

Medical Waste Management and Disposal, by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, V.J. Landrum, R.G. Barton, R. Neulicht, M. Turner, D. Wallace and S. Smith, published by Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, NJ, 1991, ISBN 0-8155-1264-3, 541 pp., \$82.00.

Written by the U.S. EPA and its contractors (Energy and Environmental Research Corporation and Midwest Research Institute), this book provides an overview of the status of medical waste management and disposal in the United States — which ranges from handling medical waste as non-hazardous municipal solid waste to strict segregation, packaging, labeling and tracking. Treatment technologies discussed include steam sterilization, incineration and a number of recycling and reuse methods.

The book is actually a combination of five U.S. EPA reports:

1. Medical Waste Management in the United States — First Interim Report to Congress
2. U.S. EPA Guide for Infectious Waste Management
3. Municipal Waste Combustion Assessment: Medical Waste Combustion Practices at Municipal Waste Facilities
4. Operation and Maintenance of Hospital Waste Incinerators
5. Guide to Pollution Prevention — Selected Hospital Waste Streams

G.F. BENNETT

Aqueous Cleaning as an Alternative to CFC and Chlorinated Solvent-based Cleaners, by C.D. D’Ruiz, Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, NJ, 1991, ISBN 0-8155-1285-6, 119 pp., \$45.00.

World-wide concern for the depletion of the upper ozone layer and concern for the toxic properties of chemicals used in cleaning has led to increasing restrictions on, and the forthcoming phaseout of, many commonly used industrial solvents including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), 1,1,1-trichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride. But there are promising alternatives described in the book.

D’Ruiz conducted a study for the U.S. EPA based on a large part of several industry surveys conducted during 1989 and subsequent communication with respondents. The principal conclusions of the survey (described in detail in the book) are:

- Environmental regulations are directing chloro-solvent users toward new materials and processes
- Increased utilization of aqueous cleaning has lower health and environmental risks than the use of chlorinated solvents
- Aqueous cleaning is a technology which is widely available and is used by a large number of companies to clean parts