most desirable means of controls will provide better protection for the millions of employees exposed The detailed studies are being made by personnel in the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and industrial hygienists in state health and labor agencies

Criteria documents

One of the requirements established by the 1970 Act was the publication of Criteria Documents by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health on materials of health significance These documents once published are forwarded to the U S Department of Labor for their consideration in establishing work place standards The documents contain a detailed review of scientific information available, the probable safe atmospheric level in industry, medical controls required, methods of sampling and analysis and any needs for further study

Initially the following subjects were studied and Criteria Documents published and forwarded to the U S Department of Labor

Asbestos
Beryllium
Carbon monoxide
Carcinogens
Chromic acid
Coke oven emissions
Hot environments
Inorganic lead
Inorganic mercury
Noise
Toluene
Toluene diisocyanate
Trichloroethylene
Ultraviolet radiation

Certain of these documents have already led to the establishment of specific new permissible atmospheric levels, medical controls, recordkeeping requirements and recommended methods of sampling and analysis It is probable that eventually such requirements will be promulgated for each of these criteria subjects Many more documents are in process of development and can lead to further regulations

As time goes on more chemicals will be studied by NIOSH and submitted to OSHA for consideration and regulation No text can be kept up-to-date on a subject of this type The safety professional must keep up-to-date through his own contacts with official and unofficial sources

The Industrial Hygienist

Definitions

The following definitions* have been approved by the American Industrial Hygiene Association

"INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE is that science and art devoted to the recognition, evaluation and control of those environmental factors or stresses, arising in or from the workplace, which may cause sickness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort and inefficiency among workers or among the citizens of the community

"AN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST is a person having a college or university degree or degrees in engineering, chemistry, physics, or medicine or related biological sciences who, by virtue of special studies and training, has acquired competence in industrial hygiene. Such special studies and training must have been sufficient in all of the above cognate sciences to provide the abilities (*a*) to recognize the environmental factors and stresses associated with work and work operations and to understand their effect on man and his well-being, (*b*) to evaluate, on the basis of experience and with the aid of quantitative measurement techniques, the magnitude of these stresses in terms of ability to impair man's health and well-being, and (*c*) to prescribe methods to eliminate, control or reduce such stresses when necessary to alleviate their effects"

Scope

Recognition of environmental factors and stresses which influence health requires that the industrial hygienist be familiar with work operations and processes The categories of stresses that interest him are (*a*) chemical—

* *American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal*, 20 428–430 (Oct 1959)