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INSIGHTS

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KNOW YOUR CHEMICALS

Even the chemical industry has jargon…

Catalyst: Substance that affects the rate of a chemical reaction without itself being consumed or undergoing a chemical change.

Commodity Chemicals: Basic chemicals produced in large volumes with little differentiation between makers or applications. Used as building blocks for other chemicals or products.

Crackers: Facilities that use heat to crack petroleum and other chemicals to break them up into simpler compounds.

Feedstock: Raw materials used to make basic chemicals. Examples include oil and natural gas.

Fertilizers: Include usable forms of the three elements all plants need to grow – nitrogen, phosphate and potassium.

Inorganic Chemicals: Made from inanimate materials from the earth's crust.

Organic Chemicals: Made from materials containing carbon.

Specialty Chemicals: Products made from commodity chemicals to serve a special purpose (water treatment, pesticides, etc.).

PET: Polyethylene Terephthalate is a recyclable plastic that is used mainly in soft drink bottles.

PVC: Polyvinyl Chloride is a polymer used to make pipes, electrical insulation, films and other products.

Xenobiotic: Chemical that is not a natural component of the organism exposed to it. ■

Source: Hoover's Online

THE STRAIGHT STORY ON ANTIBACTERIAL WASH PRODUCTS

Antibacterial wash products (AWPs) have been used safely by consumers for over 30 years. The safety of these products is regulated by the FDA. There is no evidence that use of AWPs contributes to antibiotic resistance. If there were a link between antibacterial use and antibiotic resistance, experts believe it would have been seen by now in settings such as hospitals, where AWPs are used extensively to stop the spread of bacteria.

Recently, AWPs have been blamed for the increase in types of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotic drugs. Public health experts attribute the emergence of resistant bacteria to the misuse and overuse of antibiotics. No link has been established between the use of AWPs and bacterial resistance.

While an independent FDA panel of medical experts has considered the available data on this topic, they concluded that resistance is currently not a public health concern. To assure awareness of any new developments, the FDA and industry advocates continue to review the data to increase understanding of the resistance issue.

AWPs contain an active ingredient that keeps the number of germs at a reduced level for an extended period of time, providing improved germ control. While washing with plain soap and water removes many germs from the hands, public health officials recommend that those taking care of young children or the infirm should consider paying particular attention to cleanliness and may want to consider using an AWP. ■

THE TRUE COLORS OF SAFETY

Use of color to identify potential safety hazards is one of the most effective safety techniques used in the workplace. Color-coding works in overcoming language barriers and in conveying safety messages without forcing employees to read lengthy instructions. Certain colors relay specific dangers, and it is important that employees be familiar with the color-coding system you use in your workplace.

A standard color-code system follows but, keep in mind, it is not used in every environment.

RED: Used for fire equipment, emergency devices such as shut-off valves, stop bars and buttons.

ORANGE: Identifies hazardous machinery parts.

BLUE: A cautionary color.

YELLOW: Another cautionary color, used more often than blue.

GREEN: Used to identify safety, i.e. first-aid equipment and locations.

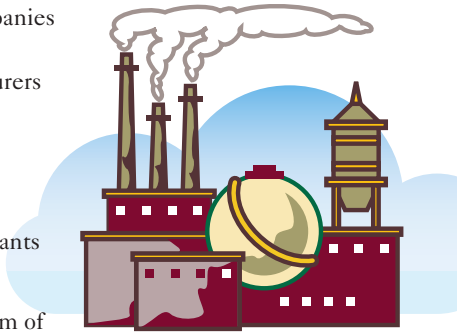
PURPLE: Traditionally distinguishes a radiation hazard.

BLACK AND WHITE: Used for text signs (directions and instructions) for ease of reading from a distance.

CHEMSTATION CLEANS EVERYTHING

Think ChemStation only cleans floors and vehicles? Think again! Here's a partial list of industries that benefit from the ChemStation System:

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Breweries
Textile Plants
Paper Mills
Automotive Plants
Bakeries



With our system of custom-formulated industrial detergents, we can find the right solution for you. Just call your local ChemStation Sales Representative or visit www.chemstation.com ■

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Sit Up Straight!



OSHA's proposed Ergonomics Rule 29 CFR Part 1910 requires about 1.6 million employers to implement a basic ergonomics program. This requires affected businesses to assign someone to be responsible for ergonomics, provide employees with information on the risk of injuries and symptoms, and set up a system for employees to report signs of trouble. Full programs would be required only if a work-related musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) actually occurred.

According to OSHA estimates, the cost of compliance with the proposal would be approximately $800 per affected employee.

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) surveyed 100 small businesses about the ergonomics rule. In addition to costs, companies cited misspent time, resources and increased paperwork as concerns. The NAM survey shows a cost of $781 per employee to implement OSHA's program (not affected employees).

How do you think the proposed OSHA Ergonomics rule will affect you? You can read the abbreviated version at www.osha-slc.gov/ergonomics-standard/fedregabbrversion.html. ■
Source: Products Finishing



Send your comments to:

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Soap Box

The FDA has approved the use of the term "dried plum" as an alternative to "prune" on packaging and advertising. The goal is to reposition the fruit as a contemporary snack and erase its geriatric image.
Aamplifier, AAMP

Experts say that consumers will get an average of 1,612 pieces of commercial e-mail in 2005. Most will be prompted by consumers' replies to online surveys. Half will contain ads.
American Demographics

Price of two front-row seats to Bruce Springsteen's July 1 New York concert: $135; VH1's top auction bid: $26,330
Musicians On Call

Even in this high-tech age, 88% of children (of 5,000 polled) said that they like to play most with board games. The top 3? Monopoly, Guess Who and Twister.
Simmons Kids Study 2000

63% of adult Americans polled said their loyalty to their employer would increase if the employer offered an ongoing incentive program, allowing them to choose rewards that were personally relevant.
American Express Incentive Services

The proportion of Americans on welfare last reached the current level of 2.5% in 1967. Credit low unemployment and the 1996 welfare reform law. The caseload – 6.9 million people last June – has continued to decline.
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

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