

criteria for a recommended standard . . . .

## occupational exposure to styrene

NIOSH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

CRITERIA FOR A RECOMMENDED STANDARD....

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO STYRENE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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## PREFACE

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596) states that the purpose of Congress expressed in the Act is "to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources...by," among other things, "providing medical criteria which will assure insofar as practicable that no employee will suffer diminished health, functional capacity, or life expectancy as a result of his work experience." Later in the Act, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is specifically authorized to "develop and establish recommended occupational safety and health standards" and to "conduct such research and experimental programs as...are necessary for the development of criteria for new and improved occupational safety and health standards."

The Institute responds to these mandates by means of the Criteria Document. The essential and distinguishing feature of a Criteria Document is that it recommends a standard for promulgation by an appropriate regulatory body, usually the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the Mine Safety and Health Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor.

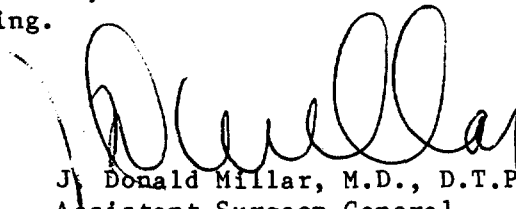
The development of a Criteria Document entails a critical evaluation of all available scientific data pertinent to the subject, the writing of a draft Criteria Document, a systematic external review of the draft by acknowledged experts in the field, the incorporation of their relevant comments and suggestions, a review by the Office of the Director of NIOSH, the printing of a final version, and the delivery of the Criteria Document to the appropriate regulatory body. This process is lengthy and the typical Criteria Document is usually two to three years in the making.

Because they encompass thorough systematic reviews of available information, Criteria Documents generally prove to be of considerable interest and utility far beyond the regulatory process. Information contained in them is useful to both labor and management, and to official health agencies in reducing the hazards of work. Moreover, they have proven useful to voluntary agencies seeking to assist these efforts, and to academicians instructing students in principles of occupational safety and health. It is our intention that the information contained in these documents be disseminated as widely as possible among those with a need to know, in order to protect the health and safety of workers.

I am pleased to acknowledge the many contributions to this Criteria Document on styrene made by external consultants; representatives of the United Rubber Workers International Union and the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union; reviewers selected by The Society of Occupational and Environmental Health, the American Occupational Medical Association, the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc., and the Chemical Manufacturers Association; representatives of other federal agencies; and, of course, the staff of the Institute (a list of consultants and agencies

PREFACE (CONTINUED)

receiving the draft Document for review, appears on pages vi-viii). However, responsibility for the conclusions reached and the recommendations made, belongs solely to the Institute. All comments by reviewers, whether or not incorporated into the final version, are being sent with the Criteria Document to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for consideration in standard setting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Donald Millar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

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