594 On the Problem of Air Pollution by Maleic Anhydride. K.V. Grigor'eva. Gigiena i Sanit. 29, 8-12 (March, 1964). Russian.

Investigations were carried out in the vicinity of industrial plants producing phthalic anhydride, where the wastes discharged into the air contained maleic anhydride. This latter compound was detected in the air at a distance of 500 m. from the site of discharge in concentrations of 0.0 to 3.3 mg./cu.m., and within a radius of 1 km. in concentrations of 0.0 to 2.6 mg./cu.m. Work is being continued to obtain hygienic backgrounds for determining the maximum permissible concentration of maleic anhydride in the atmospheric air. Its olfactory threshold value and that for producing an irritating effect on the mucous membranes of the eyes and respiratory tract have already been determined. For most sensitive persons these threshold values have been placed at 1.3 mg./cu.m. and 1.0 mg./cu.m. of maleic anhydride, respectively. -- APCA Absts.

PREVENTIVE ENGINEERING

595 Trade Association Activities Toward Noise Standards. R.H. Bohman. ASHRAE J. 6, 63-66 (June, 1964).

The current and anticipated activity by various manufacturers' trade associations in the field of sound, its measurement, rating and control is discussed. The paper includes a summary of noise investigation using test procedures of the Air-Conditioning Refrigeration Institute model municipal ordinance. -- J. Am. Soc. Safety Eng. Absts.

596 The Light Fantastic: Lasers, Hazards, Controls. R.C. Starr. Safety Standards 14, 7-12, 21 (May-June, 1965).

Effective measures for controlling the hazards of lasers or masers and their associated equipment involve principles and techniques that are well known among safety engineers and industrial hygienists. Specific control suggestions include: All work with lasers should be isolated as far as practicable from other work areas and employee traffic routes, and preferably housed in a fully enclosed space with adequate mechanical ventilation. Room lighting should be maintained at adequate levels (to prevent excessive eye dilation, increasing the chance of accidental retinal exposure to the laser). The area should be free of reflective surfaces which could bounce the beam into a person's eyes(chief suspects include doorknobs; desk, table, and counter tops; metal or glass containers; walls; cabinets, even personal jewelry). The room or area in which a laser is used should be regarded as a controlled area with access limited to those whose work requires it; this should be indicated by appropriate signs at each door to the room. Within the controlled area, an audible or visual signal should be associated with the charging of the laser condenser to indicate that the laser is about to be flashed or is running continuously. Signals should be such that they will not cause a person to look in the direction of the laser, but rather away from it. Equipment operating at upward of 15,000 volts should be monitored for possible x-radiation. Cryogens, such as liquefied nitrogen and helium used for cooling laser equipment, demand personal protection—hands, face, and body—for all who handle them. Standard electrical safety specifications and practices prescribed for high-voltage equipment in general are applicable to laser power sources. Capacitors should be discharged before cleaning or repair work is undertaken; since they can retain a charge even when the power is disconnected, bleeder resistors should be provided and left in the circuit until the laser is used again

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