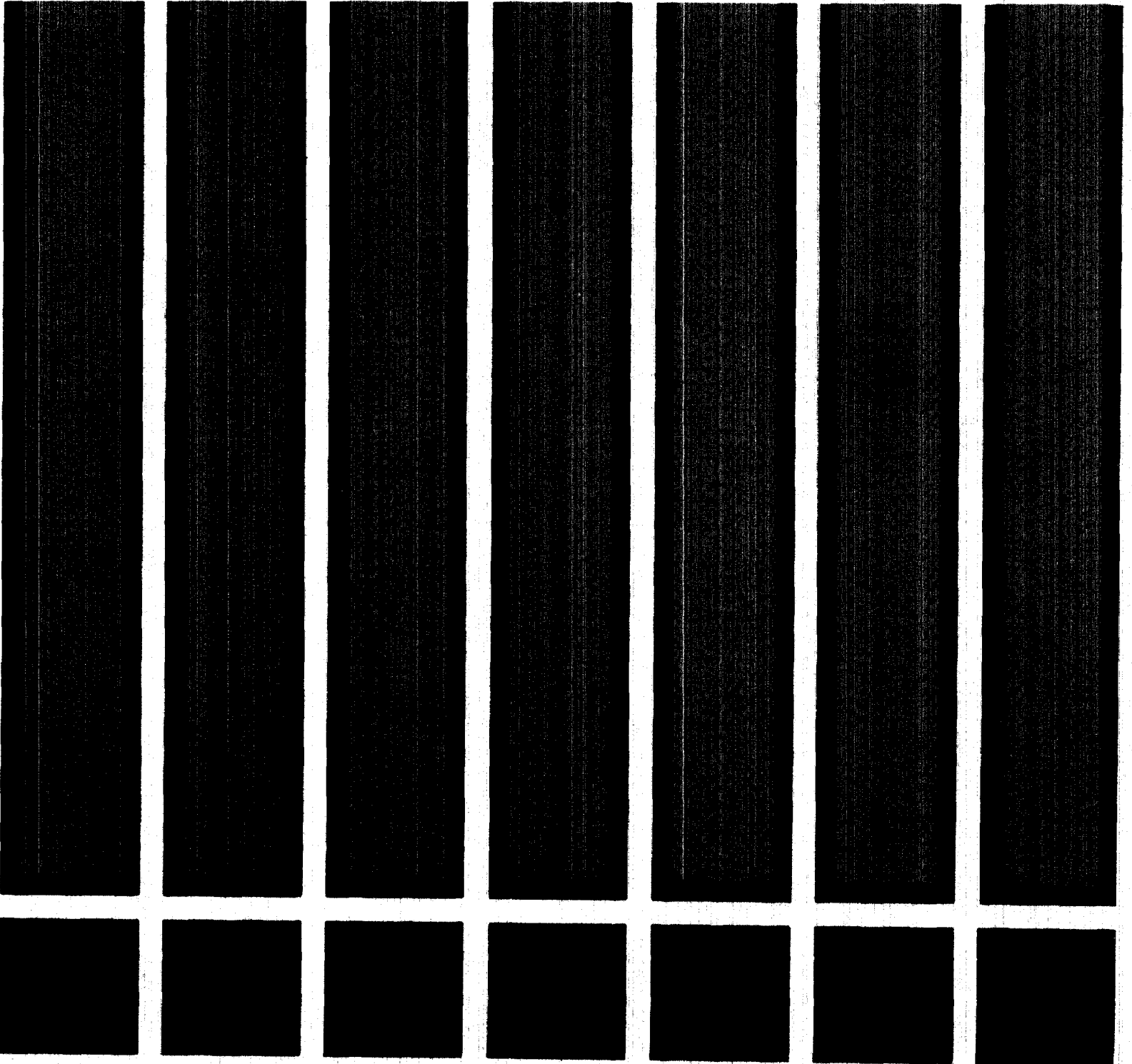


**NIOSH**

**criteria for a recommended standard . . . .  
occupational exposure to**

**HYDROGEN SULFIDE**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

Public Health Service    Center for Disease Control

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

**criteria for a recommended standard....**

**OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE  
TO  
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## PREFACE

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 emphasizes the need for standards to protect the health and provide for the safety of workers exposed to an ever-increasing number of potential hazards at their workplace. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has projected a formal system of research, with priorities determined on the basis of specified indices, to provide relevant data from which valid criteria for effective standards can be derived. Recommended standards for occupational exposure, which are the result of this work, are based on the health effects of exposure. The Secretary of Labor will weigh these recommendations along with other considerations such as feasibility and means of implementation in developing regulatory standards.

It is intended to present successive reports as research and epidemiologic studies are completed and as sampling and analytical methods are developed. Criteria and standards will be reviewed periodically to ensure continuing protection of the worker.

I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions to this report on hydrogen sulfide by members of the NIOSH staff and the valuable constructive comments by the Review Consultants on Hydrogen Sulfide, by the ad hoc committees of the American Academy of Industrial Hygiene and the American Occupational Medical Association, and by Robert B. O'Connor, M.D.,

NIOSH consultant in occupational medicine. The NIOSH recommendations for standards are not necessarily a consensus of all the consultants and professional societies that reviewed this criteria document on hydrogen sulfide. A list of Review Consultants appears on page vi.

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The Division of Criteria Documentation and Standards Development, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, had primary responsibility for development of the criteria and recommended standard for hydrogen sulfide. The division review staff for this document consisted of J. Henry Wills, Ph.D., Chairman, Howard C. McMartin, M.D., Douglas L. Smith, Ph.D., and Paul E. Caplan, with Kenneth J. Kronoveter (Division of Surveillance, Health Evaluations, and Field Studies), Charles S. McCammon, Jr. (Division of Physical Sciences and Engineering), and Howard C. Spencer (consultant). Stanford Research Institute (SRI) developed the basic information for consideration by NIOSH staff and consultants under contract No. CDC-99-74-31. Herbert L. Venable served as criteria manager.

The views expressed and conclusions reached in this document, together with the recommendations for a standard, are those of NIOSH, after reviewing the evidence and considering the comments of reviewers; these views and conclusions are not necessarily those of the consultants, other federal agencies, and professional societies, or of the contractor.

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CRITERIA DOCUMENT:  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN OCCUPATIONAL  
EXPOSURE STANDARD FOR HYDROGEN SULFIDE

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