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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*



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PREVENTION

DETECTION



EVALUATION

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
COLLECTION

CONTROL

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Occupational

Health

Service

*Division of Occupational Hygiene*

*Department of Labor and Industries*

834/63

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Division of Occupational Hygiene in the Department of Labor and Industries is an official advisory agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established by the Legislature in 1934 to investigate conditions of occupation with reference to hazards to health. This Division assists employers, labor, state and local agencies, and all individuals concerned with the prevention of occupational diseases and the detection, evaluation, control and prevention of industrial health problems. The improvement of working conditions has direct bearing on the health of the worker and the industrial productivity of the Commonwealth.

### PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

The following services of this Division are available without cost to industry and to all individuals of the Commonwealth:

#### 1. ENGINEERING

Plant surveys and studies of the occupational environment to detect and evaluate hazards to the health of the workers from physically injurious X-rays and radioactive radiation, noise, heat, humidity, air motion, illumination, and mineral substances.

Advice to plant management as to the most efficient and least expensive methods of control of such hazards.

Recommendations and consultations on personal protective equipment, such as special clothing and respiratory devices.

Testing and evaluation of newly designed equipment at specific plant installations.

Provision of engineering advice to plant safety engineers in matters pertaining to industrial hygiene.

Studies of installations and designs of industrial ventilating systems to determine efficiency in controlling occupational health hazards.

Co-operation with ventilating contractors for the design of general and specific ventilating control systems.

Provision of engineering advice in the formulation of codes, rules and regulations pertaining to industrial hygiene and for the control of occupational diseases.

## 2. CHEMICAL

Plant surveys and studies of the occupational environment to detect hazards to health of workers from toxic and otherwise harmful substances.

Determinations of the concentrations in the air of work-rooms of toxic dusts, fumes, vapors and gases.

Urinalyses to determine whether or not workers have absorbed harmful quantities of certain toxic agents.

Examinations of industrial products and raw materials to ascertain the presence of harmful ingredients.

Interpretation of the above findings in the light of experience with the processes and substances in question, and the literature on the toxicology of these substances.

## 3. MEDICAL

Co-operation with management in establishing and maintaining in-plant medical services for employees.

Recommendations for specific programs of physical examinations, with additional laboratory and X-ray investigations for particular health hazards.

Investigations of reports of occupational diseases received from state and local agencies, hospitals, physicians, and other agencies or individuals concerned with occupational health.

Investigations of conditions to determine the etiology of certain occupational diseases.

Advice to physicians on industrial toxicological problems.

## 4. NURSING

Orientation of nurses in industry by assisting them in the establishment and development of satisfactory health programs for employees.

Assistance to management in evaluating the need for in-plant nursing service.

Consultations with industrial nurses relative to hazardous materials and conditions which may be present in their plants.

Advice on the establishment and expansion of nursing programs in industrial plants and on procedures that will insure high standards of nursing service.

Recommendations on physical facilities, equipment and functional layouts for in-plant health departments, and on adequate systems of records and reports.

Co-operation with state and local agencies in the promotion of education in occupational health nursing.

## 5. INFORMATION SERVICES

Maintenance of a library on industrial hygiene, occupational diseases, and related subjects. This library is open to the public for reference.

Information as to general and specific problems involving occupational health hazards.

Information as to the law requiring labelling of containers of benzol, carbon tetrachloride, and other hazardous substances.

Information on procurement of protective clothing and approved respiratory devices.

Information as to the hazards and maximum allowable levels of gases, vapors, fumes, dusts, and ionizing radiation permitted in the working environment.

## PUBLICATIONS

Publications on various occupational hygiene subjects are supplied without cost upon request. These include about 50 reprints of articles published by members of the Occupational Hygiene staff, and also over 100 Safe Practice Data Sheets. The Safe Practice Data Sheets cover chemical, mineral, infection and physical hazards. The Ventilation Data Sheets describe and illustrate methods of control. Respiratory Protection Bulletins indicate what respirators or masks to use for a specific hazard. These bulletins are written in condensed form and are easy to read. They are especially intended for plant management, safety engineers, nurses or anyone concerned with or interested in occupational health problems.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE**

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