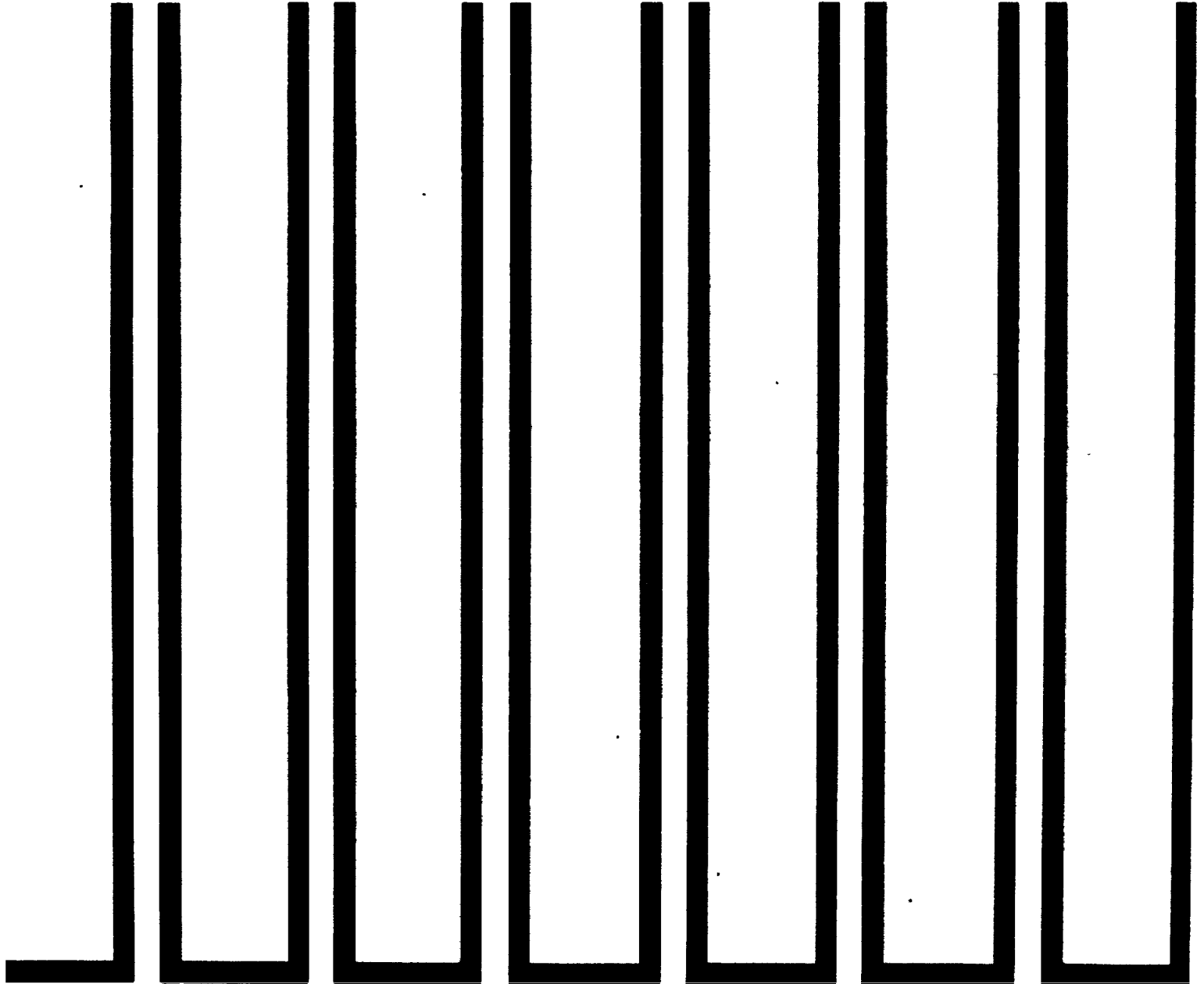


**NIOSH**

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



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

**Public Health Service      Center for Disease Control**

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

**OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE  
TO  
FORMALDEHYDE**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**  
Public Health Service  
Center for Disease Control  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
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## PREFACE

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 emphasizes the need for standards to protect the health and 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 formaldehyde by members of the NIOSH staff and the valuable, constructive comments by the Review Consultants on Formaldehyde, by the ad hoc committees of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and the American Academy of Occupational Medicine, 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 formaldehyde. Lists of the NIOSH Review Committee members and of the Review Consultants appear on the following pages.

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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 formaldehyde. The Division review staff consisted of J. Henry Wills, Ph.D., Chairman, and Richard A. Rhoden, Ph.D. Bert J. Vos, M.D., Ph.D., served as a special reviewer. The Department of Environmental and Industrial Health, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, developed the basic information for consideration by NIOSH staff and consultants under contract No. HSM-99-73-31. Earl S. Flowers, Ph.D., had NIOSH program responsibility and served as criteria manager.

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CRITERIA DOCUMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN  
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE STANDARD FOR FORMALDEHYDE

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