CHEMSTATION®

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INSIGHTS

Vol. XVI No. 11, November 2004



TEAMWORK

ChemStation's team of chemists and technical support staff work closely with our network of sales representatives to develop new cleaning solutions to meet the daily challenges of business and industry. If you have a cleaning challenge, talk to your ChemStation representative. From washing eggs to cleaning ink off printing plates to scrubbing floors… every month our network of 51 Manufacturing Centers across the country is delivering custom-formulated chemicals to exacting customer specifications. ■

HEARING LOSS PREVENTION EFFORTS

Even though employees know that sound levels are measured in decibels (dB) and that exposures greater than or equal to 85 decibels may cause hearing loss, they need more than workplace noise monitoring data to understand the need to protect their hearing. Workers need some way to put the information into perspective.

Here are some examples of general sound levels:

- The weakest sound heard by the average ear is 0 dB
- A whisper is 30 dB
- Normal conversation is 60 dB
- A ringing telephone is 80 dB
- A power lawn mower is 90 dB
- A chain saw is 110 dB
- An ambulance siren is 120 dB
- A jet engine at takeoff is 140 dB
- A 12-gauge shotgun is 165 dB

Recognize the risk…noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is the most common occupational disease and the second most self-reported occupational illness or injury.



Meet the requirements…the most effective way to prevent NIHL is to use engineering controls to remove the hazardous noise. Hearing protection should be used when it is not feasible to otherwise reduce noise to a safe level. Training must be repeated annually using materials that are updated as necessary and must include the: effects of noise on hearing; purpose of hearing protectors, advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation; instructions of selection, fit, use, and care; and purpose and procedures of audiometric testing. ■

NOVEMBER… NOW AND THEN

This is National Peanut Butter Lovers' Month, a celebration of America's favorite food and No. 1 sandwich. On November 4, 1922, King Tut's tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt. Abraham Lincoln (16th U.S. President and the first Republican) was elected on November 6, 1860. Eighty-four years later on November 7, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term and died less than a year later on April 12, 1945. It was November 8, 1895 when X-rays (electromagnetic rays) were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany. On November 10, 1775, the U.S. Marine Corps was established. November 11 is celebrated as Veterans Day. November 19, 1863 is the day President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. At 12:30 p.m., November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot as his motorcade traveled through downtown Dallas, Texas. And finally, this year Thanksgiving will be celebrated on November 25.



HEED NEW DISABILITY ACCESS RULES

If your company plans to build or remodel any facilities that serve the public, you'll want to review new construction guidelines that explain how far you must go to make your site accessible to people with disabilities.

The revisions update Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for a wide range of facilities in the public and private sectors. The rules explain how to handle accessibility in new construction and alterations, plus provide specifications for entrances, ramps, parking lots, restrooms, phones and other components.



Here's the good news: this update makes the ADA access rules more consistent with model building codes and industry standards. It also switches some formerly mandatory guidelines – such as acoustic standards for classrooms and handrails for stairs that don't lead to exits – into nonbinding "advisories."

The new rules also reject requests by people with allergies for standards covering office ventilation or the chemical makeup of construction materials.

The bad news is that analysts say 14 of 27 most substantial changes impose higher costs.

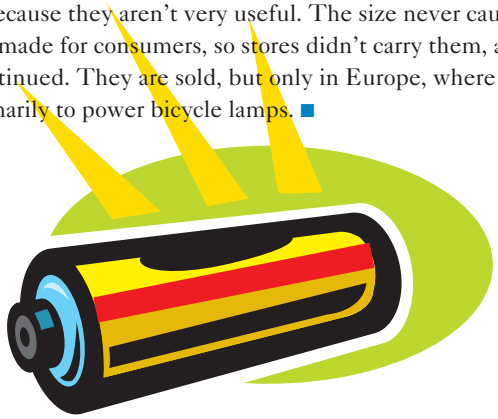
You can find a summary of the rules at www.access-board.gov/ada-aba/summary.htm. ■

Source: National Institute of Business

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Why Do Battery Letters Skip from A to C? Was There Ever a B-Cell Battery?

Battery letter designations are based on the size of the battery: for common sizes, A is the smallest, and D is the largest. By the same logic, AA batteries are larger than AAA. Unfortunately for B batteries, it's not the size that counts. You never see B batteries around because they aren't very useful. The size never caught on in products made for consumers, so stores didn't carry them, and the cycle continued. They are sold, but only in Europe, where they're used primarily to power bicycle lamps. ■





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Printed on recycled paper

Soapbox

This month we dedicate this column to "pure rubbish" and some significant numbers that represent the trash and garbage industry in America and elsewhere.

4 – Pounds of garbage each American creates per day.

43,000 – How many tons of food Americans throw away each day.

66,000 – Number of garbage trucks operating in the United States.

100,000 – Number of cookie packages found around Sri Pada, Sri Lanka's most famous and religiously significant mountain.

5,000,000 – Number of toffee wrappers found around the same sacred mountain.

67 – Percent of debris found on Virginia highways that consisted of cigarettes and food.

0.6 – Percent of Honolulu's landfill taken up by mattresses and linoleum in 1925.

17.7 – Percent of palm and banana plants in the landfill the same year.

80 – Percent of recycled aluminum cans that are made back into cans.

20 – Percent of cans that become aluminum siding and outdoor furniture.

6,700,000 – The number of tons of Pennsylvanian garbage that were sent to Pennsylvania landfills in 1996.

7,900,000 – Number of tons of garbage imported from other states that went to Pennsylvanian landfills that year.

Source: mental_floss

ChemStation has a complete line of custom-formulated odor control agents for landfills, sewage treatment, farms, food processing, slaughterhouses, rendering facilities, construction waste, ponds, compactor rooms, transfer stations, hospitals and more. Contact your representative for more information.

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