

Book Reviews

Suspect Chemicals Sourcebook, 4th edn., prepared by Roytech Publications with the Cooperation of the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association (SOCMA), Roytech Publications, 1499 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010, 1985, approx. 315 pages, paperback, \$125.00.

With the numerous federal and state regulations which apply, in one way or another, to chemicals, the availability of a guide to the specific legal citation for a substance is of considerable significance. This fourth edition presents access to 6000 chemicals cited in nineteen federal laws or other data source (such as NIOSH Current Awareness Bulletins), and two international sources, namely, International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) in Geneva, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. Each chemical is arranged alphabetically, with the citation or citations referred to by the key numbers, as well as the CAS (Chemical Abstract Service) number. The OSHA Chemical Hazard Communication Standard (Right-to-Know) references are given in a separate section of 18 pages, and the CAS numbers for these are given in a separate section of 17 pages. The extensive 88 pages appendix is devoted to the OSHA Communication Standard, starting with a summary of the standard, followed by the full text (which is a reprint of the official text, as noted in 29 CFR 1910.1200, based on the Federal Register notice of November 25, 1983, pages 53280-53340.

The sourcebook is an excellent reference. In addition, it is available on computer magnetic tape (9 track/1600 bpi, unlabeled format) for \$795.

H.H. FAWCETT

Safety and Health Standards Applicable to Surface Metal and Nonmetal Mining and Milling Operations, 30 CFR Part 56, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety & Health, Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, May 1985, \$6.50.

Miner's Manual: How to Spot Hazards, Protect Yourself, and Use Your Legal Rights, 3rd edn., by J.D. McAteer, T.N. Bethell (Ed.), Crossroads Press, Occupational Safety and Health Law Center, 1536 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, 1985, 357 pages, paperback, \$6.95.

That mining is a highly hazardous occupation has been documented; how effective rules, laws, and regulations are in reducing the hazards are less clear. The latest version of the metal and nonmetal safety and health law is part of the picture; a similar set of laws regulate coal and other underground mines.

Laws, per se, are of limited value unless they are actively enforced. To bridge the gap between laws and those whom the laws were intended to protect, these two publications are timely. Starting with the creation of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1910, and most recently the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, P.L.91-173, federal, as well as states, have tried legislation to create safer conditions in this industry. The Miner's Manual is an attempt to put the initiative for action in the hands of the miners. Coal, metal, nonmetal, and surface, as well as milling operations are analyzed in terms of what the laws intend, and to encourage the miners to initiate appropriate actions if the laws are overlooked or ignored. It is intended to show how to spot hazards, how to protect yourself in a mining operation, and how to use your legal rights by appealing to the inspectors for the Act. Although written as a practical "how-to" book, considerable technical information is included, such as a list of chemicals not permitted in mines, metals and nonmetals covered under the Act, hazards of radon and daughter products, black lung, white lung, details of the two current types of self-rescue devices in use, ventilation standards, and tire prevention and control.

Anyone interested in the hazards of mining and their correction by legal means will find this book very revealing and extremely practical.

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Informing Workers of Chemical Hazards: The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, prepared by the Task Force on Occupational Health and Safety, Department of Government Relations and Science Policy, American Chemical Society, 1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, April 1985, 14 pages, gratis.

This review of the basic elements in the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200, Federal Register notice November 25, 1983) and scheduled for complete implementation by May 25, 1986, is intended to present the fundamentals necessary to formulate a program of compliance. In general it succeeds, by reviewing the labeling requirements, the content of the required Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), the employee orientation and training, and review of the various state and city Right-To-Know laws. We suggest that future editions could be improved by:

(1) More emphasis on the human aspects, including the person/information/chemical interface. If the required information is simply given lip-service and glossed over to satisfy the letter, but not the spirit of the law, little will be gained, and antagonism may actually arise (the first edition devotes less than half-page to this aspect of the process);

(2) Select a more typical and appropriate sample label than the "Low Sodium MOS electronic grade Nitric Acid". Depending on concentration, mineral acids such as nitric acid vary widely in their hazard potential. The