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Book review

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BOOK REVIEW

Tadao Yoshida, "Safety of Reactive Chemicals", Industrial Safety Series, Vol. 1, Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1987. 404 pp.

Reviewer: H.J. Matsuguma, Consultant, Applied Ordnance Technology, Inc.

The safe handling of reactive chemicals is essential to our modern industrial society. In addition to the obvious need for safety in the chemical industry, laboratories and academe, the general public needs to be safeguarded from the large quantities and varieties of such chemicals which are transported through and stored in or near major cities and towns.

The book is well-organized. The first chapter points out the consequences of incorrect procedures and ignorance of hazardous properties. It highlights the need for suitable evaluation of the behavior and properties of chemicals. Subsequent chapters describe available data sources and methods for evaluating such hazards. Also included are methods of calculating various properties, e.g., heats of reaction, combustion, and detonation. The author then discusses standard and screening tests in some detail. Although this is not a critical presentation, the material provided permits the reader to make his own assessment of the value and utility of a test method. Dr. Yoshida points out that test results and data can be misleading or misunderstood, and that the experience of a safety professional plays an important part in the evaluation of the hazard potential of a new or unknown chemical.

Dr. Yoshida presents numerous examples of hazardous material data sheets, and discusses the activities of agencies in Japan and other countries aimed at defining and minimizing the hazards associated with the handling of reactive chemicals. The book also contains a discussion of the special hazards posed by earthquakes, which are a major concern in Japan. The author has provided very helpful bibliographies after each chapter.

Although there are several typographical errors in the text, e.g., an incorrect formula for PETN in the equation on p. 73, these are minor and do not detract from the text. Dr. Yoshida's objective in writing this book was to introduce and explain methods of evaluating the hazard potential of reactive chemicals. This reviewer believes that the author has produced a very useful text whose major contribution is bringing together many references, test descriptions, and methodologies, and by so doing, Dr. Yoshida has achieved his objective. This book will be a welcome addition to the safety professional's bookshelf, as well as to the library of anyone concerned with the handling of reactive chemicals.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

TECHNICAL SCOPE

The Journal of Energetic Materials fills the need for an American based international forum for science and technology interchange in the disciplines of explosives propellants and pyrotechnics. The synthetic and analytical chemistry, solid state physics, formulation and hazards testing of energetic materials are appropriate subjects for articles submitted to the Journal. In addition, detonation physics and initiation studies on solid, liquid and fuel-air explosives are included.

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JOURNAL: L.C. Craig and W. Koningsberg, *J. Phys. Chem.* 65, 166 (1961).

BOOK: P.A. Albertsson, "Partition of Cell Particles and Macromolecules," Wiley, New York, 1960.

ARTICLE IN A BOOK: H. Walter, in "Proceedings of the Protides of Biological Fluids," XVth Colloquium, H. Pteeters, eds., Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1968, p. 367.

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