BOOK REVIEW

Review of NCRP report No 116: Limitation of Exposure to Ionising Radiation. Available from NCRP Publications, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 800, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, USA. \$25.00. ISBN 0-929600-30-4.

Since 1931 the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) has been issuing reports on a wide range of topics and issues associated with radiation protection. Report 116 supersedes and replaces report 91 — *Recommendations on Limits for Exposure to Ionising Radiation*. The recommendations of the present report are broadly similar to those of report 91, but here the NCRP is reiterating and updating its stance on radiation protection issues after publication of additional data on the biological effects of ionising radiation, in particular a more than threefold increase in the estimated fatal cancer risk/unit radiation dose.

Recommendations are presented for both occupational and public exposures to ionising radiation—for instance, cumulative (lifetime) effective dose for occupational exposure should not exceed age in years $\times$ 10 mSv with an annual limit of 50 mSv. This can be compared with the most recent recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP60), which include 100 mSv effective dose in five years and no more than 50 mSv in any one year; NCRP and ICRP start from slightly different dose-rate upper limit presumptions, however, for both uniform and worst case exposure. NCRP work to a cumulative exposure of 640 mSv giving an average fatal cancer risk of 0.025 for uniform exposure to radiation and 0.031 for worst case conditions. ICRP assume a cumulative exposure of 940 mSv, giving an

average risk of 0.037 for uniform exposure and 0.039 for worst case exposure.

NCRP's declared objective is to achieve a level of radiation safety where risks are comparable to, or less than, those in safe industries. An average annual risk of about 1 in 10 000 is therefore taken to be acceptable but admitting that workers close to the maximum permissible may run 10 times as high a risk. This report also takes some note of non-fatal radiation risks, conceding that radiation exposure is not the only source of risk to workers in industries using radiation. It also recognises that fatal accident rates in industry in the United States are progressively declining.

The present volume is an important addition to the range of definitive reports from the NCRP, and is recommended to those with a professional interest in radiation safety in industry.

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NOTICES

Pro Health Care '94

26–29 June 1994, Stockholm, Sweden. This is the second international conference on the working environment of health care workers. It is organised by the Swedish National Institute of Occupational Health under the auspices of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) Scientific Committee on Occupational Health for Health Care Workers.

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Work with display units *Fourth International Scientific Conference*, 2–5 October, 1994, University of Milan.

Since the mid 1980s, there have been three international scientific conferences held on the topic of biological and safety issues related to VDU-assisted workplaces. The Milan WWDU '94 will take into account the updated knowledge from different disciplines in many countries.

VDU operators' problems are often common to other workers involved in traditional office activities. A major goal of the conference will therefore be the development of interdisciplinary syntheses, as no discipline applied independently of the others can provide exhaustive responses to these problems.

Emphasis will also be placed on studies about positive psychophysiological effects of work with display units, because so far only negative effects have been brought to light. The main conference topics will be: ● man at work (risk assessment, medical surveillance, etc); ● work characteristics and contents (software and work contents, etc); ● environment, equipment and layout (environmental conditions, furniture requirements, etc); ● legislation and technical standards (international legislation and national policies, etc). Accepted scientific papers will be published in the proceedings of WWDU '94.

For further information please contact the **Scientific secretariat**: G Molteni, B Piccoli, E Occhipinti, Istituto di Medicina del Lavoro, Via S Barnaba, 8 20122 Milano, Italy. Telephone: +39 2 5511610; Fax: +39 2 55187112; or the **Organising secretariat**: AES Congressi Srl, Via Scheiwiller, 1 20139 Milano, Italy. Telephone: +39 2 55210523/57403891; Fax: +39 2 57400473.