

ELEMENTS OF INDUSTRIAL TOXICOLOGY

TABLE 40-B. THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUES FOR 1963 (Continued)

Appendix B

THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUES FOR MIXTURES

When two or more hazardous substances are present, their combined effect, rather than that of either individually, should be given primary consideration. In the absence of information to the contrary, the effects of the different hazards should be considered as additive. That is, if the sum of the following fractions,

$$\frac{C_1}{T_1} + \frac{C_2}{T_2} + \dots + \frac{C_n}{T_n}$$

exceeds unity, then the threshold limit of the mixture should be considered as being exceeded. C indicates the observed atmospheric concentration, and T the corresponding threshold limit. (See Example 1A a).

Exceptions to the above rule may be made when there is good reason to believe that the chief effects of the different harmful substances are not in fact additive, but independent as when purely local effects on different organs of the body are produced by the various components of the mixture. In such cases the threshold limit ordinarily is exceeded only when at least one member of the series

$$\frac{C_1}{T_1} \text{ or } \frac{C_2}{T_2}, \text{ etc}$$

itself has a value exceeding unity, (See Example 1A b).

Antagonistic action or potentiation may occur with some combinations of atmospheric contaminants. Such cases at present must be determined individually. Potentiating or antagonistic agents are not necessarily harmful by themselves. Potentiating effects of exposure to such agents by routes other than that of inhalation is also possible, e.g. unbiassed alcohol and inhaled narcotic (trichlorethylene). Potentiation is characteristically exhibited at high concentrations, less probably at low.

When a given operation or process characteristically emits a number of harmful dusts, fumes, vapors or gases, it will frequently be only feasible to attempt to evaluate the hazard by measurement of a single substance. In such cases, the threshold limit used for this substance should be reduced by a suitable factor, the magnitude of which will depend on

the number, toxicity and relative quantity of the other contaminants ordinarily present.

Examples of processes which are typically associated with two or more harmful atmospheric contaminants are welding, automobile repair, blasting, painting, lacquering, certain foundry operations, diesel exhausts, etc. (Example 2)

EXAMPLES

1A General case, where air is analyzed for each component.

a. ADDITIVE EFFECTS

$$\frac{C_1}{T_1} + \frac{C_2}{T_2} + \frac{C_3}{T_3} + \dots + \frac{C_n}{T_n} = 1$$

Air contains 5 ppm of carbon tetrachloride (TLV, 10), 20 ppm of ethylene dichloride (TLV, 50) and 10 ppm of ethylene dibromide, (TLV, 25).

$$\frac{5}{10} + \frac{20}{50} + \frac{10}{25} = \frac{65}{50} = 1.3$$

Threshold limit is exceeded.

b. INDEPENDENT EFFECTS

Air contains 0.15 mg/cu m of lead (TLV, 0.2) and 0.7 mg/cu m of sulfuric acid (TLV, 1).

$$\frac{0.15}{0.20} = 0.75, \frac{0.7}{1} = 0.7$$

Threshold limit is not exceeded

1B Special case when source of contaminant is a mixture and atmospheric composition is assumed similar to that of original material, i.e. vapor pressure of each component is the same at the observed temperature

a. ADDITIVE EFFECTS, approximate solution

1. A mixture of equal parts (1) trichloroethylene (TLV, 100), and (2) methyl chloroform (TLV, 350).

$$\frac{C_1}{100} + \frac{C_2}{350} = \frac{C_m}{T_m}$$

$$C_1 = C_2 = \frac{1}{2} C_m$$

$$\frac{C_1}{100} + \frac{C_1}{350} = \frac{2C_1}{T_m}$$

$$\frac{7C_1}{700} + \frac{2C_1}{700} = \frac{2C_1}{T_m}$$