

TABLE 40-B THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUES FOR 1963

*Adopted at the 25th Annual Meeting of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 6-7, 1963*

These values should be used as guides in the control of health hazards and should not be regarded as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations. They represent conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed, day after day, without adverse effect. The values listed refer to time-weighted average concentrations for a normal workday. The amount by which these figures may be exceeded for short periods without injury to health depends upon a number of factors such as the nature of the contaminant, whether very high concentrations even for short periods produce acute poisoning, whether the effects are cumulative, the frequency with which high concentrations occur, and the duration of such periods. All must be taken into consideration in arriving at a decision as to whether a hazardous situation

exists. Because it has been recognized that the threshold limits of certain acutely acting substances may not provide a safety factor comparable to that of chronically acting substances for which a time-weighted average applies, a "C" designation or "ceiling" has been affixed to such values indicating that the Threshold Limit Value should not be exceeded. The bases for the "C" listing are given in appendix C.

Special consideration should be given to the application of these values in assessing the health hazards which may be associated with exposure to mixtures of two or more substances. A brief discussion of basic considerations involved in developing threshold limit values for mixtures, and methods for their development, amplified by specific examples are given in appendix B.

Threshold limits are based on the best available information from industrial experience, from experimental studies, and, when possible, from a combination of the two. These values are based on various

criteria of toxic effects or on marked discomfort, thus, they should not be used as a common denominator of toxicity, nor should they be considered as the sole criterion in proving or disproving diagnosis of suspected occupational disease.

These limits are intended for use in the field of industrial hygiene and should be interpreted and applied only by persons trained in this field. They are not intended for use, or for modification for use, (1) as a relative index of toxicity, by making a ratio of two limits, or (2) in the evaluation or control of community air pollution or air pollution nuisances, or (3) in estimating the toxic potential of continuous uninterrupted exposures.

These values are reviewed annually by the Committee on Threshold Limits for revisions, or additions, as further information becomes available. The Committee welcomes the suggestion of substances to be added to the list and also comments, references, or reports of experience with these materials.