

HEALTH RISKS OF MULTIPLE CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

EPA denied a petition filed by two Chicago-based citizens' groups that asked the Agency to issue a rule under section 4 of Toxic Substances Control Act requiring scientific testing of certain substances and mixtures for their combined health and environmental effects. The substances and mixtures were identified as environmental pollutants in Southeast Chicago, an area of high industrial concentration. The petition was filed under section 21 of TSCA by the Citizens for a Better Environment and by Irondalers Against the Chemical Threat.

The petition, filed on April 23, 1985, asked EPA to investigate firms in Southeast Chicago that manufacture, distribute, process, use or dispose of coke oven emissions, benzene, chromium, arsenic, cadmium, nickel, toluene, xylene, acetone, copper and lead and require them to test for environmental and health effects....

In a July 26, 1985, denial (50 FR 30517) the Administrator said that in order to issue a testing requirement rule under section 4, EPA must specify standards for the development of the test data. To date no standards exist for testing multiple chemicals for their toxicological interactions, and there is not enough scientific knowledge to specify how testing of multiple pollutants for their combined health effects should be done or how to ensure that the data from these tests will be reliable.

The Administrator said EPA is aware of the importance of considering the potential added health and environmental risks posed by multiple chemical exposures, and that the Agency has ongoing and planned activities to address this area of concern. He cited EPA's "Proposed Guidelines for the Health Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures" (50 FR 1170). These guidelines (when published in the fall of 1985) will be useful for the assessment of cumulative risks posed by mixtures of toxic chemicals such as those cited by the petitioners. However, the Administrator said the available toxicity information for mixtures on which the guidelines will be based will not allow for the estimation of synergistic or antagonistic effects. Synergistic effects refer to total effects being greater than the sum of the effects taken independently. Antagonistic effects refer to the interaction of two or more chemicals coming together.

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ART HAZARDS INFORMATION CENTER

The Art Hazards Information Center, a project of the Center for Occupational Hazards, will answer written and telephone enquiries on the hazards of arts and crafts materials and suitable precautions. The Information Center has a wide variety of written materials on these subjects for dissemination (enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their publications list). Write to: Art Hazards Information Center, 5 Beekman Street, New York, NY 10038. Telephone 212/227-6220.

The Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Analytical Laboratory announces a new training program in furniture conservation beginning in September, 1986. The program, intended for experienced and skilled woodworkers who wish to pursue a career in preservation, stabilization, and restoration of historic furniture, consists of twelve sequential courses, followed by a one year internship in a furniture conservation laboratory. The courses, which are one or two weeks long each, are offered at three month intervals, allowing attendees to maintain their current employment and commitments while pursuing formalized training in conservation.

Instruction is by Smithsonian staff members and visiting specialists. After completion of the twelve courses, an internship will be arranged under the supervision of a professionally respected conservator. A certificate will be awarded by the Smithsonian Institution after successful completion of the entire program and passing of an examination.

Candidates for admission to the program will be selected on a competitive basis. Minimum prerequisites are substantial woodworking experience, including cabinetmaking, veneering, carving, inlaying, marquetry, turning, and finishing plus a bachelor's degree including two semesters of general chemistry with laboratory, one semester of organic chemistry with laboratory, two semesters of art history, and one semester of drawing. There is flexibility to allow limited academic deficiencies to be made up during the early stages of the program. The application deadline is March 17, 1986.

For further information and application material, please contact MARC WILLIAMS, Furniture Conservation Program, CAL, MSC, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, (202) 287-3729.

AMERICAN-STANDARD CONTRIBUTES MORE THAN \$400,000 TO STATUE OF LIBERTY RESTORATION

American Standard Inc. has joined the ranks of major corporate supporters of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island restoration with a contribution of more than \$400,000 in products and cash.

The contribution encompasses more than \$350,000 in products, including plumbing fixtures, metal doors and frames, air conditioning systems, and air handling equipment, provided by the company's building products segment and its air conditioning products segment, The Trane Company. A cash donation of \$50,000 represents the first installment of a \$150,000 commitment from American-Standard's American Bank Stationery Company, which has launched the "Our American Liberty" check order promotion program through financial services companies nationwide.

The donation was presented to The Statue of Liberty--Ellis Island Foundation President William F. May by American-Standard Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer William B. Boyd in a private ceremony held at the company's landmark corporate headquarters. In presenting the contribution Mr. Boyd noted, "As we strive for product innovations to support the construction and renovation of commercial and residential structures for tomorrow, we cannot overlook the cultural and architectural contributions of the past.

"Landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, so integral to our American heritage, must be preserved. The restoration of these memorials, which are daily reminders of where we have been and how far we have come, is an effort that must concern us all.

"American-Standard is proud to play its part," he concluded.