

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES/DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

HAZARD ALERT SYSTEM (HALTS)
2151 BERKELEY WAY
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TCE - cancer

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UPDATE ON TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE)

Since HALTS' report on the health effects of TCE was written, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) has adopted an emergency standard for TCE. The permissible exposure limit (PEL) for an 8 hour exposure is now 25 ppm (down from 100). The ceiling level is 75 ppm (down from 300), and the excursion limit is 50 ppm (down from 200). The Standards Board will be conducting public hearings on these levels at 10:00 A.M. on August 28, 1980, in the auditorium of the State Resources Building, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento.

Cal/OSHA has also convened a TCE advisory committee to consider a further lowering of the PEL and the classification of TCE as a carcinogen, if warranted.

Preliminary results of a National Cancer Institute animal study indicate that TCE is a carcinogen in mice, causing a dose-related increase in liver tumors; about 90% of high dose mice have liver tumors. Gross autopsy of exposed rats has not shown a similar response. Final data on both species will be available in the near future, (Pers. comm. with Dr. Jerry Ward, Chief Pathologist, NCI, July 15, 1980.)

1. Spont incidence - ?

2. Stabilized (yes, but not expected)

3. Doses - ?

Preliminary findings - mainly gross

Histopath on internal only

Also done in rats

SL 034794