

*Chemical Safety Data Sheets*, Vol. 1: Solvents, Royal Society of Chemistry, London, ISBN: 0-85186-903-3, 1989, 341 pp., £39.95, US \$ 89.50.

The preface of the book contains the following statement:

“In recent years, there has been a growing concern regarding the hazards associated with chemicals in general and solvents in particular. This may reflect the ubiquitous nature of solvents which may find uses in industry, the laboratory and in the home. They are usually volatile liquids and are frequently used when a rapid evaporation is essential, paints being but one common example.

Such uses must invariably liberate solvent vapours into the atmosphere, which, when inhaled, may produce unpleasant symptoms, and even, in some cases, serious long-term effects. Their safe use therefore, requires a careful consideration of their chemical, physical and toxicological properties, coupled with an assessment of the overall risk in any particular use, so that the necessary anticipatory precautionary measures to prevent significant exposure can be put into effect. This book sets out the information necessary to conduct such risks from 103 common solvents.”

Information on each chemical includes:

- Identifiers – synonyms, CAS No., IMCO No., Hazchem (UK) No.
- Threshold Limit Value — from several countries, e.g. UK, US, France and FRG
- Physical properties
- Packaging and transportation regulations
- Manufacture
- Uses
- Chemical hazards
- Biological hazards — inhalation, eye contact, skin contact, swallowing
- Carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, reproductive hazards
- First aid procedures
- Handling and storage
- Disposal
- Fire precautions
- Further reading and references

The first section of the book contains a very useful cross-index for synonyms and a flash-point index.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Extremely Hazardous Substances: Superfund Chemical Profile*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, published by Noyes Data Corp., Park Ridge, NJ, 2 Volumes, ISBN: 0-8155-1166-3, 1989, 1800 pp., US\$ 157.

This comprehensive reference guide contains profiles of all 366 chemicals listed as “extremely hazardous substances” by the U.S. Environmental Pro-