

IEEE Guide for Acceptance and Maintenance of Transformer Askarel in Equipment

13. Recommended Handling Precautions

It is generally accepted that the exposure to askarel is not hazardous, provided simple precautions are taken. Most people can handle askarel in the same manner as insulating oil without fear of adverse effects. Some people are allergic to askarel, and continued exposure may result in skin irritation. Therefore, direct contact with askarel and its vapors, particularly when hot, should be avoided. This, combined with personal cleanliness, should constitute an adequate safeguard against harmful effects. Eye protection (glasses, shields, etc) are required. The use of any type glove should be avoided. Medicinal washes or detergents followed by an application of cold cream or silicone-bearing hand lotions^a have been successfully used to eliminate irritation resulting from askarel coming into contact with an open cut or skin abrasion. A drop of castor oil has been found to neutralize, in most cases, irritation caused by contact of askarel with the eyes.

Exposure to concentrated askarel vapors should be avoided, particularly in closed unventilated rooms. As with many volatile liquids, the vaporization of askarel increases rapidly with temperature. Therefore, ventilation which is adequate for handling askarel at room temperature may not be adequate for handling askarel at elevated temperatures. The gases produced when askarel is decomposed by very high temperatures or an electric arc in the presence of air or organic insulating materials contain a high percentage of hydrogen chloride and small percentages of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and oxygen. Very small concentrations of this combination of gases are very unpleasant and irritating, thus giving ample warning of their presence. The all-purpose canister-type gas masks are suitable for protection from gases liberated from decomposed askarel.

^aSuch as Silicare.