

## Book Reviews

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*The Chemical Industry after Bhopal*, An International Symposium held in London, November 7-8, 1985, IBC Technical Services Ltd., Bath House, 56 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EX, 1986, ISBN 0-907.822-73-8, 318 pages, £ 53.00

The release of methylisocyanate from a plant in Bhopal, on December 3, 1984, into a highly-populated area triggered a re-evaluation of health and safety procedures and practices in control of hazardous materials worldwide. This symposium explored various aspects of chemical health and safety from an international viewpoint. The 15 papers recorded represent the considered thoughts of U.K., Indian, U.S., insurance, and political evaluation experts who explored the future of the chemical and related industries as influenced by world reaction to Bhopal. Both generalizations and highly specific data are presented. For example, the paper on the pressure relief system or ERS as an internal but often overlooked part of plant design and control, by Ian Smith, is an especially strong starting point for anyone seriously concerned with re-evaluating their plant systems. The findings of the DIERS project of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering, which in 1984 resulted in consensus of techniques to accommodate two-phase flow, are highly relevant. The experiences and detailed programs of major multinational companies are presented, as well as the insurance and political (regulatory) concerns. In short, the symposium is an excellent reference for anyone who wishes to re-evaluate their operations for health and safety aspects.

H.H. FAWCETT

*Clinical Laboratory Safety*, by Susan L. Rose, J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia and London, 1984, ISBN 0-397-50615-5, 304 pages, paperback, \$24.95.

Clinical laboratories in hospitals and other biologically-oriented organizations, have unique hazards not widely appreciated and often inadequately controlled. This book, by a health scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy, reviews good practices with recommendations for hazards in clinical chemistry, blood banks, serology and radioimmunoassay, hematology, microbiology, fires, electrical and compressed gases controls, accidents, emergencies, protective devices and first aid, and laboratory waste handling and disposal. Reagents used in common practices are listed in some detail. Special problems, such as the AIDS question (over 100,000 cases were recently estimated worldwide), and the handling of "sharps", are noted. References include standards and resources for further discussion. In general, the book is an excellent primer for

clinical laboratories. Numerous recent photographs enhance the utility of the book.

H.H. FAWCETT

*Suspect Chemicals Sourcebook*, by K.B. Clansky (Ed.), Roytech Publications, 1499 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010, 5th edn., 1986, ISBN 0-9612092-4-0, approx. 600 pages, \$140.00.

This compilation is a guide to industrial chemicals (nearly 4,000) covered under the major U.S. regulatory and advisory programs. Starting with a 47-page cross-reference to the Chemical Abstract Registry Numbers vs. the chemical name, 229 pages are devoted to a thumb-nail sketch of references to the major regulations or programs which apply to that compound. Health, safety, environmental (Clean Air, Clean Water, RCRA and Superfund) and transportation references are given where appropriate. The regulations and programs cited are abstracted in the remainder of the publication.

A mid-year supplement is planned, and a magnetic tape (unlabeled EBCDIC code or flexible 8" floppy diskettes) is also available. This one reference would safely save hours of searching for anyone who must be concerned with the scope of U.S. regulations and studies on a specific chemical listed.

H.H. FAWCETT

*Solvents Safety Handbook*, by O.J. DeRenzo (Ed.), Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, U.S.A., 1986, ISBN-0-8155-1074-8, 696 pages, \$86.00.

Noyes Publications has extracted and republished data for 335 solvents taking information from the U.S. Coast Guard's publication, *CHRIS Hazardous Chemical Data Manual*.

The book contains the following data for each solvent:

- health hazards and toxicity
- fire, exposure and water pollution effects and methods for handling
- protective equipment
- response to discharges
- fire hazards
- chemical reactivity
- labeling
- shipping information
- saturated liquid density
- liquid heat capacity, thermal conductivity and viscosity
- solubility in water
- saturated vapor pressure and vapor density
- ideal gas heat capacity

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