

GUEST EDITOR

The Guest Editor for this issue is Monona Rossol, M.S., M.F.A., I.H., member of the AIC committee on Health and Safety and Director of Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety, Inc., 181 Thompson St., #23, New York, NY 10012, (212) 777-0062.

PDB MAY CAUSE CANCER

Paradichlorobenzene (PDB or 1,4-dichlorobenzene) is commonly used as a moth and insect repellent and as an air freshener deodorant. Although it is a "General Use" pesticide which is technically unapproved for institutional use, it is in common usage in most museums. It has long been known that PDB can be absorbed into the body by skin contact, inhalation and ingestion routes and that it is toxic. In man, it is known to adversely affect the liver, kidneys, respiratory system, skin, eyes and central nervous system. However, it had not been formally studied for its possible cancer-causing effects until recently. This year, the National Toxicology Program made available a technical report on long term animal studies of PDB. In summary, the study indicates that PDB caused kidney cancer in male rats, liver cancer in male and female mice, and may have also caused adrenal gland cancer in male mice. On the basis of this new evidence, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed on April 17, 1987 to regulate PDB as a "probable human carcinogen" and to change the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for PDB to zero in drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA is currently requesting and considering comment on this proposed change. It can be expected that the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists will consider changing their workplace air quality standards for PDB as well. Both agencies' standards for PDB are currently set at 75 parts per million.

NEW ART AND CRAFT MATERIALS LABELING BILL

On July 1, 1987, Rep. Bernard Dwyer (D-NJ) introduced the "Art and Craft Materials Labeling Act" (H.R. 2866) to the Congress. This federal bill is similar in intent to laws which already have been passed in six states: California, Florida, Illinois, Oregon, Tennessee and Virginia and which are currently pending in Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. These state laws are designed to correct the existing federal law which only requires labelling of consumer products which pose acute hazards—those which cause immediate effects such as burns or poisoning. H.R. 2866 would amend this federal law (the Federal Hazardous Substances Act) to:

- require manufacturers to determine whether their products have chronic hazards
- require manufacturers to label chronically hazardous products comprehensively, including:
 - the signal word "WARNING"
 - a list of chronically hazardous components

- a statement of potential hazards
- a statement regarding safe use
- a statement identifying a source of additional health information
- require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to develop criteria for evaluating chronic hazards
- require the CPSC to develop a list of hazardous art and craft materials and to distribute that list to state governments, teacher organizations, schools and other institutions in which children use art supplies
- prohibit the use of chronically-hazardous art supplies by children from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade

Conservators will find that many of the materials they use are considered art and craft materials. If the H.R. 2866 passes, better labeling of these products can be expected. In addition, the requirement that manufacturers research the hazards of their products will almost surely result in better hazard information on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). This is because the federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard requires inclusion of any known chronic hazards on MSDSs.

RESEARCH UPDATE

In order to continue this column, volunteers are needed to contact institutions or research centers and prepare copy for deadline dates. Interested persons should contact the editor, Sarah Bertalan, by calling the AIC office (202) 364-1036.

MATERIALS

In order to continue this column, volunteers are needed to originate topics about new materials of interest to the general conservation community, to contact manufacturers or conservators who are familiar with their use and to prepare concise, informative copy for deadline dates. Interested persons should contact the editor, Sarah Bertalan, by calling the AIC office (202) 364-1036.

ANALYSIS REPORT

P.T.I.—#112 Waterleaf, Paper Technologies, Inc., 25801 Obrero, Suite 4, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

We were asked to analyze P.T.I.—#112 Waterleaf blotting paper in order to determine its suitability for use in the Paper Conservation Studio. First, the fiber content of the blotting paper was determined. A small piece of the paper approximately 10 x 10 mm was allowed to soak in deionized water until the fibers could easily be teased apart with fine