

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIGEST
Literature and News

NEWS ITEMS

419 Occupational Disease Claim for MDI.

A study was made of the first occupational disease claim for MDI (diphenyl methane diisocyanate or methylene bis 4-diphenylisocyanate) induced respiratory sensitivity in Pennsylvania. A demonstrator for a safety company sprayed the diisocyanate rigid polyurethane foam in mine and closed buildings over a four-year span throughout Pennsylvania and adjacent states. He hospitalized four times over the past two years for progressive respiratory distress comparable to reported TDI asthma-like attacks. Personal negligence and "normal" respirator slipping his face accounted for his initial exposure and present condition. Since his last symptomatic exposure late last year, he still suffers with shortness of breath on exertion. He is under his personal physician's care. His chest X-ray revealed pulmonary fibrosis. Treatment consists of intramuscular ACTH, bronchial expectorants, oral and intermittently inhaled bronchodilators with use of positive pressure breathing apparatus. The severity of his condition illustrates the peculiar respiratory sensitization of MDI comparable to the substantial number of TDI cases previously investigated. This salesman definitely is aware of the necessity for no further isocyanate exposure. -- Occ. Health News & Views, Pa. Dept. of Health, Div. Occ. Health, 4, No. 2, 3 (Spring 1966)

420 Manganese Study—A Summary.

In a study of manganese hazard in industry made by the Division of Occupational Health of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, urine manganese has been assayed on 83 exposed employees. Of these, 45 had high values. Of 62 manganese-steel industry workers, 35 had high values. Of 16 brick-industry workers, seven had high values. Of five dry-cell battery workers, three had high values. Sixty-three employees were examined for extra-pyramidal neurological signs, and 16 occurred in serious manganism. Thirty-six had some findings compatible with some degree of manganism. Twenty-nine of 46 manganese-steel industry workers, one of five dry-cell battery workers, and five of 12 brick-industry workers had positive findings. There was a definite relation of manganese air concentrations, urine manganese concentrations, and positive neurological findings. A more elaborate study probably would show even closer correlation. It is believed that a number of instances of significant manganese exposure have been found in this study. A continuous program of control and monitoring of the manganese hazard in Pennsylvania has been established. -- Occ. Health News & Views, Pa. Dept. of Health, Div. Occ. Health, No. 2, 2 (Spring 1966)

421 Benzene in the Printing Industry.

In a recent series of inspections in the printing industry, it was discovered that about 30% of Pennsylvania plants inspected were still using a type wash containing benzene. There appeared to be no correlation between the size of the plant and the use of benzene; it was present in both small and large plants. One interesting contradiction was noted. Personnel of plants using benzene were sure that no other solvent could clean satisfactorily, while personnel of plants not using benzene stated that it is too strong, and tended to ruin the rollers. Most of the benzene users were not initially aware of its hazards, and have since attempted, usually with success, to find a satisfactory less toxic substitute. -- Occ. Health News & Views, Pa. Dept. of Health, Div. Occ. Health, 4, No. 2, 5 (Spring 1966)

422 Test Could Affect Many Occupations.

Workers in more than 50 types of occupations who are exposed daily to carbon disulfide may be aided by a new pretoxiosis test, according to the U.S. Public Health Service. These persons include those producing or working with pesticides, dry cleaning substances, paint, paint removers, rayon, rocket fuel, vacuum tubes, wax, optical glass, lacquer, iodine, glue, cellophane, explosives, cement, rubber, certain textiles, and various preservatives.

-- J. Am. Med. Assn. 195, 39 (March 28, 1966)

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