

ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

ACTS FACTS

January, 1989
Vol. 3, No. 1

DECEMBER FEDERAL REGISTER ITEMS

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FOUR PROVISIONS OF THE FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD STAYED (43 FR 50198-9)

The provisions of the HOCH standard which contained criteria for determining 1) when the presence of formaldehyde constitutes a health hazard and the prescribed information that must 2) on warning labels on containers of formaldehyde and 3) on certain formaldehyde treated products, and 4) on Material Safety Data Sheets have been stayed by OSHA for nine months (until September 13, 1989).

OSHA will use this time to invite comment on suitable substitutes for these provisions such as the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) or other equally protective alternative. Until the rulemaking is complete, employers must continue to follow the rules of the the OSHA HCS regarding formaldehyde exposure.

One very interesting result of regulating formaldehyde through the HCS is that items which "offgas" significant amounts of formaldehyde would be treated as hazardous cancer-causing substances rather than as articles. This could include many wood products, resins, textiles, and apparel. These products then require warning labels and MSDSs if they release 0.1 ppm or more formaldehyde into the air under normal conditions of use.

CRYOLITE IN THE KIWIFRUIT

(53 FR 50258-9)

Many potters are unaware that both the natural and the synthetic cryolite (sodium aluminum fluoride) that they use as glaze ingredients also are registered pesticides. On December 13, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to establish a tolerance of 15 parts per million (ppm) for cryolite residues in kiwifruit. All other regulated fruits and vegetables have a 7 ppm tolerance for cryolite residues.

The EPA also has requested that companies registering cryolite submit chronic feeding, cancer, reproductive and metabolism studies for cryolite to be completed by 1992. The metabolism study (in rats) is needed to determine the amount of fluoride cryolite releases in the body.

Cryolite is known to release fluoride in humans because chronic fluorine poisoning has been observed among cryolite miners. Common symptoms of this disease include sclerosis of the bones, calcification of ligaments, mottling of the teeth, and lung problems (asthma and fibrosis).

ARSENIC STUDY AVAILABLE

(53 FR 50093)

A report entitled "Special Report on Ingested Inorganic Arsenic: Skin Cancer; Nutritional Essentiality" is available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The study demonstrated a relationship between ingestion of inorganic arsenic and elevated skin cancer risk. The data are drawn from over 40,000 Taiwan villagers whose wells contain small amounts of arsenic (.001-1.8 ppm). These data as well as independent studies from other countries demonstrated the association.

The report also concluded that additional studies would be needed to determine if trace amounts of arsenic are essential in the diet of animals and humans.

Single copies of the document can be obtained by contacting the Office of Research and Development Publication Center, CERI, US EPA, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268,, Tel: (513) 569-7562. When requesting the copy, refer to the document number: EPA/625/3-87/013.

ANOTHER CHANGE PROPOSED FOR HOME WORK RULES
(53 FR 53344-5)

Last month ACTS FACTS reported on changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) which lifted bans on some types of industrial homework (53 FR 45608-45623, 45706-45727, 46530). Included among these are making knitted outerwear, gloves and mittens, embroidery, buttons and buckles and handkerchiefs, and certain non-hazardous types of jewelry making.

The FLSA was instituted in the 1940's in order to control sweatshop conditions and it banned some kinds of industrial homework. The FLSA does not apply to self-employed people who work at home, but affects homeworkers who are paid either by the hour or by the piece.

The FLSA requires employers of all types of homeworkers to obtain certificates for each worker and to provide written assurances that compliance with wage and hour provisions, child labor laws, and other requirements will be met.

Now the Department of Labor has published (December 30, 1988) a notice that it will hold hearings in February and March to gain information for the purpose of lifting its ban on the employment of homeworkers in the women's apparel industry as well.

The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union opposes the action claiming that it would be impossible to enforce the FLSA to protect homeworking garment workers. ILGWU officials expect the action to condemn many American workers to sweatshop conditions similar to those now experienced by the large numbers of illegal homeworkers in the garment industry.

Labor Secretary Ann D. McLaughlin said that lifting the ban will give workers increased flexibility by allowing them the freedom to work at home and it will improve the competitiveness of U.S. industries.

Changes in the FLSA, however, do not affect laws in 18 states (including New York) which also restrict home labor.

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ACTS FACTS INDEX—JANUARY 1988 TO DECEMBER 1988 (Vol. 2)

1. January: December 1987 Federal Register (FR)
 OSHA ANNOUNCES FINAL FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD
 (52 FR 44168-44312)
 THREE HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD PROVISIONS STAYED
 (52 FR 44075-44080)
 PETITION IS FILED TO REVOKE APPROVAL OF ETHYLENE OXIDE
 (ETO) AS FOOD ADDITIVE
 (52 FR 47753)
 CPSC EMPLOYEES PROHIBITED FROM TESTIFYING AS WITNESSES
 (52 FR 47399-47401)
 FLAMMABLE FABRICS ACT AMENDED
 (52 FR 48810)
2. February: January 1988 FR
 ETHYLENE OXIDE STANDARD TO BE AMENDED
 (53 FR 1724-1737)
 EDITORIAL COMMENTS
3. March: February FR
 ANOTHER GLYCOL ETHER TO BE STUDIED
 (53 FR 5932-5953)
 GLAZE INGREDIENT FINDS NEW FOOD USE
 (53 FR 5765-5766)
 SOLVENTS LABELING CHANGES
 (53 FR 3014-3019)
 COMMERCIAL HEXANE TESTS MANDATED
 (53 FR 3382-3393)
 SOME BUSINESSES MUST REPORT WASTE DISPOSAL
 (53 FR 4500-4554)
4. April: March FR
 TOXICITY OF TWO COMMON SUBSTANCES TO BE TESTED:
 ISOPROPANOL: PROPOSED TEST RULE
 (53 FR 8638-8654)
 NAPHTHALENE TOXICITY ASSESSED
 (53 FR 9138-9141)
 OMB DOES IT AGAIN
 (53 FR 6628-9)
 NEW MACHINE GUARD APPROVED
 (53 FR 8322-8365)
 REVIEW OF d-LIMONENE CANCER STUDY SCHEDULED
 (53 FR 7980-2)
5. May: April FR
 A DYE REMOVED FROM TOXIC CHEMICALS LIST
 (53 FR 12035-7)
 CHEMICALS USED IN AIR-CONDITIONING MAY BE INVESTIGATED
 (FR 53 15428-15432)
 NEW TEST STANDARDS
 (53 FR 12102-5)
 ETHYLENE OXIDE STANDARD AMENDED
 (53 FR 11414-11438)
 NEW RULES FOR MACHINERY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
 (53 FR 15496-15528)
 ADDITIONAL APRIL ITEMS IN BRIEF
 (53 FR 11164-74, 11511-3, 14026-14952)
 HUD lead paint and solder regs. Lead Standard coverage
 may be extended to previously exempted industries. EPA
 will not revise NAAQS for sulfur dioxide.
6. May 13: SPECIAL A.C.T.S. BULLETIN
ARSENIC FOUND IN HISTORIC TEXTILES
6. June: May FR
 OSHA HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD STAYED
 editorial
 COMMERCIAL HEXANES ANALYZED
 (53 FR 19315-4)
 OSHA EXTENDS COMMENT TIME ON LEAD STANDARD CHANGE
 (53 FR 16731-2)
 CHINESE CHINA TO BE CHECKED BY CHINESE
 (53 FR 17744-4)
 TOY RULES CHANGE
 (53 FR 17281-2)
 HEALTH ASSESSMENT INFORMATION ON URETHANE ENAMEL
 (53 FR 18196-18214)
7. June 12: 1988 SPECIAL A.C.T.S. BULLETIN
EPA ASBESTOS SUBSTITUTE DOCUMENT AVAILABLE
7. July: June FR
 EPA DOCUMENT INDICTS SOME ASBESTOS SUBSTITUTES
 (53 FR 19943-19956)
 LEAD-FREE SOLDER REQUIRED FOR MOBILE HOMES
 (53 FR 23610-23611)
 PELs TO BE UPDATED AT LAST
 (53 FR 20940-21393)
 ARSENIC PESTICIDES BANNED
 (53 FR 24787-24796)
 LABOR STANDARDS FOR NEA/NEH FUNDED PROJECTS
 (53 FR 23540-23544)
 TITANIUM WHITE DELETED FROM TOXICS LIST
 (53 FR 23108-23112)
 NEW CONCRETE AND MASONRY SAFETY STANDARDS
 (53 FR 22612-22646)
 RULES FOR LEAD PAINT REMOVAL IN PUBLIC HOUSING
 (53 FR 20790-20806)
 LEAD SHOT RESTRICTED
 (FR 53 24284-24294)
8. August: July FR
 OSHA TO ENFORCE HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD
 (FR 53 27679)
 FDA TO GET THE REDS OUT
 (FR 53 26766-70, 26831-88, 25127, 25213)
 ETHYLENE OXIDE STANDARD AMENDMENTS APPROVED
 (53 FR 27959-60)
 PYRO CHEMICALS FOUND MORE HAZARDOUS
 (53 FR 27452-7)
 PARTIAL STAY EXTENDED ON ASBESTOS STANDARD
 (53 FR 27345-6)
9. September: August FR
 DEADLINE FOR SCHOOL ASBESTOS PLAN DEFERRED
 (53 FR 29210-3)
 FURTHER MCS INFO
 (53 FR 29822-29856)
 RULES FOR PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER PUBLISHED
 (53 FR 30566-30602, 30603-30619)
 NEW PROPOSED DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS
 (53 FR 31516-31578)
 TESTS OF LEAD PAINT REMOVAL METHODS PLANNED
 (53 FR 32701-2)
 TWO RED DYES APPROVED FOR DRUGS AND COSMETICS
 (53 FR 29024-32, 33110-21)
10. October: September FR
 FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD DEFERRED FOR MANY LABORATORIES
 (53 FR 33807-8)
 ASBESTOS STANDARD AMENDED
 (53 FR 35610-35629)
 MORE CHANGES IN ASBESTOS REGULATIONS ANTICIPATED
 editorial
 EPA PROPOSES TO STUDY PAINT CHEMICAL (MEXO)
 (53 FR 35838-35851)
 ACTS FACTS TO ADD CLIPPINGS
 notice
11. November: October FR
 FEDERAL ART HAZARDS BILL PASSES
 editorial
 OSHA HAZARDS COMMUNICATION STANDARD CHANGES
 (53 FR 38728-9)
 HAZARDOUS ELECTROPLATING CHEMICALS TO BE STUDIED
 (FR 53 41335-8)
 ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS PROTEST ACUTE ANIMAL TESTS
 (53 FR 39480-1)
12. December: November FR
 GREETINGS
 notice
 ART HAZARDS ACT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT
 editorial
 LAMN DARTS BANNED
 (53 FR 44828-44842)
 LABOR DEPARTMENT CHANGES HOME WORK RULES
 (53 FR 45608-45623, 45704-45727, 46330)

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ACTS REPRESENTED AT ASTM MEETING

editorial by Monona Rossol

On January 15 and 16, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Subcommittee D01.57, its task groups and official observers met in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Among those present were Joy Turner Luke, Chair of the Subcommittee, Chuck Jacobsen from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, representatives from the California and Illinois Health Departments, Dr. Woodhall Stopford toxicologist for the Art and Craft Materials Institute, several major paint and art materials manufacturers representatives, a graphic artist, and Monona Rossol representing ACTS.

Agenda items of particular interest to ACTS FACTS readers included:

1. modification of the ASTM labeling standard (D 4236 - 88) to more closely conform with the new federal art materials labeling law;
2. a progress report on the development of a method to determine the solubility of toxic substances in commercial products; and
3. a number of alterations of ASTM standards for art materials' physical properties, tinting strength, lightfastness, etc.

MODIFICATION OF D 4236

The new federal law amends the Federal Hazardous Substances Act by adding a section entitled "LABELING OF ART MATERIALS." This

section adopts and modifies ASTM D 4236. The subcommittee considered modifying D 4236 in turn to be more in line with the law's version. The items proposed for change included:

1. the definition of an art material;
2. a requirement that producers or repackagers include new hazard or precaution information on labels within 12 months from the date of discovery;
3. removal of label advice to call physicians for further information (leaving advice to call 24-hour manufacturrers hot lines or Poison Control Centers instead);
4. requirements that even small packages (less than one ounce) be either fully labeled or labeled with signal words plus advice to seek further information on a package insert; and
5. allowing the statement "not for use by children" to be used as an alternative to "keep out of reach by children."

Proposals 2 through 5 were passed and are to be sent to ASTM members throughout the country for a vote.

SOLUBILITY TEST INFORMATION REVIEWED

In order to be harmful by ingestion, toxic substances in art materials first must be solubilized and absorbed by the body. Reliable and economical solubility tests are needed to determine which toxic substances in art materials are likely to be absorbed.

Dr. Woodhall Stopford updated the committee on the status of his efforts to establish procedures for acid solubility tests. He discussed the problems encountered in designing tests which would be easier to do than tests such as the French Toy regulations tests, and yet provide reproducible results.

Once developed, results of these tests will be compared with animal feeding tests to see if the chemical solubility tests can accurately predict toxicity. Since animals employ digestive enzymes and other complex mechanisms in addition to acids to dissolve ingested materials, it may be that laboratory methods will not be suitable for all types of materials.

Until reliable tests are available, prudence dictates that toxic metals and other harmful substances present in certain art materials are assumed to be biologically available.

ASTM PAINT STANDARDS

A number of small changes in the quality standards for oils, acrylics, watercolors, and other art materials were introduced and discussed by various task groups. Of particular interest is work on lightfastness tests which one day may be suitable for use by individuals working at home or in their own studios. ACTS applauds any development which gives consumers first hand information about their materials.

ACTS TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER ASTM WORK

It became clear during the meetings, that consumer representation is greatly needed in ASTM. Toward this end, ACTS plans to pay for Monona's ASTM membership and to seek funds to meet travel expenses. The next meeting will be in San Francisco on May 19.

OSHA PUBLISHES FINAL RULE ON AIR CONTAMINANTS
(54 FR 2332-2983)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published its final rule on air contaminants in the workplace. The Proposed rule (published in June) differs somewhat from this final rule. Of most interest to artists are changes in the limits for wood dust, acetone and styrene.

WOOD DUST limits proposed by OSHA in June were the same as those adopted by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). These were an 8-hour Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL-TWA) of 5 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³) for soft wood dust, 1 mg/m³ PEL-TWA for hard wood dust, and a 15-minute short term limit (STEL) of 10 mg/m³ for soft wood dust. The new limits are a 5 mg/m³ PEL-TWA and a 10 mg/m³ STEL for both hard and soft wood with the exception of Western red cedar for which a PEL-TWA of 2.5 mg/m³ is being established.

As reasons for the changes, OSHA cites the difficulty in achieving the 1 mg/m³ dust levels in many wood shops and the lack of knowledge about the cancer potential of all types of hard wood dust. The stricter limit on Western red cedar dust is based on its well documented potential to cause allergies. OSHA also intends to monitor the literature on other potentially allergenic woods to identify others which may be placed in this category in the future.

ACETONE exposures in the earlier proposed rule were to be limited to 250 parts per million (ppm), while the later version relaxed the limits to 750 ppm with an STEL of 1000 ppm.

OSHA based its earlier assessment on human exposure studies which demonstrated irritation and other symptoms at lower levels. These studies were criticized in testimony given by representatives of Hoechst Celanese Corporation, the Ketones Program Panel of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association. No testimony on behalf of worker's was noted.

STYRENE limits remained unchanged at a PEL-TWA of 50 ppm and an STEL of 100 ppm. However, the rationale for the limits was changed from styrene's cancer-causing potential to its narcotic effects and toxicity to the central nervous system. Styrene shows limited evidence of carcinogenicity in animals (EPA category C). The human data is confounded by exposure to another substance which is a known carcinogen (butadiene).

IN GENERAL the final rule brings most of the new PELs in line with those of the ACGIH and/or NIOSH. This major update is the first since OSHA was established in 1970. It would be hoped that mechanisms for periodic review and updating of PELs would be developed rather than waiting another nineteen years for changes.

ATTAPULGITE REVISTED

In June 1988, ACTS FACTS sent subscribers a bulletin describing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) draft document on asbestos substitutes which was obtained through a Freedom of Information Request. The document contained health hazard assessments of fibrous glass, mineral wool, ceramic fibers, erionite, wollastonite, attapulgite, aramid, and other fibers.

Recently, ACTS has become aware that many conservators and potters are exposed to attapulgite. ACTS FACTS feels that the hazard assessment of this material should be presented in greater detail.

Note: Readers should keep in mind that this information is taken from a "final draft," which means the EPA does not want the document quoted or cited since they still may make some changes in it before publication.

ATTAPULGITE is a fibrous clay mineral first identified as a contaminate in a Fuller's Earth from Georgia. In the US, it is mined in Attapulgus, Georgia and the Quincy, Florida area. It also is mined in France, Spain, and the United Kingdom (where it is called palygorskite).

All attapulgite fibers are of respirable size, but some deposits contain long fibers (greater than 6 microns in length) which are suspected of causing asbestos-related diseases (lung cancer, mesothelioma, and fibrosis). Strong evidence from animal tests have prompted the author of the EPA document to classify them as "probable human carcinogens" whose hazards are comparable to chrysotile and crocidolite asbestos.

Shorter attapulgite fibers have not been well studied, however, they did not induce cancer in animal studies to date. On this basis, the author of the document considers it "not classifiable" and assumes the short fibers are considerably less hazardous than asbestos.

ADVICE FOR USERS OF ATTAPULGITE

1. Find out if the attapulgite you use contains long or short fibers. The US deposits are usually short fibered. However, samples should be examined to determine if fibers greater than 6 microns in length are present.
2. Discontinue the use of long fibered attapulgite if there is any possibility of exposure to workers or contamination of the work environment.
3. Substitute other clays for short fibered attapulgite if possible. It is very likely that short fibers are still capable of causing asbestos-related diseases at considerably reduced rates. Until there is evidence to the contrary, never use attapulgite-containing products with children.

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COURT UPHOLDS HAZCOM STANDARD

(54 FR 6886-7)

The US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit rejected construction and grain industry challenges to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), ruling that they were totally without merit.

As of March 17, 1989, OSHA will begin checking for construction industry compliance with the HCS. This means the HCS also will be in effect at sites where building restoration or large art conservation projects are being done. Enforcement is nationwide, either by the federal OSHA or by state OSHAs in those 25 states which have OSHA-approved plans.

There may be one more challenge at the Supreme Court in the future, but as of now, all provisions of the HCS are in force, including those relating to labeling, Material Safety Data Sheets, and employee training.

NTP PROPOSES MORE CHEMICALS FOR CANCER LISTS

(54 FR 8399-8400)

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) announced it intends to add 13 substances to its Sixth Annual Report on Carcinogens. Two of these, erionite and silica, are of specially interest to artists working with clay, stone, abrasives and various minerals.

ERIONITE is a non-asbestos fibrous mineral which has long been considered as hazardous as asbestos. NPT proposes to assign erionite to the "Known to be Carcinogenic" list. Although erionite is not commonly found in artists' materials, a precedent may be set for other non-asbestos fibrous clay and stone minerals such as wolastonite and attapulgite.

CRYSTALLINE SILICA has been linked in recent studies to lung cancer in exposed workers. Apparently NTP considers these and other studies sufficient to include silica in the "Reasonably Anticipated to be Carcinogens" category. This could mean government regulations regarding silica exposures will be tightened in the future.

BENZOTRIAZOLE HAZARDS UNKNOWN

(54 FR 8484-9)

Over the years, many conservators have inquired about the hazards of 1,2,3-benzotriazole. Although it is known to be moderately acutely toxic, it has been difficult to find reliable information about its long term hazards.

Now, tucked away in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule on inert pesticide ingredients, is an acknowledgement that the data on Benzotriazole is not sufficient to fully characterize the risks associated with its use as an "inert" ingredient in pesticides. For this reason, the EPA will continue to solicit data on benzotriazole. ACTS FACTS will watch for this data.

FREON RESTRICTIONS TIGHTEN

(54 FR 6376-79, 8371-2)

Two more relations on the importation and transferring of production allowances of Freon were published in February. These restrictions coupled with the action by the 12 European Community countries to eliminate production of freons by the end of the century are encouraging to ozone layer watchers.

ACTS encourages art and theater people to do their part by avoiding the freon-propelled aerosols products still available, finding substitutes for freon film cleaners, using gases other than freon for theatrical special effects, and so on.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Editorial

Recently, I have noticed that some manufacturers have found a new way to mislead consumers about the safety of their products. They lead consumers to infer that the products are safe because their ingredients are government-approved for food-related uses.

APPROVALS FOR USE IN FOOD PACKAGING

For example, one manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) states that a particular product contains a proprietary ingredient which is approved for use in food packaging. In my opinion, this manufacturer does this knowing that most people are unaware that many highly toxic chemicals are approved for this use.

The February 14th Federal Register contained a good example of this point (54 FR 6657-8). Two highly toxic organic tin compounds were approved for use as additives in plastics used in contact with food.

Organic tin compounds generally are very toxic. Some are used as pesticides. Last year, ACTS FACTS reported that the use of organic tin pesticides to inhibit barnacle growth in marine paints was banned after the paints were shown to be affecting oyster and shrimp harvests. These remarkable chemicals now are known to be chronically toxic to marine organisms at extremely low levels (.002 parts per billion).

Then how can such toxic materials be approved for food packaging?

A call to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revealed that they are satisfied (I'm not sure I am) that the recently approved organic tins are bound in the plastic so securely that they will not migrate into food or into leachate from dump sites containing food packaging.

However, a manufacturer using these organic tin compounds could legitimately tell consumers that they are approved for use in food packaging, leaving them to draw their own conclusions.

FDA-APPROVED FOR USE IN FOOD

In addition to approvals for food packaging, many toxic chemicals and pesticides are also approved for use in food itself at very low levels. As an example, on February 16 (54 FR 7783), the EPA

extended the comment period on sulfiting agents used as pesticides and preservatives in food. Until these comments are received and ruled upon, these sulfiting agents (which are responsible for many serious allergic reactions and several deaths) still are categorized as GRAS (generally recognized as safe).

Even substances which are indeed safe to eat may not be safe when the product exposes the consumer to them in other ways. For example, mineral oil when ingested acts as a laxative. When inhaled, however, it can cause lung problems including chemical pneumonia in high doses.

OTHER MISUSED TERMS

Many other chemical names can be used to mislead. For example, many dyes in the "Food Dye" class have been proven to be toxic or cancer-causing and are no longer allowed in food. These unapproved dyes still can be legitimately identified by names indicating their history as food, drug or cosmetic dyes. Examples of such unapproved dyes include: C.I. Food Green 4, FD & C Violet No.1, D & C Orange No.17, and many more.

Some manufacturers label their products' dyes and pigments with these food-use names to encourage consumers to assume the products are safe.

In addition, dyes and many other food additive chemicals which are FDA-approved for use in food, can be purchased grades which contain highly toxic impurities. These impure grades of chemicals cannot be used in food, but they may be used in other products. There is no way the consumer would be aware of the impure quality of the chemical by merely seeing its name.

A GENERAL RULE

To protect yourself from these deceptions, don't make assumptions about the toxicity of ingredients based on their food-related uses. And unless you intend to eat the product you are buying, a manufacturer's statements about its use in food should be considered irrelevant at best, and misleading at worst.

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THE WORKING CHILD

Editorial, M. Rossol

This month, the potential hazards of pesticide levels in apples and other fruit made news. While there are questions about the degree to which people are at risk from pesticides in food, one point raised during the debate especially merits further investigation. This is the fact that ADULT consumption of various foods is considered when acceptable levels for pesticides are set. Nevertheless, children are physiologically at higher risk from such exposures and actually may consume more of the foods in question.

The same kind of problem exists with the airborne toxic substance exposure levels set for the workplace. These levels are meant to protect adults, yet many workers, especially in the arts, are children.

Children are employed in many potentially hazardous jobs. The Department of Labor's Child Labor Advisory Committee has a Subcommittee on Hazardous Occupations which makes recommendations about the types of machinery and working conditions which should be allowed where children work. For example, they announced a meeting (54 FR 10059-60) to be held next month to discuss various types of bakery machinery.

However, a recent call to the Chief of the Branch of Child Labor Programs revealed that the Subcommittee has never regulated

airborne toxic chemical exposures. Nor has the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) considered working children when setting these standards.

Yet children can work in jobs where paint mists, dusts and other air-contaminants exist. Protecting children from these hazards is especially important today as the government relaxes homework rules and economic pressures cause more children to work.

PERFORMING CHILDREN

Children, even infants, have always been employed in film, television, and theater. And these children often are exposed to unusually air-contaminants such as chemical fogs, smokes and pyrotechnics. For example, infants and young children filmed in commercials may appear in a misty atmosphere which actually is created by organic chemical aerosols.

The chemicals used in some of these effects are known to be hazardous and there are OSHA exposure limits for them. Some of the other chemicals have no OSHA limits because their hazards by inhalation are essentially unknown.

Exposure to special effects chemicals is unique to performers. In all other types of work, airborne pollutants are incidental, unwanted byproducts of an activity which can be controlled by ventilation or by respiratory protection. Performers, on the other hand, have the only jobs in the world which may "require" chemical exposure. And the amount to which the performer is exposed usually is controlled by a director who decides when the airborne chemicals are concentrated enough to produce the desired visual effect.

Child performers may be at even further risk from these chemicals if they must sing, dance or do other activities which cause them to increase their breathing rate.

Last August, ACTS wrote OSHA about this problem. In his answer, Assistant Secretary John A. Pendergrass wrote: It may be possible, even though no exposure limits exist specifically to protect children, to use section 5 (a)(1) of the OSH Act to require employers to provide additional protection to children." This section is the General Duty clause which reads: "Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees."

Here again, this clause is designed to protect adults. When children are involved, protection from death or serious physical

harm is not nearly good enough. Children should be protected from even minor damage or from exposure to chemicals whose hazards are unresearched or unknown.

PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN

Obviously, existing laws are not designed to protect working children. To repair this hole in the fabric of our safety and health regulations will require coordinated efforts by everyone involved: the unions to which performers and other types of working children belong, the children's parents or guardians, government agencies, employers and producers, and more.

Clearly, common sense dictates to us all that no economic benefit or artistic vision should be considered sufficient reason to risk the health and welfare of children.

PRESIDENT SIGNS ACTORS' FUND PROCLAMATION (54 FR 12869)

On March 24, President Bush signed a proclamation presented by congress designating April 1989 to be "Actors' Fund of America Appreciation Month, 1989." President Bush commended the Fund's more than 100 year history of aiding bona fide professionals who work in motion pictures, radio, TV, ballet, opera, variety, circus, or the legitimate stage. The Fund's services range from financial assistance and career counseling to home nursing care.

ACTS wishes that the President also would have mentioned how the AIDS crisis, budget cuts and other financial problems have left the Fund in serious financial difficulty.

CONTACT LENSES PERMITTED WITH SCBA GEAR

OSHA announced that it will change its policy regarding enforcement of violations of the ban on contact lens use with full face respirators. The change was precipitated by a study of firefighters which OSHA commissioned. Researchers studying questionnaires and interviews with the firefighters concluded that wearers of corrective lenses should have the option of wearing either glasses or contacts with their full facepiece respirators.

Temporarily, OSHA will continue to document and record violations of the respirator standard involving the use of contact lenses, but will not issue citations for the violations. They will also continue to collect evidence of the effects of

contact lens use with respirators, and to investigate the possible differences in the use of hard, soft and gas permeable lenses.

This change in policy does not affect the prohibition of contact lens use in situations requiring other protective equipment such as chemical splash or impact goggles. And ACTS does not recommend the use of contact lenses with half-face respirators.

NEW PESTICIDE MAY BE REGISTERED

(54 FR 12952-3)

Binab USA, Incorporated of Bridgeport Connecticut is attempting to register a pesticide with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which contains ingredients not included in any previously registered product. These ingredients are biologically active anti-fungal substances proposed to prevent decay of utility poles, fence posts and playground structures.

ACTS is especially interested in the use of this material on wooden playground structures. At present, ACTS recommends against using wood preservatives such as pentachlorophenol and arsenic-containing chemicals for this purpose. We will be watching for further information on this new product in hopes it may prove to be a safer alternative.

NEW LIST OF AIR-CONTAMINANTS AVAILABLE

(54 FR 12792-12868)

The update of OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) published on January 19, 1989 (See ACTS FACTS, Vol 3, No 1) has been difficult to use because of its lack of indexing. On March 28th, OSHA published an index and list of references. OSHA is making the index and the PELs document available to the public.

For your copys, contact your local OSHA office at: (202) 523-9667, OSHA Publications Office, Rm N-3101, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

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Anyone considering holding a conference on health and safety in the arts may want to check out this possible source of funding. ACTS will be happy to assist those wishing to apply.

13436

Federal Register

Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control, 255 East Paces Ferry Road NE., Room 300, Mailstop E-14, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 842-6575 or FTS 236-6575.

Please refer to Announcement Number 916 when requesting information and submitting any application on the Request for Assistance.

Dated: March 27, 1989.

Robert L. Foster,

Acting Director, Office of Program Support, Centers for Disease Control.

[FR Doc. 89-7747 Filed 3-31-89; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-18-M

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Thus, universities, colleges, research institutions, hospitals, public and private organizations, State and local health departments, and small, minority and/or woman-owned businesses are eligible for these grants.

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$150,000 will be available in Fiscal Year 1989 to fund approximately 15 awards. The awards will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 with the average award being approximately \$10,000. The award will be funded with a 12-month annual budget and project period. The funding estimate outlined above may vary and is subject to change. Continuation awards within the project period are made on the basis of satisfactory progress and availability of funds.

The following are examples of the most frequently encountered costs which may or may not be charged to the grant:

1. Grant funds may be used for direct cost expenditures: salaries, speaker fees, rental of necessary equipment, registration fees, transportation costs (not to exceed economical class fare) and travel of non-Federal employees.

2. Funds may not be used for the purchase of equipment, payments of honoraria, indirect costs, organizational dues, entertainment/personal expenses, cost of travel and payment of a full-time Federal employee or for per diem or expenses other than local mileage for local participants.

Purpose

The purpose of the conference support grants are to provide partial support for non-Federal conferences on disease prevention, health promotion and information/education projects.

Program Requirements

The programmatic areas of interest in which applications are being solicited by CDC for conferences are: (1) disease prevention; (2) chronic disease; (3) infectious disease; (4) environmental health; (5) occupational safety and health; (6) health education and promotion; (7) laboratory practices; and, (8) injury control.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Public health importance and significance of the conference. (20%)

2. Likelihood of accomplishing conference objectives as they relate to disease prevention and health promotion goals. (20%)

3. Capability of the proposed staff in relationship to the type conference. (15%)

4. Feasibility of the project in terms of operational plan. (15%)

5. Method of evaluating the results of the conference. (15%)

6. Adequacy of applicant's resources available for the project. (15%)

7. The appropriateness of the budget request. (Not Scored)

E.O. 12372 Review

Applications are not subject to review as governed by Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (45 CFR 100).

CFDA Number

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 13.283.

Application Submission and Deadline

The original and two copies of the application shall be submitted on Form PHS 5161-1 in accordance with the following schedule. The schedule also sets forth the *anticipated* award date:

Deadline Date

Application: June 1

Award Date: September 1

Applications must be submitted on or before the deadline date to: Mr. Henry S. Cassell III, Grants Management Officer, Grants Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control, 255 East Paces Ferry Road NE., Room 300, Mailstop E-14, Atlanta, Georgia 30305.

Deadlines: Applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either:

1. Received on or before the deadline date, or

2. Sent on or before the deadline date and received in time for submission to the independent review group. (Applicants should request a legibly-dated postmark or obtain a legibly-dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks shall be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Late Applications: Applications which do not meet the *Deadline* criteria, outlined in the paragraph immediately above, are considered late applications, will not be considered in the current competition, and will be returned to the applicant.

Where to Obtain Additional Information

A complete program description, information on application procedures and application package may be obtained from Ms. Donna M. Rushin, Grants Management Specialist, Grants

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* START *

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control

[Program Announcement 916]

Public Health Conference Support Grant Program; Availability of Funds for Fiscal Year 1989

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announces that grant applications are to be accepted for the Public Health Conference Support Grant Program.

Authority

This program is authorized under section 301 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241). Applicable regulations are set forth in 42 CFR 52, Grants for Research Projects.

ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

ACTS FACTS

May, 1989
Vol. 3, No. 5

APRIL FEDERAL REGISTER ITEMS

The Federal Register (FR) is a compilation of all the regulations and public notices issued by federal agencies. Published daily, this vast amount of printed matter often contains items which affect the health and safety of artists, theater or crafts people.

To make this information more accessible, short bulletins on FR items are compiled at the end of each month and published in the ACTS FACTS newsletter. These bulletins can be reprinted without cost provided that proper credits accompany the reprinted material and ACTS receives a subscription to your publication in exchange. Individuals also may subscribe for \$10.00 per year.

ACTS will answer written and telephone inquiries about the subjects covered in ACTS FACTS. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with written requests for information.

TALC COMPANY BACK IN COURT

April 20, talc producer, R. T. Vanderbilt Company asked a federal court of appeals to reopen litigation against the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for failure to act on its 1986 asbestos standard as it applies to tremolite and the other "non-asbestiform" minerals which may be present in their products.

Vanderbilt claims that concern about possible regulation of their products as asbestos has lost them many customers and caused the company to become the defendant in over 2000 personal injury cases.

(One of these suits of which ACTS is aware was filed by ceramics dealer. The dealer's doctors have found his lungs to be impaired by both silicosis and asbestosis. The dealer claims that his condition was caused by years of exposure to Vanderbilt talc while casting greenware.)

Vanderbilt's attorney, Dennis M. Race, stated that he initiated the action against OSHA because he saw no reason to expect any action by them in the near future. This statement is confusing to ACTS because last year (see ACTS FACTS, October, 1988), an OSHA official wrote to Vanderbilt of its intention to act when the stay on the standard runs out in July. And in point of fact, 4 days after Vanderbilt went to court, OSHA included the asbestos standard in its regulatory agenda* (April 24, 1989--54 FR 16868). The agenda calls for a proposed rulemaking this August.

Lets hope that the matter will indeed be taken up in August. The sooner the better, since the history of this dispute indicates it will be a long and bloody battle.

* The agenda, published twice a year lists standards expected to be proposed or promulgated over the coming year. Other actions on OSHA's agenda include proposed rules for the glycol ethers, methylene chloride, and further coordination of the Hazard Communication Standard and Formaldehyde Standard with recommendations from the Office of Management and Budget.

NEW NIOSH HEALTH GUIDELINES AVAILABLE

Guidelines for working safely with 65 hazardous chemicals are now available from NIOSH (National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health). The new two volume publication supplements the 1981 NIOSH document: NIOSH/OSHA Occupational Health Guidelines for Chemical Hazards."

The six-page guidelines provide information on each chemical's hazards and the precautions needed to work safely with the substances. Some of NIOSH's recommendations differ from OSHA's. In particular, NIOSH recommends stricter (lower) airborne limits (Recommended Exposure Limits [RELs]) for a number of the chemicals. Some of these chemicals are of special interest to artists such as acetone, formaldehyde, asbestos, ethylene oxide, hydroquinone (a photo developing chemical), arsenic, and trichloroethylene. In the case of lead, RELs higher than OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limit (PELs) are recommended.

Both the 1981 publication and the supplements are free. People wishing to add these materials to their libraries should contact NIOSH Publications, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45242; 513/533-8287. Ask for the supplements by their NIOSH Publications numbers: No. 88-118, Supplement I-OHG and No. 89-104, Supplement II-OHG.

REMEDIES FOR LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER

(54 FR 14316-18, 14319-14322)

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has published a guidance document to assist schools in determining the source and amount of lead contamination in school drinking water and to aid them in remedying such contamination. Some of the subjects covered include: The Safe Drinking Water Act, How Lead Gets into Your Water, Getting Your School's Water Tested, What Your Answers Mean, Interim Steps you Can take, Flushing, Sampling, a Glossary of Terms and much more.

The EPA also published a list of drinking water coolers that are not lead free to aid schools in eliminating this source of lead.

The EPA urges school officials to secure a copy of the booklet and the list of lead-containing water coolers by writing to their appropriate State agency. ACTS also encourages administrators or teachers in art schools, studios, museums and any other public institution with drinking water facilities to obtain these materials.

Individuals can obtain copies of the booklet by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Request "Lead in School Drinking Water," GPO Stock Number 055-000-00281-9. Each copy costs \$3.25. Send a check or money order.

ALUMINUM OXIDE REMOVED FROM SARA LIST

54 FR 16376-16380

The EPA continues to refine the list of toxic chemicals under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (also known as section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA, Title III)).

This month non-fibrous aluminum oxide was removed from the list. The announcement included an interesting toxicological summary which concluded that the substance is not acutely toxic, is chronically only weakly fibrogenic (able to cause lung scarring), and that there is no information about its developmental and reproductive hazards.

In addition, the EPA summary concluded that no clear evidence was found relating aluminum oxide to Alzheimer's disease and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and ALS-parkinsonism dementia.

For these reasons, non-fibrous aluminum oxide was removed from the SARA title III list which means that spills and disposal of large amounts of this substance will not have to be reported to the EPA. This is good news for artists who use aluminum oxide for abrasives, glaze, clay and glass ingredients, kiln wash, and the like.

However, the fibrous form of aluminum oxide was not removed from the list. Manufactured under the name Saffil, it has been studied in animals and is considered a "cancer concern" by the EPA. The EPA noted that the manufacturer's MSDS, however, does not properly reflect this concern. Instead, the MSDS reassures customers with negative data from a single, incorrectly-done animal study. The MSDS does not report other proper studies which demonstrate Saffil's carcinogenicity.

TDI ADDED TO SARA LIST (54 FR 16138-16142)

This month the EPA also added 10 new substances to the SARA Title III list (see article above). One of the substances is toluenediisocyanate (TDI) and all of its isomers. TDI is used in two-component polyurethane resin materials used by some sculptors, scene and propmakers, museum preparators, and other artists.

ACTS counsels artists not to use TDI-containing products because of their extreme toxicity. There are also no air-purifying respirators approved for TDI and ordinary precautions are not sufficient in most cases to prevent significant exposures.

SOURCES FOR FEDERAL REGISTER (54 FR 15608-15619)

The Office of the Federal Register published a list of libraries where the Register is available for examination without charge. Readers who wish to know their nearest local source for the Federal Register may contact ACTS.

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ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

ACTS FACTS

June, 1989
Vol. 3, No. 6

ACTS FACTS SOURCES

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Other sources for ACTS FACTS include the Bureau of National Affairs' Occupational Safety and Health Reporter, The Centers for Disease Control's Weekly Mortality and Morbidity Report and many other technical sources.

To make this information more accessible, summaries of relevant items are compiled and sent out each month. ACTS answers written and telephone requests for further information about the subjects covered in ACTS FACTS. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with requests for specific information.

ACTS REPRESENTED AT MAY ASTM MEETING

Monona Rossol represented ACTS at a May 18 American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) Subcommittee Meeting D01.57 which considered revisions of standard D 4236--Standard Practice for Labeling Art Materials for Chronic Health Hazards.

The committee continued working to make the current ASTM version of D 4236 consistent with the federal art materials labeling law. A number of members' suggestions were formally received and addressed. However, it was clear that further meetings will be needed to finish the work. The committee also decided to solicit a written opinion from the Consumer Product Safety Commission to clarify one issue.

EPA PROPOSES TO DELIST PHTHALO PIGMENTS (54 FR 20866-69)

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) is proposing to grant a petition from the Dry Color Manufacturer's Association to exempt three pigments from reporting requirements under the category "copper compounds" from the list of toxic waste chemicals (section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act [SARA, Title III]).

The Color Index names of the three pigments are Pigment Blue 15 (PB-15), Pigment Green 7 (PB-7) and Pigment Green 36 (PG-36). These are known by artists as phthalocyanine (thalo) pigments.

Specifically, PB-15 is thalo blue, PG-7 is thalo green, and PG-36 is a mixture of thalo pigments. (The use of Color Index PG-36 may confuse some artists because PG-36 also may be used to designate a mixture of gamboge and Prussian blue.)

ACTS finds it interesting that nowhere in the proposed rule did EPA mention that these pigments are commonly contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). PCBs are extremely persistent and damaging to the environment. The EPA regulates the amounts of inadvertently manufactured PCBs in products such as pigments under another rule (40 CFR Part 761).

Animal tests were cited to support the proposed rule to delist the thalo pigments from SARA Title III. The acute toxicity studies (two week studies) showed the pigments were only slightly toxic. A sub-chronic study (13-week) showed significant elevations of copper in the the liver and kidneys leading the EPA to conclude that the chronic toxicity of the thalo pigments would be directly related to the amount of residual free copper impurities in the pigments.

However, the EPA notes that studies of the thalo pigment's long-term effects including cancer, reproductive or developmental problems, and gene mutation were not available. Yet these are precisely the studies PCBs would be expected to affect.

Because of this incomplete data and the likelihood of contamination of the pigments, ACTS will shortly submit negative comments to the EPA regarding this proposed rule. Our comments will include:

- 1) documentation of previous EPA actions against pigment manufacturers and importers of highly PCB-contaminated pigments;
- 2) a request that the Dry Color Manufacturer's Association be required to provide documentation of the degree to which the industry currently controls both inadvertent copper and PCB contamination during manufacture; and
- 3) a request that the EPA solicit information from appropriate government agencies and importers about the efficacy of procedures to keep contaminated pigments out of the country.

These last two requests for information are needed to determine the extent to which contaminated pigments may be on the market. This information is especially crucial to art-related businesses such as art materials manufacturers, importers, distributors, and companies using pigment-containing products such as paints and inks. These small companies often are unaware

of the pigments' hazards and/or are unable to properly assess the degree of contamination of the materials they purchase.

If contaminated pigments are not on the market, then these companies can dispose of thalo-containing wastes by ordinary means without risking exorbitant costs or fines. Until pigment manufacturers and the government can provide this assurance, releases and disposal of thalo pigments should be restricted.

OSHA PROPOSES STRICT LIMIT ON PLASTIC CHEMICAL (54 FR 20672-20744)

OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) is proposing a special standard for methylenedianiline (MDA). MDA is found in many plastics and is associated with cancer, liver damage and other health effects. It is so toxic that OSHA's standard proposes an eight hour exposure limit of only 10 parts per billion (ppb). (Most such limits are in parts per million.)

Artists should watch for MDA in products such as polyurethane foam components, epoxy resin hardeners, plastic coatings and sealers, foundry core binders, and other plastic products. It is also used in making many pigments and dyes and may contaminate these products. Products containing MDA are too toxic for use by most artists. And if the proposed standard is effected, it would require those using such products to do expensive air testing, write emergency action plans, and much more.

HEATED PLASTIC ALLEGED TO CAUSE ASTHMA

It has long been known that hot wire cutting of plastic film can emit airborne substances which cause a lung disease often referred to as "meat wrapper's asthma." Now an Idaho appeals court has accepted expert testimony from a physician, an industrial hygienist and a professor that a similar disease may be related to another processes during which plastic wrap is heated only to the boiling point of water.

The plastic manufacturer, Cryovac, challenged the experts on the basis that the lower temperatures of this process do not emit the same substances as wire cutting, and that the plaintiff's asthma could not be traced to a particular component in the plastic emission. However, witness Jiri E. Kresta, a research professor with more than 20 years experience in chemical technology, analyzed substances emitted from the plastic wrap at lower temperatures. One component, a plasticizer called diphenyl octyl phosphate, is acknowledged by its manufacturer to cause irritation.

The appeals court accepted the expert's opinions and held further that it was not fatal to the plaintiff's case that his disease could not be traced to a specific chemical. The case was remanded for further proceedings. (Earl v. Cryovac, A division of W.R. Grace Co, Idaho CtApp, No. 16982. 4/5/89)

LEAD POISONING STILL HAPPENING IN INDUSTRY

The Centers for Disease Control's May 19 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report carried an item on lead poisoning cases associated with a small Colorado manufacturer of lead belt buckles and other lead products.

The cases came to light when one of the employees was hospitalized for stomach problems which were first misdiagnosed as an ulcer. When lead toxicity was found to be the cause, the man's family also was tested to see if they were exposed to lead brought home from work on shoes and clothing. All three of the man's children were subsequently treated with chelation therapy for high lead levels and are expected to remain at risk for persistent neurological and behavioral problems.

The poisonings occurred because the small company where this man and 12 other employees worked did not follow the provisions of the OSHA Lead Standard. This standard requires air sampling, medical monitoring and many other precautions. Small companies often fail to meet these requirements.

Some large companies also violate the lead standard. OSHA recently proposed \$ 1.9 million in penalties against the Zinc Corporation of America for health and safety violations at their Palmerton, PA plant. The citation included 295 instances of alleged willful violations of the OSHA lead standard.

Until all companies that use lead or lead-containing materials comply with the lead standard, we will continue to see workers and their families harmed.

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ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

ACTS FACTS

July 1989
Vol. 3, No. 7

ACTS FACTS SOURCES

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ASPHALT A HAZARD?

(BNA:Vol.19 No.1, p.14-15 & No.3, p.124)

Recently a number of teachers called ACTS to inquire about the hazards of asphalt fumes sucked into their classroom ventilation systems during roofing operations. In some cases, the teachers were told by administrators that these fumes were not hazardous.

Actually, the hazards of asphalt fumes are not known. Some studies indicate that they may cause cancer. For instance, a recent study by the National Cancer Institute and the Missouri Cancer Registry published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine (Vol. 15, No. 5, 1989) noted an excess of one particular type of lung cancer among roofers.

Currently, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is conducting two studies of asphalt fumes which are scheduled to be completed this year. In one study, NIOSH is assessing asphalt's cancer-causing potential. In the other, they are determining the chemical makeup of roofing asphalt fumes.

Until this kind of data is available, prudence dictates that schools should block access to their ventilation air supply ducts during roofing, or allow roofing only when classes are not in session.

ALAR TO BE BANNED
(54 FR 22558-22573)

On May 24, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a draft of its intent to cancel registration for many uses of the pesticide diaminozide, better known as ALAR.

Although ACTS FACTS does not cover food hazards, the ALAR story illustrates how quickly government responds once public pressure is focused. The government would also act more rapidly on artist and consumer hazards issues if we organized our efforts more.

STANDARDS CHANGE FOR SOME PIGMENTS, GRAPHITES AND SILICAS

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) is changing some of the standards it has set for airborne chemicals in the workplace. Some of these changes are of interest to artists.

Two pigments are among substances for which new TLVs (Threshold Limit Values) have been set. They are: strontium chromate (also known as Pigment Yellow 32, lemon yellow, strontium yellow, and ultramarine yellow) and calcium chromate (also known as Pigment Yellow 33). They have been assigned eight hour TLV's of 0.001 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³). Comparing this level with the 10 mg/m³ set for nuisance dust indicates that the ACGIH considers these pigment to be extremely toxic.

Graphite TLVs also have been changed. Synthetic graphite was previously considered a nuisance dust, while natural graphite (usually containing some silica) was considered more toxic (2.5 mg/m³). Now TLVs for both forms of graphite are set at 2 mg/m³.

Also of interest, is the inclusion of a 0.2 mg/m³ TLV for silica fume. This TLV is to be applied to silica fume created during silicon chip manufacture, and possibly other processes in which silica-containing metal alloys are heated or welded.

The TLV for silica fume is not meant to be applied to commercially manufactured amorphous (non-crystalline) fumed silicas such as Aerosil. These silicas are considered safer substitutes for crystalline silica and can be treated as nuisance dusts. Other safer silicas include uncalcined diatomaceous earth, precipitated silica, and silica gel (sodium silicate).

REHAB CENTERS EXPOSE RETARDED AND HANDICAPPED TO TOXICS

At the American Industrial Hygiene Association Conference in St. Louis on May 22, Larry D. Johnson, an industrial hygienist with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services discussed surveys of 99 rehabilitation facilities done by his department between 1976 and 1987.

According to Johnson, the retarded and disabled commonly participate in a wide range of activities in these facilities including woodworking, machining, assembling, painting and welding. The hazards of these activities include solvents, dust, noise, repetitive motion, and lifting.

In addition, activities in some rehab facilities are classified as hazardous by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Included are manufacturing operations, scrap and waste materials reclamation, dry cleaning, and furniture stripping.

Johnson noted that many facilities have inadequate ventilation, lack proper protective equipment, and provide little or no hazard training. In many cases, workers' exposures to toxic chemicals were found to be several times the limits set by OSHA.

Johnson posed a number of questions must be answered before proper health and safety programs can be instituted for retarded and dissabled workers:.

- * How can training be made effective among rehabilitation workers?
- * How should potential interactions between prescription drug medications and chemical exposures be addressed?
- * How should the effectiveness of personal protective devices such as respirators be judged?
- * How can the effects of exposure to neurotoxins be measured among workers who already are neurologically impaired?
- * How can informed consent for working under hazardous conditions be determined among these workers?

EDITOR'S NOTE: I have long been interested in the special problems of teaching art to high risk individuals such as the retarded and handicapped. Readers interested in obtaining copies of articles I wrote on this subject in 1981 & 2 and some more recent material may send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Refer to this ACTS FACTS article, please.

FABRIC STORE WORKERS EXPOSED TO FORMALDEHYDE

A study of formaldehyde levels in fabric stores in Houston, Texas was presented at the American Conference of Industrial Hygienists Conference on May 22 by Matthew T. McGuire. At the time of the survey, McGuire was employed by Houston's Bureau of Occupational Health. The study attempted to determine the extent to which formaldehyde from permanent press and wrinkle resistant fabric treatments was off-gassing into store environments.

Thirty three independent fabric stores and forty four chain stores were surveyed. The city bureau found that the larger stores (usually representing 5,000 to 6,000 square feet of space) had higher levels of formaldehyde. The cooler stores also had higher levels of formaldehyde due to the greater use of air-conditioning to recirculate the contamination.

The average level of formaldehyde in the stores was 0.14 parts per million (ppm). McGuire noted that at between 0.15 and 0.2, workers sensitive to formaldehyde begin to have symptoms such as burning eyes and itching hands.

OSHA PROPOSES MORE USES FOR RESPIRATORS

(54 FR 23991-8)

OSHA proposes to allow respirators as acceptable substitutes for engineering controls under a five circumstances:

1. During the time necessary to install feasible engineering controls (e.g. ventilation).
2. Where feasible engineering controls result in only a negligible reduction in exposure.
3. During emergencies, life saving, recovery operations, repair, shutdowns, and field situations where there is a lack of utilities for implementing engineering controls.
4. Operations requiring added protection where there is a failure of normal controls.
5. Entries into unknown atmospheres (e.g. vessel entry and tank cleaning).

OSHA is soliciting comments on this proposed rule until October 3, 1989.

SMOKING LINKED TO VIBRATION SYNDROME

A recent study in the Journal of Occupational Medicine indicates that smoking aggravates the symptoms of vibration white fingers syndrome (VWFS). Also known as Raynaud's Syndrome, this disease affects users of vibrating tools causing restriction of blood vessels to the fingers and hands. Its symptoms range from pain and blanching of the fingers to ulceration and gangreen in advanced cases. It now appears that a significantly greater proportion of advanced cases of VWFS are among smokers.

LEAD AND CADMIUM IN CITY DUMPS

(54 FR 25166-7)

The EPA has a report available on the sources of lead and cadmium in municipal waste. The majority of both metals are from lead-acid and nickle-cadmium batteries. However, plastics and pigments are also significant contributors. Cadmium is used as a stabilizer in vinyl resins and both metals are used in pigments found in resins, paints and other products.

The presence of significant amounts of lead and cadmium in municipal waste will complicate its disposal. It is likely that the EPA will consider incentives to reduce lead and cadmium use.

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ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

ACTS FACTS

August, 1989
Vol. 3, No. 8

ACTS FACTS SOURCES

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PROPOSED RULE ON TALC CONTAMINENTS DUE SOON

(54 FR 30704-5)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) again postponed application of the asbestos standard to the three non-fibrous mineral forms of tremolite, anthophyllite and actinolite. These mineral occur in a number of art materials including most ceramic talcs, many sculpture stones (steatite, soap stones, etc.), some French chalks, American vermiculite, and some clays.

OSHA announced that it stayed the standard in order to draft a proposed rulemaking for public comment. This proposed rule is scheduled for publication by October 1989. The final rule is now due November 30, 1990.

The three asbestos minerals occur naturally in two major forms: fibrous (asbestiform) and non-fibrous (non-asbestiform). The fibrous forms are already regulated as asbestos. However, debate about the hazards of the non-fibrous forms continues.

Summaries of research and estimates of risk are always included in proposed rules. If OSHA meets its own deadline in two months, artists and other consumers finally will have data from government sources to compare with suppliers claims of product safety. Watch ACTS FACTS for further developments.

ASBESTOS AND ITS SUBSTITUTES

(54 FR 29460-29513)

July 6, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to phase out and ban nearly all major uses of asbestos in manufacturing over the next seven years.

The US currently uses about 85,000 metric tons of asbestos in automobile brakes and gaskets, in asbestos-cement pipes, roofing, shingles, coatings and other products. By 1997, commercial distribution of such asbestos products will be banned except for a small number of items which constitute about 6 percent of asbestos use. These include acetylene cylinders, battery separators, high grade electrical paper, sealant tape, thread and packings and certain diaphragms and gaskets.

The manufacture and importation of the affected products will be phased out in three stages. Each of these stages will be followed by a ban on distribution of the phased-out products a year or two later.

For example, in 1990, manufacturing of asbestos clothing (e.g. gloves), vinyl/asbestos floor tile, flooring and roofing felts, pipeline wrap, and asbestos/cement sheets must cease. By August 25, 1992, distribution of any such products made before the 1990 deadline must also cease.

Two similar stages occur in 1993 and 1996. For this reason, consumers should not assume all products on the general market are asbestos-free until after August 25, 1997.

ASBESTOS SUBSTITUTES

Of special interest to artists in the new asbestos rule is a section on asbestos substitutes. The EPA made it clear that all the risks of the substitutes have not been determined. From the available data, EPA concluded that:

- 1) Some substitutes pose little or no health risk such as non-fibrous products made of cellulose, cement, and refractory brick.
- 2) Available data seem to indicate that the fibrous substitutes are less biologically active than asbestos—that is, are not as potent as asbestos in causing cancer and other pathologies.
- 3) A large percentage of the fibers in manufactured substitutes currently in production are non-respirable (too large to be inhaled deeply into the lungs).
- 4) The diameters of the manufactured substitutes can be controlled to eliminate thin respirable fibers thus providing better substitute products.

In practical terms, this means that artists purchasing heat-resistant materials such as insulation for kilns and furnaces should first try to use non-fibrous products such as refractory bricks.

If manufactured fibrous products are to be used, be aware that thin, respirable fibers of these materials are generally considered a cancer hazard. In order to choose products free of the thin fibers, require suppliers to furnish data on their product's fiber size. Respirable fibers are usually defined as those with actual diameters of less than about 3.5 microns or an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 microns. Suppliers should be asked to provide either actual or aerodynamic diameters for the range of the fibers in their product. (In some products, the fibers' diameter may vary considerably.)

CERAMIC GLAZE REGS MAY TIGHTEN (54 FR 23485-90)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to reduce the amount of leachable lead from food service pitchers to no more than 0.1 microgram/milliliter (ug/ml) of the standard test solution. The present action levels for large and small ceramic hollow ware, including pitchers, are 2.5 and 5.0 ug/ml respectively.

The FDA proposed the reduction in lead-release in response to recent studies showing adverse effects of lead on children at levels previously thought to be safe.

Pitchers were chosen for reregulation because liquids tend to be in contact with their surfaces for longer periods of time than in cups, plates, etc. However, the FDA states: "because the agency believes that reductions in lead for other types of ceramicware may also be appropriate, this notice is soliciting information on lead contamination limits for all other ceramic foodware."

The FDA also requested information on the "availability of alternative glazes and decorations that do not contain lead, their composition, and leachability of potentially toxic substances into food or appropriate test solutions from these glazes and decorations."

ACTS hopes this indicates that the FDA finally will investigate lead-free glazes and set limits for the leaching of other toxic metals such as barium, lithium, chrome, and manganese as well.

LEAD STANDARD UPDATE (54 FR 29142-29275)

The OSHA Lead Standard's 50 microgram/cubic meter (ug/m³) permissible exposure limit (PEL) now will apply to all workplaces where lead is used except non-ferrous foundries. For foundries, (including art foundries) OSHA requested more time to find an economically feasible way to reduce employee exposures. At this time, only prohibitively expensive methods are available.

The standard now is in effect for all other sites that use lead, its compounds or frits. Workplaces such as artists' classrooms, studios, workshops or businesses have been covered since 1978.

DIESEL EXHAUST REGULATION NEEDED

July 19, Teamsters labor officials, a medical school director, and former OSHA administrator, Eulia Bingham, all testified before a congressional panel for speedy regulation of exposure to diesel fumes.

All witnesses noted that the connection between cancer and diesel exhaust is well-documented. For example, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Current Intelligence Bulletin 50 (August, 1988), noted that both recent animal studies and epidemiologic evidence suggests an association between diesel engine emissions and cancer. NIOSH concluded that "the consistency of these toxicological and epidemiologic findings suggests that a...hazard exists in human exposure to diesel exhaust."

(EDITOR: I hope this data will be cited by an administrator or teacher the next time an architect submits designs for another school building with its air-intake at the loading dock.)

AUDIO VISUAL AIDS FOR ART SAFETY

The Ontario Crafts Council has produced a video which can be used in conjunction with your shop safety program. Called "The Split Second," it consists of a series of vignettes illustrating nine different workshop accidents. Each can be used as a point of discussion for training programs.

The material is suited to meet the Canadian Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System training requirements, but is also useful for US Hazard Communication and/or State Right-to-Know training. The discussion leader can use the video to point out differences in US regulations on machine guarding, use of single-strap dust masks which do not have NIOSH-approval, etc.

"The Split Second" video and training booklet costs \$ 71 Canadian or \$ 65 US. The Council also has an audio visual kit called "Health Hazards and the Visual Arts" consisting of slides or video tape, loose-leaf manual, two booklets, and two major reference books for \$ 180 Cdn. or \$ 145 US. Contact the Ontario Crafts Council, 35 McCaul St., Toronto, ONT M5T 1V7.

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SILICA FUME IS NOT FUMED SILICA

This week ACTS received several calls questioning information in another art-related publication which reported that "silica fume" is now considered highly hazardous. These artists were concerned about products they were using which are called "fumed silica."

Fumed silica is used as an extender and/or texturing agent for paint, plaster, and other materials, as a glaze and clay ingredient, for some art conservation laboratory processes, and a host of other purposes. Brand names of two common fumed silica products are Aerosil and Cabosil.

ACTS FACTS readers may remember that our July issue included information on the two types of silica in an article about changes in American Conference of Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) workplace air quality standards for several substances including silica fume (amorphous).

Before writing our article, we called the ACGIH. We were referred to Ron Ratney who is their expert on fumed silica. He sent us a draft copy of the documentation for the new standard which clearly states that silica fume is not the same material as the commercial product known as fumed silica. The stricter new ACGIH standard applies only to silica fume created in electrometallurgical processes such as silicon chip manufacture.

The draft also indicates that a separate standard for fumed silica will be proposed. Until then, employers may treat them as "nuisance dusts," allowing exposures of up to 10 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³) averaged over an eight hour day (TLV-TWA). Manufacturers of fumed silica also recommend their products be considered nuisance dusts. As would be expected, manufacturers' studies indicate that their products are safe.

BRUSH UP ON SILICA

A review of silica hazards will help put this data into context.

Silica or silicon dioxide (SiO₂) is one of the earth's most common minerals. When silica is bound in compounds or minerals it is usually not hazardous. However, inhaling unbound or "free" silica can cause a serious, untreatable lung-scarring disease called "silicosis." Recently, an elevated risk of lung cancer among people with silicosis also has been documented.

Free silica occurs in crystalline and amorphous forms:

CRYSTALLINE. The molecules of silicon dioxide are organized into various patterns. Among these are the following.

QUARTZ: common constituent of sand, flint, and other rocks.

CRISTOBALITE: formed by heating quartz. Created during firing, calcining or during geological heat conversion. This form is roughly twice as toxic as quartz.

TRIDYMITE: has the same origins and hazards as cristobalite.

AMORPHOUS OR NON-CRYSTALLINE SILICA. The arrangement of silicon dioxide molecules is random and unorganized. Hazards vary.

TABLE 1. CURRENT ACGIH STANDARDS

TYPE OF SILICA	TLV-TWA (mg/m ³)*
Silica--amorphous	
diatomaceous earth (unfired)	10 total dust
precipitated silica**	10 " "
silica gel (sodium silicate)**	10 " "
silica fume (from mfg processes)	0.2 respirable dust***
fumed silica (Aerosil/Cabosil/etc.)	to be proposed
Silica--crystalline	
cristobalite	0.05 respirable dust***
quartz	0.1 " "
silica, fused**	0.1 " "
tridymite	0.05 " "
tripoli (often 98 % quartz)	0.1 respirable quartz

* Threshold Limit Value-time-weighted average (eight hour day) in milligrams/cubic meter.

** a synthetic product distinct from fumed silica.

*** just that portion of the dust which can be inhaled deeply into the lungs--as opposed to total dust.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING FUMED SILICA

The fact that amorphous silica created accidentally during manufacturing processes clearly was shown to be hazardous makes one consider that deliberately manufactured amorphous silica also may be hazardous. We hope that fumed silica products are safe, but will withhold judgement until the ACGIH sets a TLV for them.

Until then, keep exposure to fumed silica products as low as possible or use other forms of silica which the ACGIH currently considers nuisance dusts (those with TLVs of 10 in Table 1.)

1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE TO BE TESTED

(54 FR 34991-4)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it has signed an enforceable testing order with five manufacturers of 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCE, or methyl chloroform). The EPA expects manufacturers to test 1,1,1-TCE for its effect on nervous systems and its ability to cause gene mutation. If the gene tests are positive, cancer testing probably will be scheduled.

1,1,1-TCE belongs to a class of chemicals called "chlorinated hydrocarbons." These chemicals are commonly used in paint strippers, plastics adhesives, metal degreasers, lacquer thinners and many other products used by artists.

It is difficult to understand why 1,1,1-TCE has not been well studied, since almost all the chlorinated hydrocarbon solvents tested thus far have been shown to cause cancer. Most recently, a chlorinated hydrocarbon called methylene chloride was found to be a cancer agent. As a result, methylene chloride was banned from use in cosmetics (54 FR 27328-42) effective August 28, 1989. Other regulatory restrictions are expected to follow.

Chlorinated hydrocarbons also contribute varying amounts of ozone-damaging chlorine to the stratosphere. 1,1,1-TCE currently is being considered for regulation under the Montreal Protocol of Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (54 FR 15228).

Some manufacturers have taken advantage of the present unregulated status of 1,1,1-TCE by using it in many of their products. In some cases they knowingly made products more hazardous by replacing less toxic, regulated solvents with 1,1,1-TCE. It is sad that consumers must wait for government regulations to end this short-sighted, unethical practice.

3M MAKES PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO ACTS FACTS READERS

All employers whose workers use respirators are required by OSHA to establish a written respirator program. Writing these programs is easy if you have a good prototype to follow and modify. 3M Company developed just such a prototype called the "3M Administrative Respiratory Protection Program." 3M representative, John Callen, arranged for ACTS to distribute free copies of this publication. (see below).

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM ACTS

"3M Administrative Respiratory Protection Program," 3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety Div., 6 pages, free.

"ACTS," Monona Rossol, ALBA, National and International Contemporary Art from Scotland, No. 11, pp. 40-43, Spring, 1989. A general article on art hazards and introducing the services of Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety, Inc. Send \$ 1.00 for copy/postage costs.

"Art and Craft Materials Acceptable for Kindergarten and Grades 1-6," California Department of Health Services, June 1988, Updated List. 31 pages. Send \$ 3.00 for copy/postage costs.

"CERAMICS AND HEALTH," Monona Rossol, a compilation of articles from Ceramic Scope (1980-1982), plus 8 pp of updated material. 43 pp total. Send \$ 5.00 for copy, postage and handling costs.

STAGE FRIGHT: Health and Safety in the Theater, Monona Rossol, ACTS, 1987, 140 pages. \$ 9.95 plus \$ 2.00 postage and handling.

"Using Lead Painting Materials Safely," Monona Rossol, LEONARDO, Journal of the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 265-268, 1987. For professional painters. Send \$ 1.00 for copy/postage costs.

"Warning: Photography May Be Hazardous to Your Health," Susan Shaw & Monona Rossol, American Society of Magazine Photographers, Vol. 8, No. 6, June, 1989. Seven page article on photo darkroom hazards and rules for working safely. Send \$2.00 for copy/postage costs.

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MONONA ROSSOL

Monona Rossol entered the Ceramic National in 1964 from Madison, Wisconsin.

493 Monona Rossol

Vase, 1964

Stoneware

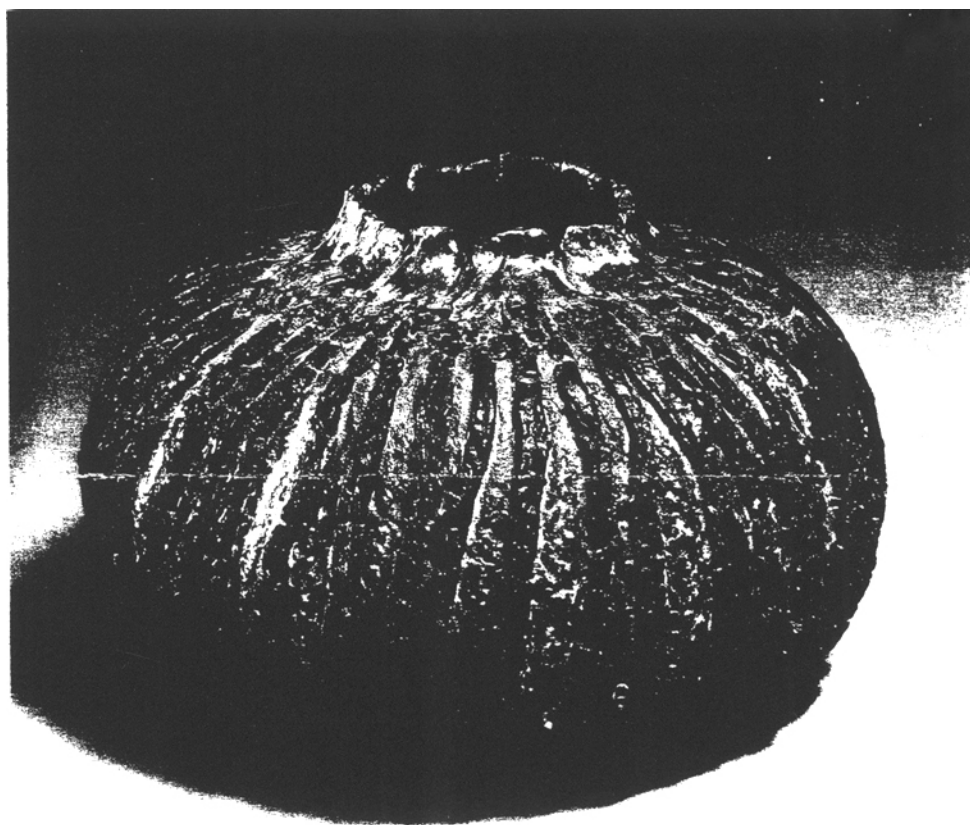
H. 7, Diam. 10½ in.

(17.5 × 26.3 cm.)

Marks: none

Purchase prize given by Association of San Francisco Potters, "23rd Ceramic National," 1964 P.C. 64.81

Hand-built stoneware vase with squat bulbous form. The neck flares to a torn mouth. The ribbed body is covered with black glaze; tan glaze is overall. Roughly organic in form, the piece resembles a squash.



493



494

JERRY ROTHMAN (b. 1933)

Jerry Rothman was born in Brooklyn, studied at Los Angeles City College and received an M.F.A. from Otis Art Institute in 1961. He participated in the Ceramic Nationals from 1962 through 1968.

Rothman was a part of the group that worked with Peter Voulkos at Otis Art Institute. He works in both vessel and sculptural forms, and has been involved both in studio work and commercial ceramics. The term "Bauhaus Baroque" has been associated with his work, for he combines the extravagantly decorative elements of Baroque art with the functional, adding a good measure of contemporary sensibility, creating vessels which are alternately regarded as witty, garish, monumental, and mannered. They are rich, sensual, fully formed and realized works.

494 Jerry Rothman

Not in Central Park #3, 1964

Stoneware

H. 27, W. 20, D. 16 in. (67.5 × 50 × 40 cm.)

Marks: none

Purchase prize given by A. D. Alpine Company, "23rd Ceramic National," 1964 P.C. 64.82

Organic, twisted stoneware sculpture on a high foot. "Trees meet the sky / birds fly / men cry / where's the sky / not in Central Park" is incised on the foot.

495 Jerry Rothman

Bicentennial Tureen, 1976

Stoneware

H. 15, W. 10¼ in.

(37.5 × 26.75 cm.)

Marks: none

Gift of Garth Clark P.C. 79.13.2a, b

Bulbous, wheel-thrown soup tureen with a high-domed cover. Modeled configurations on top and at the sides create handles. The piece is dark brown with a luster glaze.

Exhibitions: "13th Chunichi International Exhibition of Ceramic Arts," Nagoya, Japan, 1985

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COURT OK'S EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM LEAD BATTERY WORK

A US Court of Appeals for the Seventh District decided on September 26th that an employer's policy of excluding all female employees capable of bearing children from jobs at a battery plant involving substantial risk of lead exposures does not violate the Civil Rights Act. Instead, the company is protected from sex discrimination claims because the exclusion is part of their fetal protection policy.

A crucial point in the court's opinion was that advances in medical knowledge indicate that an unborn child may be adversely affected by lead exposures below those permitted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Blood lead concentrations of 40 micrograms per deciliter [40/dl] are considered acceptable for workers, while blood lead levels of 30 40/dl in pregnant women are associated with stillbirth, low birth weight, premature delivery, and adverse developmental effects.

The court also found that evidence of the risks to the fetus from the father's exposure to lead were "speculative" and "unconvincing." This implies that the OSHA Lead Standard provides adequate protection for men, but not for pregnant women.

MEKO: ANOTHER PAINT ADDITIVE TO BE STUDIED
(54 FR 37799-38710)

Most of us have never heard of MEKO (methyl ethyl ketoxime). Yet the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 900,000 professional (industrial) painters and over two million consumers may be exposed to it through use of oil-based and alkyd paints, household cleaning products, adhesives, caulking and repair products.

MEKO is used primarily as an anti-skinning agent in oil-based and alkyd paints. Although it is used in small amounts, preliminary animal tests of MEKO and of substances which are chemically related (a structural analogue and a metabolite) indicate that MEKO may present a serious risk to human health.

The EPA is requiring manufacturers of MEKO to test it for carcinogenicity, developmental and reproductive toxicity, neurotoxicity and other effects. Meanwhile, consumers would be wise to provide ventilation and wear gloves while painting.

EPA EXCLUDES SOME MINING WASTES FROM REGULATIONS
(54 FR 36592-36642)

On September 1, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published rules for excluding some types of mining wastes under certain conditions. Some of these mining wastes are used as abrasives, ceramic minerals, and other commodities.

The two processes during which mining waste commodities are produced are called 1) "ore beneficiation" which are processes such as crushing, grinding, washing, filtration, sintering, calcining, and roasting; and 2) "ore processing" which involves smelting, electrolytic refining and acid attack or digestion.

Products of beneficiation include many kinds of clay, diatomite, emery, feldspar, fluorospar, garnet, gilsonite, glauconite (greensand), gypsum, ilmenite, kyanite, limestone, magnesia, mica, olivine, perlite, potash, pumice, pyrophyllite, rutila, silica, soda ash, sodium sulfate, staurolite, talc, tripoli, vanadium, vermiculite, wollastonite, and zeolites. Ore processing commodities are primarily slags and slag tailings used for abrasive blasting.

These products may be contaminated with highly toxic metals in amounts significant enough to cause the waste to be classified as toxic waste by the EPA under certain conditions. This may also be the reason that a recent study showed copper smelter slags used as abrasives caused lung cancer in animals (Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, 25(1), 35-56, 1988).

Artists always should obtain Material Safety Data Sheets on these products and take precautions to avoid exposure to their dusts.

WHITE OUT WARNING LABEL DISPUTE

A coalition of California environmental groups filed a 60-day notice asking the state's Attorney General and other officials to enforce the cancer-warning labeling requirements of Proposition 65 against manufacturers, retailers and distributors of Liquid Paper correction fluid. California's Proposition 65 allows citizens to initiate enforcement actions if state and local law enforcement officials are given 60-days advance notice.

The Sierra Club and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) co-authored the notice. In it they contend that some kinds of Liquid Paper manufactured by Gillett Co., of Boston, Mass., contain trichloroethylene (TCE) and lead. TCE is one of over 250 chemicals considered carcinogens by the state under Proposition 65.

EDF chemist, Diane Fisher, estimated that a person working with Liquid Paper containing TCE for 30 minutes per day is exposed to the chemical at 30 times the level allowed for consumers under Proposition 65. On the other hand, Gillette's toxicologists estimated that user exposures were well below the industrial standard of 50 parts per million for the eight hour work day.

This apparently conflicting data illustrates Gillette's failure to understand that exposure levels acceptable for healthy adult industrial workers are not suitable for consumers of all ages and physical conditions working at home, in schools and similar environments.

Under Proposition 65, the White Out label must warn of TCE's carcinogenicity and of lead's reproductive hazards. However, a Gillette spokesperson stated that the company has no plans to change the labels. This could make them liable for fines up to \$ 2,500 per day per unit sold.

The types of Liquid Paper which contains TCE and lead are sold in black labeled bottles designated for use on white and colored bond papers. Gillette also makes a safer type of Liquid Paper which has a water and alcohol base. These can be identified by the phrase "just for copies" on the label.

THEATRICAL FOG ARTICLE

Theater Crafts magazine carried a long article on theatrical fog effects, listing 19 companies producing the materials and discussing some safety and health considerations. Contact Theater Crafts or ACTS if you need a copy for your files.

SYNTHETIC MINERAL FIBER LIMITS AROUND THE WORLD

In June, Australia's National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) published a technical report on Synthetic Mineral Fibres (SMF). ACTS FACTS is covering this report because so many artists are exposed to these materials and because our OSHA is not even working on setting limits.

After reviewing the literature, NOHSC recommend a 1 fiber per milliliter (fiber/ml or fiber/cc) for all types of respirable SMF. In addition, to protect against skin, eye and upper respiratory tract irritation principally from non-respirable fiber, they include a complimentary standard of 2 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³) inspirable fibrous dust.

The technical report also included a survey of other country's limits. Those of particular interest are below.

Country	Total dust (mg/m ³)	Respirable dust (mg/m ³)	Respirable fibers (fibers/cc)
Australia		2*	1*
Denmark	10		2**
Japan		3	
New Zealand		5	1
Norway	10		1**
Poland	4		2
Sweden	10	5	1
USA (ACGIH)***	10		
USSR	4		

* These are not enforced since the federal government can only make recommendations to the autonomous Australian states.

** Proposed levels.

*** Not an enforceable OSHA limit, but recommended by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists for nuisance dusts.

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TOXIC STATUS OF TWO CADMIUM PIGMENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED

(54 FR 42962-4)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denied a petition from SCM Chemicals, Inc., to remove cadmium sulfide (CdS) and cadmium selenide (CdSe) from the list of chemicals under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The denial was based on EPA's determination that these chemicals can be reasonably anticipated to cause cancer, other irreversible health effects and environmental damage.

SCM Chemical's claims that these substances are not toxic because of their low solubility and low bioavailability. Many art materials manufacturers have applied this same reasoning to cadmium yellow and red pigments which also contain CdS and CdSe.

However, the EPA notes that CdS is slightly soluble in water, and although CdSe was reported to be insoluble in water, no quantitative data was found. In addition, the very limited data on bioavailability (absorption in animals) indicates cause for concern. This may be because chemical solubility in water or in acid solutions may not precisely predict solubility in body fluids or in the environment.

Since cadmium is toxic at very low doses and may remain in the human body for years (may have a half life as long as 30 years), it would seem prudent for EPA to continue or increase controls on cadmium compounds.

PESTICIDES FOUND IN ART MATERIALS AND THEATRICAL FOGS
(54 FR 7740-50, 22706-14, 30846-55, 43388-96)

This headline is technically true, but deliberately unfair and inflammatory. ACTS FACTS uses this headline to illustrate how irrelevant information about chemicals can be used to mislead. The purpose is to explain how other kinds of irrelevant facts also are used in product promotions to mislead consumers to assume that the products are safe.

The headline takes advantage of the fact that readers may not know that some registered active pesticide ingredients are not very harmful to man. Although many pesticides, especially those on the "restricted use" list, are extremely toxic, there are some which are safe enough to be used in consumer products including art materials and theatrical fogs. Among these are the following.

<u>REGISTERED PESTICIDE INGREDIENTS ALSO USED IN</u>	
<u>ART MATERIALS</u>	<u>THEATRICAL FOGS & SMOKES</u>
acetone	butylene glycol (1,3 but- anediol)
Basic Green 4 (malachite green) and many other copper com- pounds used as colorants	carbon dioxide
limonene (used in Grumtine and other citrus brush cleaners)	ethylene glycol
linseed oil	glycerol (glycerin)
methyl ethyl ketone	some freons
pine oil	vegetable oils such as cotton seed, sesame, soybean.

A few of these same chemicals also are approved for use as food additives, in food packaging, in medicines, and other uses. Some manufacturers will include these food and medicine approvals in product literature. In doing so, they take advantage of the fact that many consumers are unaware that some food additives cause cancer, or that extremely toxic chemicals are allowed in food packaging if they do not migrate into food, or that many medicines can kill as well as cure. Examples of such substances include:

BUTYLENE GLYCOL kills germs and can be used to sterilize hospital air. Some theatrical fog manufacturers mention this fact hoping performers will assume that the product actually improves air quality. Performers might assume instead that they will be working in a cloud of hospital-strength disinfectant.

LIMONENE is a citrus rind oil and is Mother Nature's pesticide protection for fruit. It is often found in citrus food products and is a somewhat safer solvent than turpentine. However, it is toxic by ingestion and its pleasant citrus odor has encouraged children to drink it.

REFINED MINERAL OIL (baby oil) is soothing to the skin and will alleviate constipation if ingested. It is not an irritant, yet anyone who has gotten it in their eyes knows it can cause considerable pain. Presumably this effect is caused by its ability to change the surface tension of liquids. This effect also may explain why some singers and actors exposed to its mist experience eye and throat pain.

Actually, it is irrelevant whether a chemical is approved for use in food or in pesticides if the product is intended for other uses such as an art material or a special effect.

Fairness dictates that manufacturers should provide only relevant information on the hazards associated with the intended use of the product. And when there is no relevant data, consumers should be made aware that they are working with chemicals whose hazards are unknown. (For example, the long-term hazards most organic pigments and dyes, and many chemicals used in theatrical fogs are unknown.)

ACTS has on file the lists of all active pesticide ingredients registered to date (see Federal Register [FR] references below headline). In order to counter balance misleading claims about product safety, ACTS may choose to inform users of any product ingredients which also are registered for pesticide use.

PRESCHOOL NOISE DEAFENS TEACHERS

A delightful letter to the editor in the American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal (November 1989) documents a survey of a small staff of daycare workers' exposed to 60 preschool "noise generators." Short-term average sound pressure levels (86 dBA), octave band analysis, and equivalent sound pressure levels for the day (85.3-91.9 dBA for each of the 6 employees) all indicated the presence of ear-damaging noise levels.

This is not news to daycare workers and teachers.

Letter writer George W. Siebert, also made recommendations for reducing the noise. They included: installing industrial carpet, heavy drapes, vertically suspended acoustical panels and walls; providing quieter activities; and removing noise-producing toys such as wooden blocks.

Acts endorses these recommendations except for installation of industrial carpet which makes hygiene and clean-up procedures difficult. In addition, many industrial carpets off-gas formaldehyde and other pollutants.

BLADDER CANCER LINKED TO PAINTING, METAL WORKING, ETC.
(Bureau of Nat'l Affairs, Vol 19, p. 727 & p. 815)

A number of recent studies have linked bladder cancer to various occupations. Now a study in the October 4 edition of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 81, No. 19, again finds excess rates among painters, truck drivers, and drill press operators.

Painters may have been exposed to a number of carcinogens including benzidine pigments, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), formaldehyde, asbestos in paints, benzene, dioxane, and methylene chloride. The authors stress that it is important to identify the causative agent "because painting is not only a widespread vocation, but also a popular avocation."

The excess bladder cancer cases in truckdrivers were assumed to be associated with motor exhaust. Some excess was also found in taxicab and bus drivers. Drill press operators exposed to cutting and lubricating oil mists in the metal machining process also have excess risk from bladder cancer.

Bladder cancer also was the focus of a September 13-14 international symposium sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). According to NIOSH representative Lawrence J. Fine, saccharin may be the cause of the disease in metal machinists and assemblers. Saccharin is added to many lubricating fluids.

FACT SHEET ON FORMALDEHYDE AVAILABLE

A revised fact sheet entitled "OSHA's Final Rule on Occupational Exposure to Formaldehyde" (OSHA 89-27) is available by sending a self-addressed label to your nearest OSHA regional office or to OSHA Publications, Rm N3101, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

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ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

ACTS FACTS

December, 1989
Vol. 3, No. 12

ACTS FACTS SOURCES

The Federal Register (FR) is ACTS FACTS' major source of information. The FR is a compilation of all the regulations and public notices issued by federal agencies. Published daily, this vast amount of printed matter often contains items which affect the health and safety of artists, theater or crafts people.

Other sources for ACTS FACTS items include publications from the Bureau of National Affairs, The Centers for Disease Control, Hazchem Alert, and many other technical sources. To make this information more accessible, short bulletins on items are compiled at the end of each month.

ACTS answers written and telephone inquiries about the subjects covered in ACTS FACTS. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with a written request for specific information.

OSHA TO REGULATE COMPANIES WITH LESS THAN 10 WORKERS

(Bureau of National Affairs, Occupational Safety & Health Reporter, 11-22-89, pp. 1149-50)

A bill (HR 3566) funding the Department of Labor and other agencies was passed by the Senate (Nov. 16) and the House (Nov. 15). Contained in the authorization is language outlining six actions which the Occupational Health Administration (OSHA) now may take in workplaces which were exempt from regulations because they employ 10 or fewer workers and have an occupational lost workday case rate less than the national average for that industry. These six actions are:

1. Provide consultations, technical assistance, education and training services, and conduct surveys and studies.
2. Conduct an inspection or investigation in response to an employee complaint, issue citations and assess penalties for violations.
3. Take action with respect to imminent dangers.
4. Take action with respect to health hazards.
5. Take action with respect to a report of accidents that are fatal to one or more employee or that result in hospitalization of five or more employees.
6. Take action with respect to complaints of discrimination against employees for exercising rights under the act.

The authorization prohibits OSHA from expending money for enforcement of any other regulations. However, these six actions are a crucial change in policy and small operators should be encouraged to get their shops in order.

USERS OF SILICA FLOUR ASKED TO REPORT

(54 FR 43860)

A National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) investigation reveals that the producers of silica flour are at risk of acute silicosis and a shortened life expectancy. However, there is no data enabling NIOSH to identify significant numbers of specific users of silica flour in order to determine if they are at similar risk.

Silica flour is used by many potters and ceramicists who know it as 325 or 400 mesh silica or flint. Almost every university pottery department has the material in hundred pound lots and use it primarily to formulate glazes. Students and instructors may weigh and mix silica flour-containing glazes without proper ventilation or respiratory protection.

Silica flour is also used by thousands of workers in small hobby ceramic shops to make porcelain and low fire slip casting liquids. These workers also may not take proper precautions to prevent exposure to the dust. Consumers of slip cast green ware made in these shops usually sand them smooth in their own homes. In this way, the dust may affect children and other family members.

Some potters and ceramicists may want to respond to NIOSH's request and send information about their usage of silica flour. The data they need include the amounts you use, the frequency of use, the conditions under which it is used, and the number of people exposed to the material. ACTS will send a copy of this newsletter for NIOSH's files.

Our comments are due by December 26 and should be sent to: Dr. Richard W. Niemeier, Acting Director, Division of Standards Development and Technology Transfer, NIOSH, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

BULLETIN ON ETHYLENE OXIDE AVAILABLE

A NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) called "Ethylene Oxide Sterilizers in Health Care Facilities" contains some information on engineering controls and work practices which is applicable to museum personnel engaged in fumigation.

It can be obtained free of charge by requesting a copy of CIB 52 from Publications Dissemination, DSDTT, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45226; (513) 533-8287.

ASBESTOS-RELATED LUNG DISORDERS IN SCHOOL CUSTODIANS
(Bureau of National Affairs, Occupational Safety &
Health Reporter, 10-25-89, pp. 920-921)

A Massachusetts General Hospital Study has shown that Boston public school custodians who have worked more than 15 years have lung abnormalities related to asbestos exposure. The study of 120 custodians showed that 35 percent of them (42) have signs of fibrosis or scarring of the lung lining called pleural plaque. Only 1 or 2 per cent of the general public is expected to have such abnormalities.

Of special interest is a group of 60 the custodians who have no history of any other workplace exposure to asbestos. Of these, 14 show signs of pleural plaque, 10 have impairment of lung function, and 1 shows scarring of the lung tissue itself. This significant number of lung disorders makes it clear that Boston public school custodian's exposures are substantial.

A hospital spokesperson noted that while custodians are expected to have the highest level of exposure in schools, there is also concern about teachers. Teachers' exposures may be lower, but they tend to work in the same school for more years than custodians. The hospital now is seeking funding to study teachers.

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See Index of 1989 issues (Volume 3) on page 4.

INDEX TO ACTS FACTS, 1989

VOLUME 3, NUMBERS 1-12

Monona Rossol, Editor

No. 1 FOUR PROVISIONS OF THE FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD STAYED

CRYOLITE IN THE KIMIFRUIT

ARSENIC STUDY AVAILABLE

ANOTHER CHANGE PROPOSED FOR HOME WORK RULES

No. 2

ACTS REPRESENTED AT ASTM MEETING

MODIFICATION OF D 4236

SOLUBILITY TEST INFORMATION REVIEWED

ASTM PAINT STANDARDS

ACTS TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER ASTM WORK

OSHA PUBLISHES FINAL RULE ON AIR CONTAMINANTS

WOOD DUST

ACETONE

STYRENE

IN GENERAL

ATTAPULGITE REVISITED

No. 3

COURT UPHOLDS HAZCOM STANDARD

NTP PROPOSES MORE CHEMICALS FOR CANCER LISTS

BENZOTRIAZOLE HAZARDS UNKNOWN

FREON RESTRICTIONS TIGHTEN

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

APPROVALS FOR USE IN FOOD PACKAGING

FDA-APPROVED FOR USE IN FOOD

OTHER MISUSED TERMS

A GENERAL RULE

No. 4

THE WORKING CHILD

PERFORMING CHILDREN

PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN

PRESIDENT SIGNS ACTORS' FUND PROCLAMATION

CONTACT LENSES PERMITTED WITH SCBA GEAR

NEW PESTICIDE MAY BE REGISTERED

NEW LIST OF AIR-CONTAMINANTS AVAILABLE

No. 5

TALC COMPANY BACK IN COURT

NEW NIOSH HEALTH GUIDELINES AVAILABLE

REMEDIES FOR LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER

ALUMINUM OXIDE REMOVED FROM SARA LIST

TDI ADDED TO SARA LIST

SOURCES FOR FEDERAL REGISTER

No. 6

ACTS REPRESENTED AT MAY ASTM MEETING

EPA PROPOSES TO DELIST PHTHALO PIGMENTS

OSHA PROPOSES STRICT LIMIT ON PLASTIC CHEMICAL (MDA)

HEATED PLASTIC ALLEGED TO CAUSE ASTHMA

LEAD POISONING STILL HAPPENING IN INDUSTRY

No. 7

ASPHALT A HAZARD?

ALAR TO BE BANNED

STANDARDS CHANGE FOR SOME PIGMENTS, GRAPHITES AND SILICAS

REHAB CENTERS EXPOSE RETARDED AND HANDICAPPED TO TOXICS

FABRIC STORE WORKERS EXPOSED TO FORMALDEHYDE

OSHA PROPOSES MORE USES FOR RESPIRATORS

SMOKING LINKED TO VIBRATION SYNDROME

LEAD AND CADMIUM IN CITY DUMPS

No. 8

PROPOSED RULE ON TALC CONTAMENTS DUE SOON

ASBESTOS AND ITS SUBSTITUTES

CERAMIC GLAZE REGS MAY TIGHTEN

LEAD STANDARD UPDATE

DIESEL EXHAUST REGULATION NEEDED

AUDIO VISUAL AIDS FOR ART SAFETY

No. 9

SILICA FUME IS NOT FUMED SILICA

BRUSH UP ON SILICA

TABLE: CURRENT ACGIH STANDARDS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING FUMED SILICA

1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHYLENE TO BE STUDIED

3M MAKES PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO ACTS FACTS READERS

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM ACTS

No. 10

COURT OK'S EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM LEAD BATTERY WORK

MEKO: ANOTHER PAINT ADDITIVE TO BE STUDIED

EPA EXCLUDES SOME MINING WASTES FROM REGULATION

WHITE OUT WARNING LABEL DISPUTE

THEATRICAL FOG ARTICLE

SYNTHETIC MINERAL FIBER LIMITS AROUND THE WORLD

No. 11

TOXIC STATUS OF TWO CADMIUM PIGMENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED

PESTICIDES FOUND IN ART MATERIALS AND THEATRICAL FOGS

PRESCHOOL NOISE DEAFENS TEACHERS

BLADDER CANCER LINKED TO PAINTING, METALWORKING, ETC.

FACT SHEET ON FORMALDEHYDE AVAILABLE

No. 12

OSHA TO REGULATE COMPANIES WITH LESS THAN 10 WORKERS

USERS OF SILICA FLOUR ASKED TO REPORT

BULLETIN ON ETHYLENE OXIDE AVAILABLE

ASBESTOS-RELATED LUNG DISORDERS IN SCHOOL CUSTODIANS

INDEX TO VOLUME 3, 1989

ACTS

ARTS, CRAFTS AND THEATER SAFETY

Dear

December 1989

OH NO! Another New Year's letter. This one is to brag a bit about what ACTS and I accomplished in 1989.

I logged over 90 lectures and consults this year. Highlights included lectures for Opera America at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC., the Canadian Opera, the Canadian Stage Company and the National Ballet (Toronto), the Santa Fe Opera, the International Glass Art Society Conference, Glass Craft EXPO, the Surface Design Conference, York University (Toronto), Concordia University (Montreal), the Boston University Theater, Wayne State University (Nebraska), the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, the Mass. College of Art, the National Conference of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, the Branson Missouri Health Dept., the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, the Museum Council of New Jersey, the Newark Museum, the Miss. Historical Society and the Miss. Dept of History and Archives, the Albuquerque Museum, the New Jersey Art Educators conference, and a host of elementary and highschool public schools.

Many of the lectures were Right-to-Know training for public school teachers, administrators, and maintenance people, university and art school instructors, museum personnel, building restoration workers, and individual craftspeople and artists.

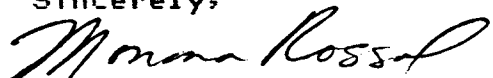
Some of the consultations were industrial hygiene surveys. Others were building planning consults ranging in scope from large projects like Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts ventilation retrofit, to smaller school building projects and individual art studios.

ACTS also has answered hundreds of individuals' telephone and letter health and safety inquiries. Many calls resulted from a mention of ACTS in a New York Times article on art hazards.

ACTS FACTS newsletter articles were reprinted in about 15 other publications this year. And I represented art materials consumers on the American Society of Testing and Materials subcommittee on chronic hazard labeling (ASTM D01.57).

ACTS' Board of Directors: Susan Shaw, Eric Gertner, Nina Yahr and I wish you and yours Happy Holidays and a great 1990.

Sincerely,


Monona Rossol, President

PS. Extra stuff you may be interested in:

Susan Shaw and I wrote an article on photography hazards for the American Society of Magazine Photographers's Bulletin and I wrote another on ACTS and general art hazards for ALBA (an international Contemporary art magazine from Scotland. This article resulted in numerous letters from overseas.

I also safety edited/reviewed articles for Professional Stained Glass magazine, Family Handyman, Leonardo, Fine Woodworking, The Complete Printmaker (Roundtable Press), The Location Photographers Handbook (Van Nostrand Reinhold), and more.

Progress was made on theatrical fog and smoke problems during this year's consultations with Actor's Equity Association and the Screen Actor's Guild. More work is planned for 1990.

My personal highlights include witnessing the entire August 16th elcipse from 31,000 feet on my way to a job, finding a 1/2 page photo of one of my ceramic pieces in American Ceramics (Rizzoli), and being mentioned twice as an early glassblower in the Corning Museum's book on Contemporary Glass.

Even more personal: In February 1989, I married into the fabulous Fairlie tribe: My husband, Jack, and "our" five kids, three grandchildren, and a cast of thousands.

On the not-so-nice side, I was injured in two separate taxi accidents in Boston--one broken nose, one whip lash--and dealt with countless late, cancelled, and miserable air flights. However, its all worth it and the calendar is filling for 1990.

INDEX TO ACTS FACTS, 1989
VOLUME 3, NUMBERS 1-12
Monona Rossol, Editor

No. 1
 FOUR PROVISIONS OF THE FORMALDEHYDE STANDARD STAYED
 CRYOLITE IN THE KIWIFRUIT
 ARSENIC STUDY AVAILABLE
 ANOTHER CHANGE PROPOSED FOR HOME WORK RULES

No. 2
 ACTS REPRESENTED AT ASTM MEETING
 MODIFICATION OF D 4236
 SOLUBILITY TEST INFORMATION REVIEWED
 ASTM PAINT STANDARDS
 ACTS TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER ASTM WORK
 OSHA PUBLISHES FINAL RULE ON AIR CONTAMINANTS
 WOOD DUST
 ACETONE
 STYRENE
 IN GENERAL
 ATTAPULGITE REVISITED

No. 3
 COURT UPHOLDS HAZCOM STANDARD
 NTP PROPOSES MORE CHEMICALS FOR CANCER LISTS
 BENZOTRIAZOLE HAZARDS UNKNOWN
 FREON RESTRICTIONS TIGHTEN
 FOOD FOR THOUGHT
 APPROVALS FOR USE IN FOOD PACKAGING
 FDA-APPROVED FOR USE IN FOOD
 OTHER MISUSED TERMS
 A GENERAL RULE

No. 4
 THE WORKING CHILD
 PERFORMING CHILDREN
 PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN
 PRESIDENT SIGNS ACTORS' FUND PROCLAMATION
 CONTACT LENSES PERMITTED WITH SCBA GEAR
 NEW PESTICIDE MAY BE REGISTERED
 NEW LIST OF AIR-CONTAMINANTS AVAILABLE

No. 5
 TALC COMPANY BACK IN COURT
 NEW NIOSH HEALTH GUIDELINES AVAILABLE
 REMEDIES FOR LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER
 ALUMINUM OXIDE REMOVED FROM SARA LIST
 TDI ADDED TO SARA LIST
 SOURCES FOR FEDERAL REGISTER

No. 6
 ACTS REPRESENTED AT MAY ASTM MEETING
 EPA PROPOSES TO DELIST PHTHALO PIGMENTS
 OSHA PROPOSES STRICT LIMIT ON PLASTIC CHEMICAL (MDA)
 HEATED PLASTIC ALLEGED TO CAUSE ASTHMA
 LEAD POISONING STILL HAPPENING IN INDUSTRY

No. 7
 ASPHALT A HAZARD?
 ALAR TO BE BANNED
 STANDARDS CHANGE FOR SOME PIGMENTS, GRAPHITES AND SILICAS
 REHAB CENTERS EXPOSE RETARDED AND HANDICAPPED TO TOXICS
 FABRIC STORE WORKERS EXPOSED TO FORMALDEHYDE
 OSHA PROPOSES MORE USES FOR RESPIRATORS
 SMOKING LINKED TO VIBRATION SYNDROME
 LEAD AND CADMIUM IN CITY DUMPS

No. 8
 PROPOSED RULE ON TALC CONTAMENTS DUE SOON
 ASBESTOS AND ITS SUBSTITUTES
 CERAMIC GLAZE REGS MAY TIGHTEN
 LEAD STANDARD UPDATE
 DIESEL EXHAUST REGULATION NEEDED
 AUDIO VISUAL AIDS FOR ART SAFETY

No. 9
 SILICA FUME IS NOT FUMED SILICA
 BRUSH UP ON SILICA
 TABLE: CURRENT ACGIH STANDARDS
 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING FUMED SILICA

No. 10
 1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHYLENE TO BE STUDIED
 3M MAKES PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO ACTS FACTS READERS
 PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM ACTS

No. 11
 COURT OK'S EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM LEAD BATTERY WORK
 MEKO: ANOTHER PAINT ADDITIVE TO BE STUDIED
 EPA EXCLUDES SOME MINING WASTES FROM REGULATION
 WHITE OUT WARNING LABEL DISPUTE
 THEATRICAL FOG ARTICLE
 SYNTHETIC MINERAL FIBER LIMITS AROUND THE WORLD

No. 12
 TOXIC STATUS OF TWO CADMIUM PIGMENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED
 PESTICIDES FOUND IN ART MATERIALS AND THEATRICAL FOGS
 PRESCHOOL NOISE DEAFENS TEACHERS
 BLADDER CANCER LINKED TO PAINTING, METALWORKING, ETC.
 FACT SHEET ON FORMALDEHYDE AVAILABLE

No. 13
 OSHA TO REGULATE COMPANIES WITH LESS THAN 10 WORKERS
 USERS OF SILICA FLOUR ASKED TO REPORT
 BULLETIN ON ETHYLENE OXIDE AVAILABLE
 ASBESTOS-RELATED LUNG DISORDERS IN SCHOOL CUSTODIANS
 INDEX TO VOLUME 3, 1989