PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
SA-579

TLVs®
Threshold Limit Values
for
Chemical
Substances in
Workroom Air
Adopted by
ACGIH
for 1973

PREFACE
CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

Threshold limit values refer to airborne concentrations of substances and represent conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed day after day without adverse effect. Because of wide variation in individual susceptibility, however, a small percentage of workers may experience discomfort from some substances at concentrations at or below the threshold limit, a smaller percentage may be affected more seriously by aggravation of a pre-existing condition or by development of an occupational illness.

Simple tests are now available (J. Occup. Med. *9*: 537, 1967; Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci., *151, Art. 2*: 968, 1968) that may be used to detect those individuals hypersusceptible to a variety of industrial chemicals (respiratory irritants, hemolytic chemicals, organic isocyanates, carbon disulfide). These tests may be used to screen out by appropriate job placement the hyperreactive worker and thus in effect improve the "coverage" of the TLVs.

Threshold limit values refer to time-weighted concentrations for a 7 or 8-hour workday and 40-hour workweek. They should be used as guides in the control of health hazards and should not be used as fine lines between safe and dangerous concentrations. (Exceptions are the substances listed in Appendices E and F and those substances designated with a "C" or Ceiling value, Appendix D)

Time-weighted averages permit excursions above the limit provided they are

HOYLE
EXHIBIT NO. 11
WORLDWIDE COURT REPORTERS

compensated by equivalent excursions below the limit during the workday. In some instances it may be permissible to calculate the average concentration for a workweek rather than for a workday. The degree of permissible excursion is related to the magnitude of the threshold limit value of a particular substance as given in Appendix D. The relationship between threshold limit and permissible excursion is a rule of thumb and in certain cases may not apply. The amount by which threshold limits 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 factors must be taken into consideration in arriving at decision as to whether a hazardous condition exists.

Threshold limits are based on the best available information from industrial experience, from experimental human and animal studies, and, when possible, from a combination of the three. The basis on which the values are established may differ from substance to substance; protection against impairment of health may be a guiding factor for some, whereas reasonable freedom from irritation, narcosis, nuisance or other forms of stress may form the basis for others.

The amount and nature of the information available for establishing a TLV varies from substance to substance; consequently, the

precision of the estimated TLV is also subject to variation and the latest *Documentation* should be consulted in order to assess the extent of the data available for a given substance.

The committee holds to the opinion that limits based on physical irritation should be considered no less binding than those based on physical impairment. There is increasing evidence that physical irritation may initiate, promote or accelerate physical impairment through interaction with other chemical or biologic agents.

In spite of the fact that serious injury is not believed likely as a result of exposure to the threshold limit concentrations, the best practice is to maintain concentrations of all atmospheric contaminants as low as is practical.

These limits are intended for use in the practice of industrial hygiene and should be interpreted and applied only by a person trained in this discipline. They are not intended for use, or for modification for use, (1) as a relative index of hazard or toxicity, (2) in the evaluation or air pollution nuisances, (3) in estimating the toxic potential of continuous, uninterrupted exposures, (4) as proof or disproof of an existing disease or physical condition, or (5) for adoption by countries whose working conditions differ from those in the United States of America and where substances and processes differ.

Ceiling vs Time-Weighted Average Limits. Although the time-weighted average concentration provides the most satisfactory,