

Book Reviews

Occupational Exposure Limits for Airborne Toxic Substances, No. 37, 3rd edn., Occupational Safety and Health Series, by International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland CH-1211, 1991, ISBN 92-2-107293-2, 455 pp. Available in U.S.A. and Canada from ILO Publication Center, 49 Sheridan Avenue, Albany, NY 12210, \$38.00 of SFr 47.50.

This volume records the present established exposure limits within 15 countries, ranging from Australia to the U.S.A. and the USSR, for 2128 substances or materials for hazardous chemicals in the workplace. The CAS number is given for each substance. This is an ILO contribution to the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), prepared in collaboration with the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Of the 10 million materials registered by the Chemical Abstract Service, 70 000 to 80 000 are on the market worldwide representing an average annual world production of an estimated 400 million tonnes. About 5–10% of these are considered “hazardous”, while perhaps 200 are suspected or known to have carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic effects.

This volume should be a very useful reference to anyone who is concerned with exposures, and would like to know what others think.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

PCBs and the Environment, 3 volumes, edited by John S. Waid, CRC Press, 2000 Corporate Blvd., N.W., Boca Raton, FL 33431, 1987, ISBN 0-8493-5929 (full set), Library of Congress Card Number 86-17549 (full set), Vol. 1, 228 pp., \$145; Vol. 2, 191 pp., \$129; Vol. 3, 272 pp., \$175.

Although PCBs have been generally associated with use in electrical transformers because of their non-flammable properties and heat-resistance, they have found many other applications, which have lead to worldwide contamination questions. There are 209 (isomers) are possible from chlorine substitution of the phenyls, often cited in the U.S. as Aroclors, such as Aroclor 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248, 1254, 1260, 1262 and 1268. The type of molecular structural was defined by the first two digits; 12 for PCBs, 25 and 44 for blends of PCBs and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) and 54 for PCTs. The last two digits