

## Book reviews

**Essential BAT Value Documentations from the MAK-Collection for Occupational Health and Safety, H. Drexler, H. Greim (Eds.). Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KgaA, Weinheim, Germany (2006). 365 pp., US\$ 125.00, ISBN: 3-527-31477-6**

The purpose of the MAK-Collection is to provide "...comprehensive and authoritative information for occupational health and safety professionals and researchers." This volume contains relevant data on the following substances: acetone, alkali chromates, analine, arsenic and inorganic arsenic compounds, arsenic trioxide, benzene, 2-butanone, 2-butoxyethanol, cobalt, cresols, cyclohexane, 4,4-diaminodiphenylmethane, dimethyl sulfate, ethylene oxide, hydrogen fluoride and inorganic fluorine compounds, lead and its compounds, methanol, nickel and sparingly soluble nickel compounds, 2-propanol, styrene, tetrachloroethene, vinyl chloride and xylenes.

To illustrate the coverage provided, I have listed below the section titles for the Benzene chapter: (1) Metabolism and Kinetics, (2) Critical Toxicity, (3) Exposure and Effects, (4) Selection of the Indicators, (5) Methodology, (6) Background Exposures, (7) Evaluation of EKA Values, (8) Interpretation of the Data and (9) References.

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**Essential MAK Value Documentations from the MAK-collection for Occupational Health and Safety, H. Greim (Ed.). Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KgaA, Weinheim, Germany (2006). 497 pp., US\$ 125.00, ISBN: 3-527-31394-x**

The MAK-collection of books is published to provide "... comprehensive and authoritative information for occupational health and safety professionals and researchers". For this edition, the editor chose 17 of the "... most important occupational

toxicants". The book provides "... an authoritative review of the available toxicological studies and data. For every substance, toxic effects, mechanisms and modes of action, toxicogenetics and metabolism, effects in man and animals are described. The carcinogenic, germ-cell mutagenic, sensitizing or skin-resorptive effects as well as their toxicity to the reproductive system are evaluated. Basic physico-chemical data are provided as well".

Data are provided for the following substances: alpha-amylase, arsenic and its inorganic compounds, 2-butoxyethanol, carbon disulfide, cereal flour dust, chloroform, 1,4-dioxane, dust, ethanol, ethylene oxide, formaldehyde, germ-cell mutagens, hexachlorobenzene, ozone, passive smoking, styrene and tetrachloroethylene.

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**Emergency Response Planning for Corporate and Municipal Managers, P.A. Erickson, 2nd ed., Elsevier/Butterworth-Heinemann, Burlington, MA (2006). (428 pp., US\$ 69.95, ISBN: 0-12-370503-7)**

As I reviewed this book, Canadian security officials announced the arrests of numerous potential terrorists who acquired ammonium nitrate with the intention (the charges say) to explode it at some major site. Not that this topic needs more emphasis than is stated in the accompanying flyer that notes: "Natural and man-made disasters and emergencies affect millions of people each year." Notably discussed are the attack on the World Trade Center as well as major natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The author clearly outlines the need for this book in his preface:

"Effective emergency response planning, whether for incidents that derive from natural causes or for those that derive