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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Request for Comments on the Toxicity of Carbonless Copy Paper

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: NIOSH is requesting comments from all interested parties concerning possible adverse health effects among workers who have used carbonless copy paper. Interested parties may submit medical case reports, experimental data, or other information relating to the effects caused by such exposures. This information will be used by NIOSH to evaluate whether exposure to the chemical substances in carbonless copy paper poses health risks, and to determine the need for preventive health measures or additional research.

DATES: Written comments to this notice should be submitted to Diane Manning, NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, M/S C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 on or before April 22, 1997. Comments may also be faxed to Diane Manning at (513) 533-8285 or submitted by email to: dmm2@cdc.gov as WordPerfect 5.0, 5.1/5.2, 6.0/6.1, or ASCII files.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Technical information may be obtained from Dr. Paul A. Schulte, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Mailstop C-14, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone (513) 533-8303.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to sections 20 and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 [29 U.S.C. 669 and 671], NIOSH is authorized to gather information in order to develop recommendations for improving occupational safety and health. NIOSH has been concerned about reported undesirable health effects in workers occupationally exposed to chemicals contained in or released from carbonless copy paper. On June 12, 1987, NIOSH published a Federal Register Notice (52 FR 22534) requesting comments and secondary data on the toxicity of carbonless copy paper. At that time it was determined, based on the submitted information,

that insufficient data were available to conclude that the relationship between exposure to carbonless copy paper and the suggested health effects was a causal one.

Carbonless copy paper is used to simultaneously make multiple paper copies of an original document. This system eliminates the need for carbon paper by using paper with a microencapsulated undercoating containing dyes and solvents. Writing, typing, or printing on the top sheet breaks the microcapsules immediately underneath, releasing the dyes and solvents to form the image on the paper surface below. Some substances used in carbonless copy paper include aliphatic compounds (C₁₀-C₁₄), aromatic compounds such as alkyl substituted biphenyls (polychlorinated biphenyls have not been used in carbonless copy paper in the United States since the early 1970's), phenyl methyl benzenes and hydrogenated terphenyls, diaryl ethanes, alkyl benzenes, benzyl xylene, isoparaffins, diisopropyl naphthalenes, dibutyl phthalate, glutaraldehyde, formaldehyde, organic dyes, phenol-formaldehyde resin, kaolin, starch, styrene, butadiene-latex, hydrogenated aluminum silicate, mineral oil, and sanatasol oil.

Carbonless copy paper chemicals can be absorbed dermally or by inhalation. Several factors such as chemical composition and volume of the paper used, ambient temperature and ventilation rates in work or storage areas, and work practices may affect the extent of exposure. Adverse health effects in exposed workers were first reported in the scientific literature in the late 1960's. The signs and symptoms attributed to dermal exposure have included dryness, redness, irritation, eczema, tingle, and itchiness of the skin. The signs and symptoms attributed to inhalation exposures have included nasal congestion, drainage, bleeding, and irritation; upper respiratory tract irritation; asthma; throat tickle and hoarseness; and joint pain, fatigue, and headache.

In order to update the information on carbonless copy paper, NIOSH is interested in obtaining existing and available information published or developed since 1987, including reports and research findings, to evaluate whether recommendations for health protection or further research on carbonless copy paper chemicals are needed. Examples of requested information include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Adverse health signs or symptoms associated with occupational exposure

to carbonless copy paper or its components.

2. Epidemiology data assessing the incidence of health effects associated with occupational exposure to carbonless copy paper.

3. Medical case reports and studies of adverse health effects associated with occupational exposure to carbonless copy paper. These medical case reports and studies should be submitted without personal identifiers.

4. Industrial hygiene data and reports from work places where carbonless copy paper is used or handled.

5. *In Vivo* or *In Vitro* toxicity data and studies on the components of carbonless copy paper.

All information received in response to this notice, except that designated as trade secret and protected by section 15 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, will be available for public examination and copying at the above address.

Dated: February 12, 1997.

Linda Rosenstock,

Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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Availability of Draft Guidance on Childhood Lead Screening

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability for review and comment of a draft document entitled, "Screening Young Children for Lead Poisoning." The document was prepared by CDC staff with advice from CDC's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, a group of non-Federal experts on childhood lead poisoning prevention. The document also reflects the comments of many other persons involved in scientific and programmatic aspects of childhood lead poisoning prevention and child health.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written or verbal comments on this draft document must be received by April 7, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the draft document must be made by calling the toll free telephone number: (888) 232-6789. Verbal comments on the draft document may be made by calling the same toll free telephone number. Written comments on the draft