

OSHA Amends Standard for Carcinogens

An emergency standard designed to protect workers against the toxic effects of 14 cancer-producing materials used in industry has been revised so its requirements may be applied more readily to different types of workplaces and work operations.

At the same time, the Department of Labor reconfirmed its original findings concerning the toxicity of all 14 carcinogens, saying that grave danger would result from exposure to any of them.

The Department emphasized, however, that neither the emergency standard nor a proposed permanent standard published July 16 bans the use of any of the cancer-producing agents that are used in the chemical and rubber industries, in the manufacture of dyes and pigments, and in the preparation of flame-resistant fabrics.

The revised standard, published in the *Federal Register* July 27, became effective July 30. The standard deals more particularly with different work functions, such as isolated environment operations, closed system operations, and open vessel operations.

The major differences from the original emergency standard include the establishment of more accurate warning signs at entrances to controlled areas and labels on containers, and specification of controls necessary to protect employees working in different categories of operations.

The Polyurethane Manufacturers Association of Chicago, applying on behalf of 49 member companies, has been granted an interim variance from this standard. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said that it would allow the companies to follow substitute procedures pending a final decision on the application. The order affects applicant company operations in 25 states. standard. OSHA said that it would allow the companies to follow substitute procedures pending a final decision on the application. The order affects applicant company operations in 25 states.

The interim order was granted to prevent "undue hardship" while the application is studied. It affects 4,4'-Methylene (bis)-2-Chloroaniline, a chemical used in the manufacture of polyurethane.

INFLUENCE TOMORROW TODAY...

... the theme of NPCA's 1973 Annual Meeting... to be held November 12-14 in Chicago. For registration forms write NPCA headquarters.

Maine Approves NPCA Request for Lead Labeling

Dr. Dean Fisher, Commissioner, State of Maine Department of Health and Welfare, has advised NPCA that its request for "alternate wording" for labels of products with lead content in excess of that permitted by state law (0.5%) has been approved.

The Maine law, passed earlier this year, requires that covered products be labeled with specific language, but provides for approval in writing of alternate wording.

NPCA requested, and the Department now has approved, the use of such alternate wording. The alternate word-

ing is consistent with NPCA "Recommended Label 14" (for household products) and the NPCA "Recommended Label for Industrial Coatings Containing Lead Compounds" in the Association's new *Labeling Guide*.

The Maine Lead Poisoning Control Act becomes effective on October 3, 1973. All products marketed in the state after that date must bear the prescribed labeling. Any product, which may be purchased by the general public, must bear the label warning prescribed for household or trade sales products.

Report on Supply of Raw Materials Released

The first report on the status of the supply of raw materials in the paint and coatings industry has been released by NPCA's Industry Suppliers Committee (Industry Suppliers Bulletin #73-1).

The report will be issued periodically to keep NPCA member companies informed on the current supply of raw materials used by the industry, according to Royal A. Brown, NPCA's Technical Director.

The Bulletin uses a color code to show current production capacity as well as supply: *green* indicates an adequate supply is available; *yellow*, the demand and supply are in balance; and *red*, the demand exceeds the supply.

The report includes information on the current supply situation concerning production capacity, supply of intermediates for the raw material, and comments on the reasons for the current shortage, if one exists.

The report gives information in the following categories of raw materials: **RESINS**—alkyds, polyesters, acrylics, epoxy, vinyls, melamines and ureas, PVA latex, acrylic latex, natural types, hydrocarbons, phenolics, rosin and cellulosics; **PIGMENTS**—titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, clays and natural silicas, synthetic silicas, barytes, talc, calcium carbonate, inorganic and organic colors, and aluminum; **SOLVENTS**—hydrocarbons (aliphatic and aromatic), esters, ketones, alcohols, and nitro paraffins; **ADDITIVES**—driers, fungicides, mildewcides, and specials; and **CONTAINERS**—trade sales types and child protection packages.

The Industry Suppliers Committee has emphasized that NPCA members should consult their own supplier for details and the most current information on a given type of material. The Committee

has also indicated that it will be glad to include comments on other types of raw materials if a need is expressed by members. Comments and requests for copies may be obtained by writing: Royal A. Brown, Technical Director, NPCA headquarters.

DOT Explains Procedures for Clearing Records of Violations

The Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials has explained procedures enabling shippers to clear their records following an inspection and violation notice.

Basically, the procedure involves notifying the appropriate regional and national officials that the violations have been corrected.

DOT noted that a shipper of hazardous materials is obligated to comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations or the Motor Carriers Safety Regulations. When an inspection discloses that the shipper has not accepted this responsibility, the record has been established and cannot be cleared by administrative action. However, when the shipper takes corrective action, these measures can also be made a matter of record.

When the inspector completes his inspection, a plant or company official should review the findings to establish a clear understanding of the violations. (See "DOT Clearing Records Explained" on page 78.)