

Nostrand Reinhold, New York, NY, 1990, 2nd edn., 0-442-23804-5, 266 pp., £24.95.

Workplace safety is of major concern to both employers and employees. And in this relation, employers have a special moral responsibility to protect employees and a legal responsibility to give them data on the chemical hazards they face. This book will help in this process.

The book contains data on more than 800 chemicals. The data will assist in this information transfer from employer to employee. These data are markedly different from those published in the previous edition – a revision mandated by the massive revision of OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs).

The Safety Profile is a clear and concise summation of each chemical hazards. Data given for each of the chemicals includes:

- CAS Number
- Formula
- DOT Number
- DOT Class
- Synonyms
- OSHA PEL (permissive exposure limit)
- ACGIH TLV (Threshold Limit Value)
- DFG (German Research Society Maximum Allowable Concentration)
- NIOSH PEL (recommended exposure levels)
- Safety Profile – hazards by ingestion, skin, decomposition effect, and a summary of hazard properties.
- Chemical Properties – form, colour, odour, to aid in positive identification.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Waste Disposal in Academic Institutions*, edited by James A. Kaufman, Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1990, ISBN 0-87371-256-0, 192 pp., \$55.00.

Hazardous waste disposal problems confronted by academic institutions have reached serious proportions in many schools, colleges and universities. Not only do many institutions largely ignore the U.S. EPA as well as corresponding Environment Canada regulations, but the cost of compliance by having outside disposal firms pack, haul and eventually place in approved landfills is often very high. The May 1, 1990 OSHA American lab standards by the Occupational Safety and Health Agency will doubtlessly make the concern greater.

In this volume, James Kaufman, who has been the mentor for laboratory safety several years at Curry College and has sponsored or taught many courses on laboratory safety, has brought together the papers of a symposium on "Waste Disposal in Academic Institutions" held at the Third Chemical Congress of

North America in Toronto in 1988. It is intended for laboratories, as well as small business where "small generator" is the key word. Both the Canadian and American viewpoints are presented; three of the twenty authors or co-authors are Canadian, and numerous references to the regulatory systems in Canada as well as the U.S. are given. The index is well prepared.

The 14 chapters cover a wide range of views, with some duplication of information. Of considerable interest, this reviewer found the chapter on How to Establish an Academic Laboratory Waste Management Program, and the chapter on Characterization of Unknown Laboratory Chemicals for Disposal. Regional Differences in Laboratory Waste Disposal Practices clearly spotlighted the wide variations in different states and provinces.

If a second edition of this volume is prepared, I would respectfully suggest a more comprehensive overall editing to give better understanding of the common elements, as well as the variations.

The volume in general is good, and deserves wide circulation.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

*Health and Safety in Industry: A Practical Guide for Managers*, by The Division of Consumer Health Education, Department of Environmental and Community Medicine, UMDNJ – Robert Wood, Johnson Medical School, Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1989, ISBN 0-87371-195-5, 204 pp., \$39.95.

The burden that environmental and occupational health laws place on the small businesses is tremendous when added to all the other pressures (problems) of running a small manufacturing operation. I have great sympathy for those entrepreneurs who cannot afford, as the large company can, full-time, in-house expertise for safety, health, environment, etc.

The small company president must rely on his own expertise or that of the retained consultant. But before consultants are retained, the president must recognize that the problem exists or know what law must be complied with. Clearly, that understanding must be there before he/she calls for help. And that help is best used if the president (or manager) himself has a feel for the magnitude of the problems and some idea of the solution to them.

This book offers that help. Unfortunately, for the general reader (businessman) the book is written for New Jersey businesses and will be of much less use outside that state than inside it. However, the book does have some very useful material to assist small businesses with the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) whose purpose is to provide a safe working environment.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of occupational safety and health, including