

Abstract Book

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Propiconazole among Farm

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farmers applying propiconazole to peach and using tape-strips applied to the stratum corneum. Propiconazole was normalized by keratin content. Measurements were obtained using an OSHA Versatile Sampler during mixing, loading, and application. The results were compared to data from electrochromatography in electron impact ionization mass spectrometry. The breathing-zone concentrations and dermal exposure levels were approximately 2.2 µg/m³ and 2.2 µg/kg bw/day, respectively. The breathing-zone concentrations and dermal exposure levels were similar. A correlation was observed between breathing-zone concentrations and dermal exposure (87%). The total-body propiconazole dose, estimated dermal dose (non-detectable to 0.01 µg/kg bw/day), ranged from 0.01 to 12.0 µg/kg bw/day. The results of this study indicate that dermal exposure is the primary route of exposure. The type of personal protective equipment used, the amount of propiconazole detected on the skin, and the use of a respirator and face mask were used. Rinsing of hands and use of a face mask were used. Rinsing of hands and use of a face mask were used. This study emphasizes the importance of wearing appropriate clothing, such as long sleeves or coveralls

Propiconazole among Skilled Craftsmen in

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of asbestos-related disease for different occupations. The available literature on this topic, and the prevalence of asbestos-related disease among different occupations was reviewed. A critical review of the literature included occupational history, exposure assessment, identified. Studies were included in a meta-analysis. Populations, source of mortality data, exposure assessment, latency period, and possible outcomes were evaluated. The results of each analysis yielded relative risks. The results indicated that, not surprisingly, the relative risks were highest among workers with the most exposure. The relative risks were also observed for workers employed in Naval shipyards, and the relative risks were also observed for workers in the construction industry, where

sprayed asbestos or insulation removal activities often occurred. Despite some limitations, the results of this analysis were generally consistent with prior estimates of asbestos exposure for various craftsmen in different occupational settings.

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Worker Exposure to Methanol Vapors during Cleaning of Semiconductor Wafers in a Manufacturing Setting: Results of a Simulation Study

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The purpose of this study was to characterize occupational exposure to methanol for persons who cleaned wafers in the semiconductor industry. Work activities were simulated based on historical accounts. Personal samples and samples in the immediate workspace were collected to characterize near field vapor concentrations; samples collected three to four feet and 10 to 20 feet away characterized far field concentrations. The first simulation involved wafer cleaning during which approximately 12 ounces of methanol was volatilized over eight hours at a distance of approximately 16 inches from the breathing zone. The second scenario simulated two workers cleaning wafers simultaneously where a total of 26 ounces of methanol were volatilized over 8 hours. The 8-hr TWA airborne concentration of methanol for the worker in the first simulation averaged 60 ppm. During the second simulation, the average personal TWA was 118 ppm. The average concentration measured at about four feet from a single worker was 27 ppm, and 73 ppm when two workers used methanol simultaneously. For the workroom, the concentrations averaged 18 ppm and 48 ppm with one and two persons performing this task, respectively. In addition to the amount of methanol used, changes in the room ventilation rate were found to markedly influence both the near field and far field concentrations. The results suggest that the use of methanol to clean semiconductor wafers, for the conditions tested, even without local exhaust ventilation and with relatively low room ventilation rates is unlikely to result in exposures that exceed the current PEL of 200 ppm. This study also confirmed prior estimates that when a point source is located in the near field, the concentration in the breathing zone is approximately two to three fold greater than the room concentration when the air exchange rate is about 5-10 air changes per hour.

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Benzene Exposures of Dock Facility Workers Serving a Refinery and Chemical Plant: 1977-2005

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Benzene is a natural constituent in crude oil. Potential exposure of refinery workers to benzene has been studied for many years. In this study, we evaluated benzene exposures of workers at a refinery dock facility over the period from 1977-2005. The dock facility in this evaluation handles product from the refinery and a nearby petrochemical facility. As a result, the workers are potential exposed to a wider range of benzene-containing materials than a typical refinery worker. In this analysis, workers were categorized using job and task descriptions. The results of nearly 1,000 industrial hygiene air samples were evaluated including 382 long term (≥ 120 minutes) and 374 short term (< 120 minutes) personal samples. The long term samples indicated that airborne concentrations vary significantly across dock worker job classes and are dependent on short duration tasks and activities. The job category Tankerman was associated with the highest potential

benzene exposure, averaging 2.3 ppm. The job category Dock Operator/Berthman/Assistant Operator had the lowest average potential benzene exposure (0.06 ppm). Short term samples indicated that the highest potential exposures resulted from the disconnecting of cargo loading hoses. Overall, the long term personal air samples indicated that exposures of the past 30 years were generally below the PEL of 1 ppm (average 0.3 ppm), and have trended downward over the years. Recognizing the potential for benzene exposure, workers at the facility use respiratory protective equipment during selected tasks and activities. Thus, adjusting for the use of respirators resulted in a further reduction of mean short term exposure levels for dock workers by 31%. This study provides a job- and task-focused analysis for occupational exposure to benzene during dock facility operations that can be insightful for understanding exposures at this as well as other similar facilities since about 1975.

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Fine Particles (PM_{2.5}), Noise, and Job Strain as Predictors of Hypertension and Heart Disease Among Blue-Collar Aluminum Manufacturing Employees

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Introduction

Employees in manufacturing settings are exposed to a wide range of potentially toxic exposures simultaneously, including air pollution, noise, and job strain. The Alcoa Aluminum Manufacturing Cohort provides a unique opportunity to examine multiple work-related exposures, and interactions among these, in the development of chronic disease over time.

Methods

Using weighted logistic regression models with quadratic correction for age, we examined a range of work-related stressors including job status (i.e., hourly/ salaried, job grade) and individual socioeconomic position (i.e., education, race/ ethnicity, sex) as risk factors for hypertension and heart disease in a cohort of 14,999 aluminum manufacturing employees in 11 plants across the eastern U.S. Job strain measures (demand/ control) were collected by external report at the job level. PM_{2.5} and noise exposure matrices are now being developed for blue-collar employees, which will be explored using hazard models. Propensity scores were applied to differentiate employment from selection effects.

Results

Traditional risk factors (age, sex, race, and smoking) were the strongest predictors of hypertension and heart disease among white-collar employees; among blue collar workers, years on the job was the strongest predictor. Among male employees, age and race were predominant risk factors; whereas the strongest risk factor among women was blue-collar employment. Increasing control indicates decreased risk of hypertension, while middle ranges of demand confer higher risk. Results were supported after adjustment by propensity scores.

Conclusion

Years on the job may be a surrogate for hazardous workplace exposures (physical, chemical, or psychosocial), associations which will be explored in upcoming months. These workplace exposures may outweigh traditional risk factors for manufacturing employees. Further analyses will seek to identify specific exposures and exposure combinations which increase disease risk, and will further examine observed high risks for female blue-collar employees.

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Job Strain Factors Associated with Bridge Painters

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Background: The objective of this study was to assess job strain factors and blood lead levels (BLL) among bridge painters who were monitored during the workday over a 12-month period. **Methods:** Each participant completed the Job Strain Questionnaire. Job strain scores were calculated for psychological demands, control, and decision latitude. Job strain scores were dichotomized into high and low categories. Lead exposure to airborne lead was assessed for each participant in conjunction with time-activity diaries collected from each participant at the start and end of the study. Diaries were used to evaluate the effect of job strain factors and cumulative airborne lead exposure.

Results: Participants had a mean age of 33.3 years (range <1 to 33 years (median=3.3 years), and worked an average of 1.7 years in the period. The mean change in BLL was 1.7 ug/dl. Participants with high decision latitude had a lower BLL (0.9 vs. 2.3 ug/dl, p=0.10) than those with low decision latitude (0.9 vs. 2.3 ug/dl, p=0.10). Among those with high social support, there was a lower BLL (1.6 vs. 1.8 ug/dl, p=0.07). There was no difference in BLL among those with low psychological demands (1.6 vs. 1.8 ug/dl, p=0.07). **Conclusions:** Our findings suggest that job strain factors are associated with changes in BLL. Further analyses will be conducted to identify predictors of change in BLL among bridge painters.

Abstract 363

Examination of Worker Ability to Recall Occupational History and Industrial Process among Manufacturing Workers

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Many occupational exposure reconstruction studies rely on self-reported exposures and experiences, with little attention to the accuracy of reporting becomes exceedingly important when the data are of poor quality or do not exist. Determining the accuracy of recall of their occupational history could be a challenge in occupational epidemiology. The objective of this study was to accurately recall their work history over time. The methodology that was developed in this study was to assess the accuracy of an interview style survey instrument. An individual's self-reported information and an individual's self-reported information included date specific job title/grade, plant, and location of these. A work history matrix was developed. The work history matrix broke down the questionnaires into a work history matrix. A model was constructed to estimate recall of the interview gathered data is examined relative to the facility, age, marital status, and number of years on the job.