ordinary temperatures the chlorinated biphenyls in Askarel have not presented industrial toxicological problems. The hazard of potential toxic exposure varies with their volatility: the lower-chlorinated, more-volatile ones present more of a potential problem from the standpoint of both inhalation and skin contact. When Askarel fluids are used at elevated temperatures, engineering controls must be applied, either by the use of closed systems or by effective local-exhaust ventilation together with general workroom exhaust.

Vapors of Askarel at room temperature should not be breathed in a confined space, and no vapor of any fluid evolved at elevated temperatures should be allowed to be dispersed into the general workroom.

Inhalation tests on animals indicate that the maximum safe concentration of vapor is in the range of from 0.5 to 1.0 milligram per cubic meter of air. The threshold limit value (maximum allowable concentration for an 8-hour working day) set by the American Conference of Government Hygienists are 1.0 milligram of the lower-chlorinated biphenyl compounds per cubic meter of air and 0.5 milligram of the more-highly-chlorinated compounds, per cubic meter of air.

Skin Contact

Prolonged or repeated skin contact with the Askarel fluids must be avoided by the use of gloves and protective garments, because of the possible occurrence of a condition called chloracne. Although reports of this condition caused by Askarel are rare, it can be produced by excessive skin contact. If the fluid is spilled on the skin the skin should be washed in the usual manner with a soap solution.

A burn caused by contact with a hot Askarel should be treated like any ordinary burn.

For disposal instructions of Askarel fluids, see Section VIII, page 5.

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