

Book Reviews

Hazardous Materials Dictionary, edited by R.J. Coleman, and K.H. Williams, Technomic Publishing, Lancaster, PA, 1988, ISBN No. 0-87762-539-5, 184 pp., price SFr. 78.- (ca. US\$ 39.).

This newly published reference book contains over 2600 definitions of words, phrases, abbreviations and acronyms relating to hazardous materials: classification, handling, storage, transportation, disposal, regulation, emergencies and emergency responses.

While not of great use to engineers well versed in environmental matters, it should be a useful reference for those less technically versed: public safety officials, emergency response personnel, civil defense agency employees and those engaging in transportation.

GARY F. BENNETT

Hazardous Chemicals Desk Reference, edited by N.I. Sax and R.J. Lewis, Sr., Van Nostrand, Reinhold, New York, NY, 1987, ISBN: No. 0-442-28208-7, 1084 pages, \$69.95.

Having improved my physical fitness by routinely using Sax's massive manual entitled: *Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials*, which contains data on 19,000 chemicals and encompasses more than 3000 pages, I was delighted to receive the above book, which is a condensation in number of chemicals (4,700) and length of writeups. Not a great deal of data for each chemical has been lost in the writeup, contained in the condensed book (based on my comparison of the two books of the data given for several different chemicals). For each chemical this new volume has:

- A 1 to 3 hazard rating
- CAS, NIOSH and DOT identification numbers
- Selected physical properties
- Synonyms
- Current standards for exposure limits in air
- Excellent writeup on hazard posed by the chemical

All of the key data appearing in the larger work are included in this condensed volume. Missing are details of toxicities and sources of these data – but these omissions do nothing to hinder the value of this book. Personally, I think the conciseness of the writeups is of more value than the length of the other book (for my purpose in incident response) and the book is easier to use to access needed data. In addition to chemical data, the authors have written two chapters to assist people who are responsible for safety of employees in com-