

# Health & Safety

## News

### Ergonomics Standard Published

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a new Ergonomics Program Standard (29 CFR 1910.900). The rule is designed to prevent job-related ergonomic injuries, i.e., injuries to the muscles, ligaments, and/or bones (musculoskeletal system). The rule requires employers to inform workers about common musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), MSD signs and symptoms, and the importance of early reporting by October 15, 2001. Other provisions of the law will be effective November 15, 2004.

If a worker develops a work-related MSD, the employer must check the job to determine whether it exposes the worker to risk factors described in the "Basic Screening Tool" (29 CFR 1910.900). This tool is a two-page form that breaks job hazards down into categories including repetition, force, awkward postures, contact stress, and vibration. Employers also must develop a formal program and response system, provide training, keep complete records, and more.

*Summarized from ACTS FACTS, vol. 15, no. 1, page 2*

### Limone Products Pollute Indoor Air

Limone, a common ingredient in cleaners and products, such as furniture wax, has been found to form fine particulates of 2.5 micrometers in diameter when released into the air. Researchers at Rutgers University found that these particulates formed within 30 minutes when a test chamber was loaded with the concentrations of limone similar to those recorded during the release of limone from a waxed table during a three hour peri-

od. Conservators should note that limone can form a fine layer on any indoor surface, and the particles are of a small enough diameter to permit deposition within lung tissue.

*Summarized from ACTS FACTS, vol. 15, no. 1, p. 2*

### Safety Booklet

"Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories," 6th ed., published by the Health & Safety Committee of the American Chemical Society (ACS), is available for conservators. This publication is a great source for basic information on laboratory health and safety. It includes sections on chemical hazards, personal protection, laboratory protocols and more. The ACS will send you one free copy if you call: (800) 227-5558, ext. 0.

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### ARE YOU READY FOR WORK?

- Gloves
- Medical Check up (see "Biological Monitoring in the Workplace," *AIC News* vol. 24, #6, November 1999; it includes the OSHA Medical questionnaire. This questionnaire is also available on the AIC website.)
- Respirator

Sign up for your annual respirator fit test at the 2001 AIC Annual Meeting. The testing will take place Friday, June 1, from 8:00 a.m.

to 6:00 p.m. Appointments for fit testing will be scheduled in 15- to 20-minute intervals. Registrants must bring a completed and signed OSHA Medical Evaluation Form (see *AIC News*, November 1999, vol. 24, no.6). Note that registration is limited to 25 participants, so sign up early! If you did not receive a registration brochure in February, contact the AIC office at (202) 452-9545, ext. 10.

—A reminder from the H&S Committee