

and industry — challenges that become greater with delay in implementation of the Act. Creative procedural and substantive solutions will be needed to insure that this important environmental program achieves the goals in a prompt and effective manner.”

GARY F. BENNETT

*Environmental Law Index to Chemicals*, by C.C. Lee, Government Institutes, Inc., Rockwell, MD, ISBN 0-86587-338-0, 1993, 250 pp., US\$ 55.00

Lee's Preface nicely outlines the book's purpose (and contents).

“Thousands of chemicals have been regulated under many very complicated environmental laws and regulations. As the environmental regulations are constantly being changed, so are the regulated chemicals and their emission standards. It is often very difficult to determine which chemicals are regulated under which regulation and where the standards are specified. To assist in resolving these difficulties, this guide book was created.”

In Section 1, the author lists chemicals (in alphabetical order preceded by their CAS No.) followed by nine columns representing the following environmental laws: CERCLA, SARA, RCRA, CAA, TSCA, CWA, SDWA, FI(FIFRA), OSHA, and California Law. If a chemical is regulated under any one of these acts, the key to where to find it is given. Close to 4000 chemicals are found in the 168 pages devoted to this listing.

Section 2, entitled “Key to Alphabetic Listings” explains the acronyms used in the first section and for each CFR (Code of Federal Regulation) category gives a brief comment on its topic.

Section 3 lists the chemicals numerically by CAS (Chemical Abstract Service) number. For each number, the chemical name (and synonym) are given.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Chemical Safety Matters*. World Health Organization, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, International Programme on Chemical Safety, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, ISBN 0-521-41375-3 (paperback), 1992, 284 pp., UK£ 19.95

*Chemical Safety Matters* presents a concise review of the safe use and proper disposal of hazardous chemicals in laboratories. In the book, the editors have ‘summarized’ the direct and indirect hazards which are found in chemical laboratories. The editors' goal in writing the book was to encourage a thoughtful and alert approach to the safe storage, use and disposal of chemicals. The book provides valuable guidance to address the many problems that can be the result of the inappropriate handling of chemicals when ignorance and the lack of planning impair safety and/or result in environmental contamination.

The editors further expanded on their purpose in writing the book in the introduction.

“The principal objective of this book is to provide guidance to all laboratory workers who use chemicals so that they can perform their work safely. Experience has shown that the laboratory can be a safe workplace. This record has been achieved only through vigorous safety programmes. The goals of a laboratory safety plan should be to protect those working in the laboratory, others who may be exposed to hazards from the laboratories, and the environment.”

And to emphasize the importance of this safety program they write:

“First and foremost the protection of health and safety in all laboratory operations, including waste disposal, is a moral obligation. The expanding array of laws and regulations make it an economic necessity; and, in many countries, a legal requirement. In the final analysis, laboratory safety can be achieved only by exercise of judgment by *informed* (emphasis added by reviewer) responsible individuals.”

And the book does *inform* well.

The assurance of safe working conditions in a laboratory depends on four programs:

1. Regular safety inspections
2. Formal and regular safety meetings
3. Regular ventilation system monitoring
4. Proper waste disposal procedures

To this end the authors have produced one of the best written, easy-to-read, comprehensive texts on the topic I have seen. The four major sections will illustrate the book's coverage.

Part I : Safe working procedures and protective equipment

Part II : Safe storage and use of hazardous chemicals

Part III: Safe storage and disposal of waste chemicals

Appendix

Each section is approximately of equal length. Special attention is paid to extremely toxic and hazardous chemicals, i.e., phosgene, metal hydrides, etc. All aspects of waste processing from minimization to recycling to disposal are thoroughly discussed.

I am, at the very least, a neophyte in laboratory safety details, but I am well familiar with laboratory procedures both good and bad. My overall assessment of this text is very high. I strongly recommend its purchase and *USE*.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Occupational Exposures to Mists and Vapours from Strong Organic Acids and Other Industrial Chemicals*, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, Vol. 54, ISBN 92-832-1254-1, 1992, 336 pp., SWF 65, US\$ 58.50

In this book, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) working group provides their evaluation of the carcinogenic risk to humans that is posed by occupational exposure to mists and vapors from strong inorganic acids and some other industrial chemicals. This volume, the 54th in the IARC series, contains six