filtration of the liver in the manner of the chlorinated hydrocarbons

Methyl acetate is widely used as a low-boiling solvent in the perfume, cosmetic and paint industries It is irritating to the mucous membranes of the eyes and the respiratory passage

Animal studies indicate that there may be general poisoning and long-lasting aftereffects when methyl acetate is inhaled in concentrations below that which produces narcosis If exposure is serious, pulmonary edema and hemorrhages may occur, along with injury to the blood vessels

Symptoms of exposure are eye inflammation, nervousness, chest tightness, heart palpitation, exhaustion, and shortness of breath

See *Hygienic Guide*

Methyl acrylates are irritants for the skin, mucous membranes, and gastro-intestinal tract They may be absorbed through the skin, gastro-intestinal system, or the lungs Systemic absorption may lead to the degenerative changes in the liver and the kidneys

Accidental industrial exposure may occur in three ways

1 Acute exposure to high vapor concentrations,
2 Liquid contamination of eyes or skin, and
3 Prolonged exposure to lower vapor concentrations

Personnel should be instructed and equipment designed to avoid contact with acrylates in liquid or vapor phase

Where excessive contact is unavoidable, adequate personal protective devices should be used Adequate emergency showers, wash-up facilities and eye wash fountains should be available in accessible locations and areas where acrylates are handled The necessity for immediate emergency showering and prompt removal of all contaminated clothing following massive skin contact must be stressed Even minor splashes must be washed off promptly and contaminated wearing apparel (particularly leather goods such as shoes and gloves) must be removed and thoroughly dried or laundered before wearing again

Employees should be instructed to report promptly all symptoms such as irritation of eyes, nose, and throat or lung congestion

Methyl alcohol – see Methanol.

Methylamines are irritating to the lungs and upper respiratory tract, direct contact with skin and mucous membranes may cause burns

Both the liquid and vapor are highly irritating to the eyes Bronchitis and conjunctivitis may result from exposure to the vapors of methylamines

Methylamines in concentrations of less than 100 ppm are characterized by a fish-like odor, while in higher concentrations the odor is more ammoniacal

Exposed workers should be provided with and be required to use the recommended personal protective equipment as necessary to the particular operation In the event of accidental leaks or spills, or whenever excessive concentrations may be encountered only personnel equipped with approved respiratory protection should be permitted in the contaminated area Chemical safety goggles should be worn when discharging containers or tank cars or whenever there is a danger of the liquid or saturated vapor coming in contact with the eyes Exposure of employees over a period of years who have used careful handling procedures have produced no significant effects

Methyl bromide is widely used as a fire extinguishing agent and as a fumigant

An efficient fire extinguishing material, it has been installed in fixed systems in a number of aircraft and naval vessels, particularly in Great Britain, where several cases of poisoning have been reported Numerous poisoning cases also have occurred in the use of the material in fumigation and in industry

The minimum concentrations which will produce mild poisoning are low One investigator recorded 22 cases of skin irritation and 31 cases of mild systemic effects among 90 persons working during a two-week period at the filling and sealing of methyl bromide ampules Concentrations of airborne methyl bromide were regularly determined around this operation and were generally below 35 ppm The skin lesions resulted from exposure to small quantities of the liquid while it was being handled under a hood

The liquid is a strong skin irritant Skin contact can produce severe dermatitis, blisters, itching, and slow-healing burns