designed to investigate effects of EMFs. Factors possibly associated with cancer were: work environments where soldering was practised, the use of chemicals and solvents, and piercing and sawing asbestos plates used for thermal insulation. When other authors have cited these studies, the term "exposure to EMFs" should have been replaced by "working in electronics-related industries". This is an important distinction and not just a matter of semantics.

Articles continue to be cited incorrectly. Erren¹⁰ stated that Vågerö and Olin⁹ showed that EMFs "have been associated with lung cancer". Wilson and Stevens¹¹ summarised studies already mentioned^{4,6} and a more recent one¹² as being suggestive of an association between exposures to EMFs and cancer. Henshaw *et al.*¹³ and Miyakoshi *et al.*¹⁴ cited Guénel *et al.*¹⁵ also in support of this association. Guénel *et al.*¹⁵ however, noted that the risk "was mainly in electricians in installation works and iron foundry workers. Besides EMFs other exposures should be considered as possible aetiological agents". Fear *et al.*¹⁶ listed some of these studies^{9,15} as showing that "cancers have been previously linked with exposure to extremely low frequency EMF". Again, "working in electronics-related industries" is not equivalent simply to "exposure to EMFs".

Raabe and Wong¹⁷ noted that "electrical engineers" in one of the studies⁷ mentioned above actually consisted of people with a graduate degree in electrical engineering. As the authors noted: "An academic degree is obviously not a good measure for EMF exposure."

It is misleading to cite references that do not support the alleged associations with EMFs with cancer. Improper citations are not the fault of the original authors in the *Journal*, who reported their results with all the necessary caveats regarding correct interpretations of their findings. Hopefully, in the future, there will be fewer errors of citation of this nature. (The opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the US government.)

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NOTICE

International Occupational Hygiene Association 3rd International Scientific Conference. 13-18 September 1997. Crans-Montana, Switzerland

Professional development courses

- Risk reduction by substitution
- Sampling and measurement technology
- Asbestos removal
- Control of airborne pollutants in the workplace
- Video exposure monitoring for hazard recognition
- Noise
- Vibration
- Practical and effective control measures
- Exposure assessment in occupational epidemiology

Plenary sessions

- Exposure to allergens
- International values for the protection of workers' health
- Exposure assessment of pesticide administration
- International standards of occupational hygiene management

Workshops

- Liability in occupational hygiene
- Life cycle assessment
- Chemical risks and their control
- Occupational hygiene in office work
- Personal protective equipment
- Biological monitoring

Special event: health aspects of mining and tunnel construction exposure to hazards and ergonomic aspects.

Further information from: Dr Alfred F Steinegger, Route Darnona, CH-3973 Venthône, Switzerland. Phone and Fax: +41 27 456 38 92. E-Mail: hsconsultant@access.ch. Currently updated information 3rd International Scientific Conference:

< <http://www.ih.a.bepi.ethz.ch/ioha/> >
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BOOK REVIEW

Book review editor: R L Maynard

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Hazardous Chemicals: Desk Reference
4th ed. R J LEWIS. (Pp 1644; price £89.00.) 1997. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold. ISBN 442 023227.

This is probably the best single volume reference work on the toxicology of chemicals currently available. The data presented have been extracted from the well known *Dangerous Properties of Industrial Chemicals*, 9th ed. Data on more than 5000 compounds and preparations are presented: each entry being in a consistent and helpful format. For the occupational physician the provision of OSHA, ACGIH, and DFG (MAK) values where available will be invaluable. Also, CAS numbers and details of current evaluations of carcinogenicity are provided. An exhaustive list of synonyms (over 100 for malathion) is given for each compound as is a short description of its physical characteristics. Some of the descriptions of physical characteristics are perhaps eccentric: few will meet ozone as "blue or violet-black solid" or even as a "dark-blue liquid"! For the physician the "safety profile" will probably be the most used part of any entry. This profile is telegraphic in style but packs in a lot of useful information. No information on case management is provided. A valuable feature of this book is that entries are provided for groups of compounds—for example, carbonates, chlorates, esters. Of course the value of a brief safety profile of a group of compounds as diverse as "esters" can be questioned but I have found these general entries informative.

The index is heavily cross referenced and occupies 367 pages each of two closely printed columns.

As to single volume competitors: the Merck Index is the most obvious. Merck offers wider coverage but less information of immediate use to the occupational physician.

As a book to turn to when asked the symptoms likely to be produced by a compound of which you have never heard this is excellent. Good value at £89.00.

R L MAYNARD