Aroclor Literature

PROPERTIES OF TRANSFORMER ASKARELS
TOXICOLOGY

When heated to break down temperatures of 500° to 740°C., well over their boiling ranges, in the presence of air and metal wool (brass, copper, iron, aluminum) or when decomposed by an electric arc, no chlorine or phosgene has been found in the gas liberated. The gas is almost entirely hydrogen chloride, which is readily detectable by its odor and its irritating characteristics, in even very small amounts. Thereby adequate warning of its presence is provided, and significant amounts of fumes would be likely to cause a hazard only in a closed area. Individuals would not voluntarily expose themselves to serious toxic levels.

Vapors from transformer askarel bear a degree of toxicity and should not be breathed over a prolonged period of time. Harmful amounts of this material are also readily detectable by odor and irritation to the eyes.

Usually, people can detect concentrations of chlorinated biphenyl in the amount of 0.5 to 1.0 milligram per cubic meter of air, which is regarded as the safe workroom limit for an 8-hour day exposure.

Normally, transformer askarel is not handled at high temperatures and while the vapor pressures of the components of transformer askarel are relatively low at workroom temperatures, it is to be expected that the above indicated amounts of the material can be found in confined areas where the material is handled openly, unless some degree of exhaust ventilation is provided. Elaborate ventilation is not required, but reasonable facilities in line with modern industrial practice should be employed.

Transformer askarel, accidentally spilled on the skin, does not present an acute toxicity hazard, nor will it cause serious irritation. It should be washed from the skin with soap and water. Prolonged skin contact should be avoided. If working clothes become impregnated with askarel, they should be removed and washed.

Accidental contact with the eyes results in painful irritation, but no permanent damage to the tissues or sight. In event of such contact, the eyes should be flushed with large amounts of water for at least fifteen minutes. The patient should then be referred to a physician who will treat with an ointment to soothe the eye.

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