

Book reviews

Fire and Flame Retardant Polymers, Recent Developments (Chemical Technology Review No. 122), by A. Yehaskel, Noyes Data Corp., New Jersey, 1979, 482 pp., £22.

The book is subdivided into 11 sections, each dealing with a specific polymer (or related polymer type) and supplies very detailed technical information about relevant fire and flame retardant systems (including smoke suppressants), which have been granted US patents.

The book is essentially a review with up to date information about the patents, and the author has carefully selected practical details of methods of preparation and gives standard test results. There is good cross reference of the information by patent number, inventor and the commercial organisation involved.

With the current interest in the development of polymeric material with improved fire performance, the book will appeal to researchers, particularly in commercial fields, by providing a sound guide to the US patent literature and a background for further technological innovation.

Standard methods of testing and their relationship to fires are currently being reviewed internationally. It is hoped that further editions of this review will be published as test experience grows and as the patent literature expands.

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Toxic and Hazardous Waste Disposal, (Volume 2) — Options for Stabilization/Solidification, by R.B. Pojasek (Ed.), Ann Arbor Science Publications, Ann Arbor, Mich., 1979, 269 pp., £19.80.

A reviewer faced with a volume entitled "Options for Stabilization/Solidification", may be forgiven for assuming that the ensuing chapters will present some insight into the processes available, their long term performance and various testing procedures. Unfortunately in this book the expectation is not realised other than for testing methods.

The book commences with a chapter on legislation relating solely to the U.S.A. Chapters follow on site selection, physical testing of raw and stabilized sludges, and landfill as practiced in the U.K.; this advocates careful choice of sites and wastes, thereby, by good management, obviating the need for expensive fixation processes. A commercial landfill system is described in chapter 6. Chapters 7 to 11 evaluate various aspects of leachate production and testing, and the conclusion is reached that only general guidelines may be given. Descriptions of techniques used in the solidification or stabilization of arsenic, kepone and flue gas sludges complete the book.