

This book describes the reclamation and reprocessing of spent cleaning solvents, as well as tests to determine spent solvent quality.

Part I of this book describes the tests for assessing the quality of used cold-cleaning solvents. Guidelines are given to allow managers and those responsible for environmental compliance to assess a used solvent quality and determine if it should be reused. Reclamation techniques and their advantages and drawbacks are presented.

Part II of the book covers tests for quality evaluation of used halogenated solvents employed primarily in cleaning. Reclamation methods are also assessed to determine recycling feasibility.

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Oil Spill Response Guide, by Robert J. Meyers and Associates and Research Planning Institute, Inc., Noyes Data Corp., Park Ridge, NJ, 1990, ISBN 0-8155-1221-X, 314 pp., \$45.00.

The preface states:

“This book describes equipment, techniques and logistics for responding to oil spills. It is designed to serve as a planning guide which will help the on-scene coordinator identify the steps and priorities for responding to major oil spills or blowouts associated with petroleum activity.”

The chapter titles are:

- (1) Introduction and Summary
- (2) Federal Response Organization
- (3) Initial Response
- (4) Elements of Response (details of this key chapter are given below)
 - detection and surveillance
 - oil spill trajectory models
 - oil spill containment
 - oil spill recovery
 - transfer equipment
 - recovered oil storage equipment
 - oil spill disposal
 - personnel
 - logistics
 - well control
 - dispersants
- (5) Mechanics of Response
- (6) Oil Spill Response Scenarios

(7) Appendices

In view of the recent Exxon Valdez and the Gulf of Mexico spills, the book is timely, to say the least.

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Sara Title III: Intent and Implementation of Hazardous Material Regulations, by F.L. Fire, N.K. Grant and D.H. Hoover, Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, NY, 1989. ISBN 0-442-23903-7, 279 pp., \$39.95.

“That the truth is self-evident” is a phrase found in the foundations of American Democracy. And self-evident are the opening phrases of this text.

“Sara Title III is and will continue to be the topic of much discussion. It’s impact on industry, local and state government, and the community is far reaching, as each of these entities must participate in the planning process and the right-to-know provisions. Currently there is much confusion concerning the appropriate actions to be taken and the exact nature of the responsibilities assigned.”

The book makes a valiant attempt to clear up confusing points and explore what is required by SARA and why. Unfortunately, it falls somewhat short of fulfilling its promise, if any book could, with such a far-reaching new program that mandates massive, country-wide hazardous material spills planning by both government and industry.

SARA Title III is part of the Superfund Ammendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. In fact it is, or rather could be, a law on its own, dealing with hazardous materials, emergency response planning, and community right-to-know. It was enacted after the tragic leak of methyl isocyanate in Bhopal, India (not Bohpol as the book states). Chapter 1 discusses the background and the general requirements and compliance dates of SARA.

The impact of SARA on business, the local fire department (which is normally the first responder to spills) and industry are discussed in Chapter 2. Missing from this discussion, I feel, is the impact on local governmental entities charged with writing local response plans. (In Ohio where this reviewer lives, these plans are being written by state-appointed committees in each County). Chapter 3, entitled Regulated Hazardous Chemicals broadly, but I believe inadequately, discusses the U.S. laws on the topic. The Toxic Substances Act is mentioned briefly, (although it is really irrelevant to the main topic of the book). There are three other important acts that govern hazardous chemicals which are relevant: section 311, the Clean Water Act, RCRA and CERCLA. Too little time is spent on each of these laws and none at all on the provisions of the Clean Air Act regulating the emissions of hazardous chemi-