

This reference book will be of value to anyone developing or trying to understand MSDSs and training programs required by the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1200.1900) effective May 25, 1986. In one volume the reader will find:

Chemical name index, with CAS numbers

Master Index of Chemicals and Regulatory Data (noting the essential regulatory-related data)

OSHA Air Contaminants (permissible limits)

OSHA Specifically Regulated substances

Chemicals in the NTP Annual Report on Carcinogens

ACGIH TLV and Biological Exposure Indices

IARC Known, Probable Human, and Animal Carcinogens

NFPA 704-M ratings for substances listed

No mention is made of the EPA regulated chemicals in the areas of waste disposal, clean water, or clean air regulations, or of potential radioactive hazards from low and high-level isotope disposal.

The book should serve a useful reference for quick searches.

H.H. FAWCETT

*A Responsibility to Understand: A Primer for Chemical Hazard Analysis*, by Elmer A. Fike, Mountain State Press, Charleston, WV, U.S.A., 1986, ISBN 0-941092-11-0, 60 pages, paperback, available from author \$2.00 per copy or \$1.50 each in lots of 10, Fike Chemical Inc., Nitro, WV, U.S.A.

The Hazard Communication Regulation of OSHA (29 CFR 1900.1200) effective May 25, 1986, requires proper precautionary labeling and detailed material safety data sheets for each chemical in the workplace. Dr. Fike pleads that the third step, understanding, is even more essential if the objectives of the regulation are to be achieved. Following the advice of Mme Curie that "nothing in life is to be feared, only understood", the author reviews the benefits of chemicals in terms of their proper use and disposal. He concludes that a more complete and in-depth consideration of chemical benefits should accompany risk analysis. He discusses all major chemical hazards from fire to toxicity, and places them in sensible perspective. If a second edition is issued, perhaps some fundamental references and/or at least specific references to the laws, would enhance the booklet's utility. The present edition contains only NFPA 325M.

If this booklet were widely distributed, it would greatly assist all who handle, use, transport and dispose chemicals.

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