

County of Los Angeles
Health Department

808 North Spring Street
Los Angeles 12, California
April 27, 1948

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

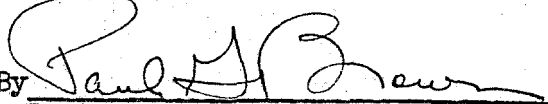
At a recent meeting of governmental personnel engaged in official industrial hygiene activities in California, the writer was selected to formulate an acceptable definition of Maximum Allowable (or Acceptable) Concentration for use in our work. It was felt that the fact that different persons have different concepts of the term leads to much avoidable confusion and that a standard definition is desirable.

We should therefore appreciate your views on the matter. A similar letter is going to other authorities in this field. The questions that are most often raised are (1) Are the present lists of M.A.C.'s predicated on an 8-hour daily exposure for each substance? (2) If so should not excessive peak concentrations for a short period be given more value than would appear in an integrated sample? (3) Is there any way of separating the M.A.C.'s into values for those substances which are definitely toxic and those which are merely uncomfortable or irritating? Of course a sharp differential cannot be made as some irritants are also toxic.

Some of the group mentioned above felt that it would simplify the industrial hygienists' work in the field if the M.A.C. for most substances was that figure which should not be exceeded at any time. However the majority of the group felt that we should go along with the national consensus of that subject, and for that reason authorized me to correspond with you.

Very truly yours,

Roy O. Gilbert, M.D.
Health Officer

By 
Paul G. Brown
Industrial Hygiene Engineer
Division of Industrial Hygiene

PGB:MP

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