

December 18, 1946

Mr. W. N. Watson - Att: Mr. P. V. Tilden
Dr. J. M. Carlisle
Dr. D. O. Hamblin
Dr. A. G. Cranch
Dr. J. H. Foulger

MEDICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION

At a meeting held in my office on Wednesday, December 18, 1946, with the following present, Mr. Watson, Mr. Tilden, Drs. Hamblin, Cranch, Foulger and myself, the following points were discussed:

- (1) Medical data sheets are not keeping pace with technical data sheets and in 1946 only 6 sheets were completed.
- (2) It was decided that we should get out 12 a year.
- (3) The following schedule was set up.

1947 - January - Ammonia (to be in by January 2nd - Dr. Carlisle)
- February - Acetylene & Calcium Carbide (Dr. Cranch)
- March - Caustic Soda and Potash (Dr. Hamblin)
- April - Ethylene Dichloride (Dr. Cranch)
- May - Acetic Anhydride (Dr. Cranch)
- June - Sulphuric Acid - all types (Dr. Gehrmann)
- July - White Phosphorous Kelly
- August - Tri-chlor Ethylene & Perchlor Ethylene Cranch
- September - Carbon Disulphide Res. Foulger
- October - Hydrogen Sulphide Mason
- November - Beta Naphthylamine W. N. W.
- December - Aniline & Nitro Benzene (Dr. Hamblin)

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1948 - January - Di Methyl Sulphate

- February- Methyl Bromide

- March - Chlorine

- April - Methyl Alcohol

- May - Acrylo Nitrile

- June - Styrene Monomer

- July - Sodim Cyanide

- August - Lead

Kindly note that I have inserted the names of the various Committee members after some of the compounds to be written up. Please look this list over carefully and tell me which ones you care to take on. Let's get this program lined up and started, and certainly a lot can be accomplished by everyone knowing just what he is to do.

DEFINITIONS:

The Manufacturing Chemists' Association has asked the Medical Committee for three definitions, namely:

1. Maximum Allowable Concentration.
2. First Aid.
3. Health Hazards.

After due consideration, the Maximum Allowable Concentration was set up as follows:

"A tentative estimate based upon best current knowledge of the atmospheric concentration of toxic materials, which a worker can breathe without harm for an eight-hour work period when the labor involved in his work is such that he takes into and out of his lungs approximately 10 cubic meters of air in eight hours.

To this definition, I think you should add the following warnings:

The maximum allowable concentration is merely an aiming point for those establishing ventilation. It does not apply to work so hard that the air breathed in eight hours greatly exceeds 10 cubic meters. It applies only to single air contaminants. If the atmosphere contains more than one harmful material, the maximum allowable concentration figure given for these materials individually does not apply to the mixture. Conformity with maximum allowable concentration of materials in the atmosphere does not guarantee against injury to workers who are initially unfit for the job, nor, of course, does it guarantee freedom from injury by materials which can be absorbed through the skin, or to which an individual worker may be hypersensitive or allergic."

FIRST AID:

Much consideration was given to First Aid. The following was suggested, but did not seem to meet with the entire approval of the Committee - "Measures administered to the sick or injured, while awaiting the arrival of a physician. These measures should be only for the purpose of sustaining life, the relief of suffering, or to prevent further extension of the injury".

Please look this over carefully at your very earliest convenience and send to me your proposal for a definition of First Aid.

HEALTH HAZARDS:

The following definition for Health Hazards was decided upon. "Any environmental condition which may cause disease of or injury to the human body".

Please be advised that in all future medical data sheets, there will be a change to this extent. Previously First Aid and Medical Treatment have come under First Aid. From now on First Aid and Medical Treatment are to be dealt with in separate paragraphs. This is done in order to make it perfectly clear to the First Aid man as to just what his duties are and to avoid any possibility of his carrying over into Medical Treatment.

In the past under "Personal Protective Equipment 8.3.2. paragraph (d) has read, and I quote "Industrial gas masks, approved by the United States Bureau of Mines, should be used only when it is certain that the concentration of vapor is less than 2% and when there is no atmospheric oxygen deficiency".

At the meeting it was pointed out that there are other types of protective masks approved by the Bureau of Mines. Hence from now on in Paragraph 8.3.2, it will be added that there should be Bureau of Mines approval to all gas masks.

G. H. Gehrmann
G. H. Gehrmann, M. D.

GHG-D