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Swedish vinyl chloride plant reported shut down

Sweden has shut down its only vinyl chloride plant, according to the president of the United Rubber Workers, Peter Bommarito.

Bommarito said in a news release this week the Swedish plant shutdown is permanent "despite the fact that their work-room exposures were a fraction of U.S. permissible levels." It could not be learned last night what Swedish standards are.

U.S. standards currently allow worker exposure to the gas, which has been blamed for liver cancer, at levels up to 50 parts per million parts air. But a much stricter general standard of one part per million will go into effect in January.

Bommarito said the Swedish plant was shut down by the National Board of Occupational Safety and Health there.

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environment.

(iii) Decontamination procedures shall be established and implemented to remove bis-chloromethyl ether from the surfaces of materials, equipment and the decontamination facility.

(e) Signs, information and training.

(1) Signs. (i) Entrances to regulated areas shall be posted with signs bearing the legend:

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bis-Chloromethyl ether
CANCER-SUSPECT AGENT

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

(ii) Entrances to regulated areas containing operations covered in paragraph (c) (5) of this section shall be posted with signs bearing the legend:

CANCER-SUSPECT AGENT EXPOSED IN THIS AREA IMPERVIOUS SUIT INCLUDING GLOVES, BOOTS, AND AIR-SUPPLIED HOOD REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

(iii) Appropriate signs and instructions shall be posted at the entrance to, and exit from, regulated areas, informing

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statements warning of such hazards, noting, if appropriate, particularly sensitive or affected portions of the body.

(3) Lettering. Lettering on signs and instructions required by subparagraph

(1) of this paragraph shall be a minimum letter height of 2 inches. Labels on containers required under this section shall not be less than 1/2 the size of the largest lettering on the package, and not less than 8 point type in any instance. Provided, That no such required lettering need be more than 1 inch in height.

(4) Prohibited statements. No statement shall appear on or near any required sign, label, or instruction which contradicts or detracts from the effect of any required warning, information or instruction.

(5) Training and indoctrination. (i) Each employee prior to being authorized to enter a regulated area, shall receive a training and indoctrination program including, but not necessarily limited to: (a) The nature of the carcinogenic hazards of bis-chloromethyl ether, including local and systemic toxicity;

(b) The specific nature of the operation involving bischloromethyl ether which could result in exposure;

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Signs

Containers

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