

*Harmful Chemical Substances, Vol. 1, Elements in Groups I-IV of the Periodic Table and their Inorganic Compounds*, edited by V.A. Filov, A.L. Bandman and B.A. Ivin, assisted by twelve authors (English translation of Russian volume by the same authors), Ellis Horwood, Market Cross House, Cooper St., Chichester, W. Sussex, PO19 1EB, England ISBN 0-13-383373-9, English edn. 722 pages, 1993, US\$ 85 + postage + tax.

This is a highly significant book, since it is the first of five volumes being published in English by the Saint Petersburg Branch of Khimiya Publishers. The four other volumes, namely, *Elements in Group V-VIII of the Periodic Table and their Inorganic Compounds* (1989), *Radioactive Substances* (1990), *Hydrocarbons and Halogenated Hydrocarbons* (1990), and *Nitrogen-containing Organic Compounds* (1992) are under translation for release in the near future.

The title above noted discusses 36 elements with a group of inorganic compounds for each, plus a separate section for rare-earth elements and compounds. Each element and compound is discussed under headings which include: Identity and Physicochemical Properties, Natural Occurrence and Environmental Levels, Production, Uses, Man-Made Sources of Emmission into the Atmosphere, Hygienic Standards (many include both USSR and USA standards), Methods of Determination, Measures to Control Exposure at the Workplace as well as Protect the General Environment, and First Aid in Poisoning.

The number and types of compounds vary with the element, but fundamental data are given where possible, with a general discussion of potential hazards in each case. Thirty-five elements and their compounds are noted with the usual references. This reviewer estimates that at least two-thirds of the references contain a Russian author.

This volume is a major step forward in integrating Russian knowledge in chemical safety into the other sources; this should be received by all with cheer.

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