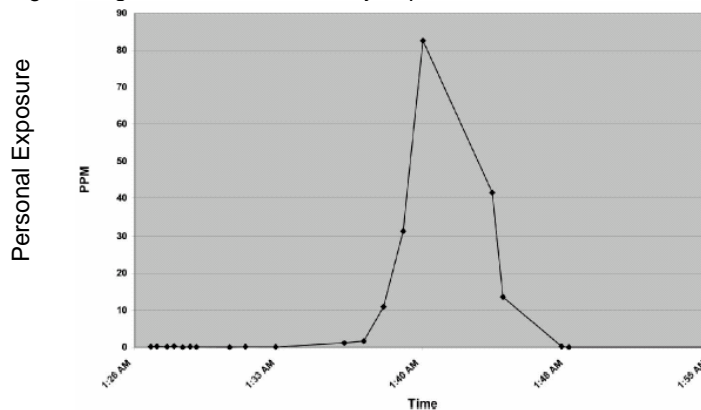


R Kanwal et al. JOEM (2006) Vol.48#2 p 149 – 157

Evaluation of Flavorings-Related Lung Disease Risk at Six Microwave Popcorn Plants

Microwave popcorn workers at many plants are at risk for flavouring-related lung disease. Peak exposures may be hazardous even when ventilation maintains low average exposures. Respiratory protection and engineering controls are necessary to protect workers.



The diacetyl peak occurred when a mixer poured several 5-gallon containers of liquid butter flavouring into a heated tank of oil.

O A Taiwo et al. JOEM (2006) Vol.48#3 p 275 – 282

Incidence of Asthma Among Aluminum Workers

Workers with a significant history of exposure to hydrogen fluoride had a higher risk of physician diagnosed asthma, (RR = 5.1; 95% CI = 2.5–10.6) for each 1 mg/m³ increase in average exposure, the risk was multiplied by smoking. The current US OEL and EH 40 WEL for general fluoride is 2.5 mg/m³, EH 40 for hydrogen fluoride is 1.5 mg/m³, 8 hour TWA. In aluminium works exposures tend to be periodic rather than continuous.

WHO Fact Sheet No 299 March (2006)

Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health: Static electric and magnetic fields

Movement in a field exceeding 2T can cause vertigo, nausea or light flashes all of which are reversed upon cessation of exposure. At fields greater than 8T there is a chance of heart beat arrhythmia, again reversible.

It is suggested that wearers of cardiac pacemakers, ferromagnetic implants and electronic devices should avoid locations where fields exceed 0.5 mT.

For comparison, the earth's magnetic field is approximately 0.07 mT.

HSL/2006/19

Summary Report on Additional Work Carried Out on the Monitoring of Chrysotile Containing Textured Decorative Coatings

It is extremely unlikely that removal of Textured Decorative Coatings could give rise to cumulative exposures for (fibres >5 µm long, > 0.2 - 3 µm wide and with an aspect ratio >3:1) chrysotile fibres above 0.08 f/ml per year.

Furthermore, it is not expected that relevant chrysotile fibre concentrations would exceed the proposed control limit of 0.1 f/ml over a 4-hour measurement period.

Health Protection Agency RCE-2

Dose Criteria for the Designation of Radioactively Contaminated Land

The Agency considers that the designation of land as radioactively contaminated land should be based on the level of exposure at which it is appropriate that the site is investigated and remedial options are considered, but that the intervention actions need not necessarily be undertaken as they may not be justified.

For guidance, it is suggested that an above-background dose of 10mSv per year is sufficient to justify an intervention. For an investigation to be warranted, the excess dose should be 3 mSv per year. Land which acts as a source for such exposure would be designated as Contaminated Land.

Health Protection Agency
Tuberculosis Update
March 2006.

There were 7167 cases of TB reported in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2004, an incidence of 13.1 cases per 100,000 population. This represents a 5% increase in case reports when compared with the 6837 cases reported in 2003 (rate 12.6 per 100,000). The highest rate of disease was observed in London (42 per 100,000), which accounted for 44% of the total number of reported cases. The proportion of cases reported from among foreign-born population groups has increased from 63% in 2000 to 70% in 2004.

