

HB

22

Bill No. House Bill 22

Date January 22, 1987

Title "An Act relating to hazardous physical agents in the workplace."

Contact: Eileen Plate  
465-2700

Richard Arab  
465-4856

Under existing law, employers are required to provide information and training to employees on certain toxic and hazardous substances. This bill seeks to expand this "Right-to-Know" law to include physical agents.

Physical agents are defined as those listed in the "Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Work Environment" as published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. The latest edition of this publication lists the following physical agents:

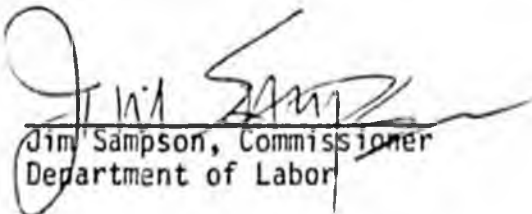
- Heat Stress
- Ionizing Radiation
- Lasers
- Noise
- Impulse or Impact Noise
- RF/Microwave Radiation
- Ultraviolet Radiation
- Airborne Upper Sonic and Ultrasonic Acoustic Radiation
- Cold Stress
- Hand-Arm (Segmental) Vibration

Exposure to physical agents can result in permanent disabilities, such as deafness. Often employers and employees are not aware of the harmful effects of a particular hazard present in the workplace, and the training and information requirements provided in this bill would assist in filling this void. This would, in turn, effect implementation of protective measures by the employer to safeguard employees, as well as provide employees with an understanding of the importance of following safe and healthful work practices.

As part of its Occupational Safety and Health program, the Department of Labor enforces regulations to protect employees from certain physical hazards (ionizing radiation, lasers, noise, RF/Microwave radiation, and ultraviolet radiation). The information and training requirement of this bill would, therefore, enhance the Department's efforts to protect Alaska's workers.

The Department of Labor supports House Bill No. 22. It will not have a fiscal impact on the Department.

APPROVED:

  
Jim Sampson, Commissioner  
Department of Labor

**POSITION PAPER/**Department of Labor

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: HB 22

Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: "An Act relating to hazardous  
physical agents in the workplace."

Agency Affected: Labor  
BRU: Occupational Safety & Health

Sponsor: Pourchot and Boyer et al.  
Requestor: House Labor & Commerce

Components: Occupational Safety  
and Health

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>CAPITAL</b>						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>REVENUE</b>						
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)**

Prepared by: Tom Stuart, Director  
Division: Labor Standards and Safety

Phone: 465-4870  
Date: 1/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Jim Sandson  
Agency: Labor

Date: 1/23/87

**Distribution (by preparer):**

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

AN ACT RELATING TO HAZARDOUS PHYSICAL AGENTS IN THE WORKPLACE.....

DEAR SENATORS:

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LABORERS IS IN SUPPORT OF HB-22. WE ALSO SUPPORTED A LIKE BILL (HB-319) LAST SESSION WHICH PASSED THE HOUSE BUT RAN OUT OF TIME ON THE SENATE SIDE. THIS LEGISLATION WOULD EDUCATE THE EMPLOYEES ON THE POTENTIAL IRREVERSIBLE DISABILITIES THAT THOSE PHYSICAL AGENTS COULD CAUSE IF SAFE WORK PRACTICES ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

THE LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO EDUCATE THE EMPLOYERS TO THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF THESE AGENTS- - AND PROPER MEASURES COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT. THE ADDITION OF THESE PHYSICAL AGENTS TO THE CURRENT "RIGHT TO KNOW" LAW IS NOT A COST FACTOR TO THE EMPLOYER NOR TO THE EMPLOYEE OR TO THE DEPT. OF LABOR.

I KNOW THE SPONSOR OF THIS BILL, REP. POURCHOT, HAS WORKED WITH MANY GROUPS IN SATISFYING EVERYONES CONCERNS AND CAN HONESTLY SAY I CANNOT RECALL ANY OPPOSITION TO THIS BILL OR LAST YEAR'S BILL.

WE URGE THIS COMMITTE TO PASS THIS RESPONSIBLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,



DON ROULEAU

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LABORERS

710 W. 9TH ST.

JUNEAU, ALASKA

586-3707

5-0231B  
Hein  
5/8/87

Original sponsors: Pourchot, Boyer,  
Ellis, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 22 (L&C)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to hazardous physical agents in the  
7 workplace."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 18.60.030 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 18.60.030. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. The Department  
11 of Labor shall

12 (1) study ways and means for prevention of accidents to  
13 persons on the streets and highways, in and on the water, in aircraft  
14 usage, in homes, on the farms, at schools, industrial and commercial  
15 plants, and in public places;

16 (2) plan and execute safety programs, including educational  
17 campaigns, designed to reduce accidents in every field of activity;

18 (3) work in cooperation with official and unofficial orga-  
19 nizations and instrumentalities in the state that are interested in  
20 the promotion of safety so that possible resources can be marshalled  
21 and utilized to reduce the menace of accidental death and injury;

22 (4) work toward obtaining better observance and enforcement  
23 of laws governing street and highway traffic, and assist in bringing  
24 about, wherever feasible, the application of modern engineering mea-  
25 sures for the prevention of traffic accidents;

26 (5) confer [ADVISE] with the public agencies responsible  
27 for safeguarding the people against accidents, and especially with the  
28 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Department of  
29 Public Safety, the Department of Education, the Department of Natural

1 Resources, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the heads  
2 or representatives of federal departments and agencies operating in  
3 the state particularly concerned with safety programs and accident  
4 prevention;

5 (6) establish and enforce occupational safety and health  
6 standards that prescribe requirements for safe and healthful working  
7 conditions for all employment, including state and local government  
8 employment, and the requirements are to be at least as effective as  
9 those requirements adopted by the United States Secretary of Labor  
10 under sec. 6 of Public Law 91-596;

11 (7) require an employer to maintain records and submit  
12 reports to the department which records and reports are necessary or  
13 appropriate for the enforcement of AS 18.60.010 - 18.60.105 and to  
14 maintain records and submit reports to the United States Secretary of  
15 Labor in the same manner and to the same extent as set out in federal  
16 law and regulations;

17 (8) require an employer to maintain records and submit  
18 reports appropriate for use in developing information regarding the  
19 causes and prevention of occupational accidents and illnesses;

20 (9) require an employer to make periodic inspections when  
21 necessary to carry out the record and reporting requirements of (7)  
22 and (8) of this section;

23 (10) participate in occupational safety and health programs  
24 if it finds they are necessary to meet the occupational health and  
25 safety needs of the state;

26 (11) execute on behalf of the state agreements or contracts  
27 necessary or desirable to enable the state to participate in occupa-  
28 tional safety and health programs, and to receive and expend funds  
29 made available for programs of the state;

1 (12) annually publish a list of toxic and hazardous sub-  
2 stances and physical agents;

3 (13) maintain a current set of OSHA form 20's or equivalent  
4 information for toxic and hazardous substances and for physical  
5 agents, and other information relevant to toxic and hazardous sub-  
6 stances and physical agents;

7 (14) assist employers, upon request, to develop employee  
8 safety education programs and to identify and obtain information on  
9 toxic and hazardous substances and physical agents [AND DEVELOP EM-  
10 PLOYEE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS].

11 \* Sec. 2. AS 18.60.066 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 18.60.066. EMPLOYEE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) An  
13 employer shall conduct a safety education program for an employee  
14 before the employee performs a new work assignment that may result in  
15 the employee being exposed to a toxic or hazardous substance or a  
16 physical agent for which the employee has not received safety instruc-  
17 tion as provided under (b) of this section.

18 (b) An employee safety instruction program shall inform the  
19 employee of

20 (1) the location, properties, and known or suspected acute  
21 and chronic health effects of the hazardous or toxic substances or  
22 physical agents to which the employee is exposed in the workplace;

23 (2) the nature of the operations that could result in  
24 exposure to hazardous or toxic substances or physical agents [,] as  
25 well as any necessary handling or hygienic practices or precautions;  
26 and

27 (3) the location, purpose, proper use, and limitations of  
28 personal protective equipment used in the workplace.

29 \* Sec. 3. AS 18.60.067(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) An employer shall make available to an employee on request a  
2 copy of the most recent OSHA form 20 or equivalent written information  
3 for a toxic or hazardous substance or for a physical agent to which  
4 the employee may be exposed. If the employer does not have the copy  
5 or information requested, the employer shall request a copy from the  
6 department or the manufacturer of the substance within three state  
7 government working days after receiving the request.

8 \* Sec. 4. AS 18.60.068 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 18.60.068. POSTING OF INFORMATION IN WORKPLACE. (a) The  
10 department shall print and make available to employers posters that  
11 contain notice of the provisions of this chapter relating to toxic and  
12 hazardous substances and physical agents.

13 (b) An employer whose employees are or may be exposed in the  
14 workplace to a toxic or hazardous substance or a physical agent shall  
15 display the following information in a manner designed to notify the  
16 employees:

17 (1) a poster printed by the department under (a) of this  
18 section; and

19 (2) an OSHA form 20 or equivalent information for each  
20 toxic or hazardous substance and for each physical agent to which an  
21 employee may be exposed in the workplace

22 (A) under normal conditions of work; or

23 (B) during a reasonably foreseeable emergency, includ-  
24 ing equipment failure and rupture of containers.

25 (c) Instead of posting the information required under (b)(2) of  
26 this section, an employer may post a list of the chemical name and  
27 product name of each toxic or hazardous substance and each physical  
28 agent to which an employee may be exposed in the workplace, together  
29 with an identification of a location, in or near the workplace and

1 accessible to employees, where an employee may inspect the information  
2 listed under (b)(2) of this section.

3 \* Sec. 5. AS 18.60.105(a)(1) is amended to read:

4 (1) "be exposed" means to ingest, inhale, or absorb through  
5 the skin or eyes a substance or physical agent, or fumes or other  
6 potentially harmful aspect of a substance or physical agent;

7 \* Sec. 6. AS 18.60.105(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

8 (11) "physical agent" means a physical agent listed in the  
9 1986 - 1987 edition of "Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances  
10 and Physical Agents in the Work Environment" published by the American  
11 Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists; "physical agent"  
12 does not include an agent the exposure to which, because of the  
13 agent's low dosage, does not pose a health hazard.

14 \* Sec. 7. AS 18.60.105(b) is amended to read:

15 (b) In AS 18.60.030(14), 18.60.065 - 18.60.068, and 18.60.-  
16 105(a)(9)

17 (1) "employee" means a person who works for an employer,  
18 but not in a place used primarily as a personal residence;

19 (2) "employer" means a person, including the state and a  
20 political subdivision of the state, who has one or more employees  
21 working in a place not used primarily as a personal residence;

22 (3) "health hazard" means a substance or physical agent  
23 capable of causing acute or chronic adverse effects to health;

24 (4) "workplace" means a place of employment other than a  
25 place used primarily as a personal residence.

26 \* Sec. 8. Notwithstanding the amendments to AS 18.60.068 made by sec. 4  
27 of this Act, the department may continue to use existing posters until the  
28 next printing of the posters.

29

# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
PAT POURCHOT

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE,  
VICE CHAIR

HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE, CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT  
COMMITTEE



## House of Representatives

ANCHORAGE  
P.O. BOX 104836  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510  
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(H) (907) 338-2425

JUNEAU  
P.O. BOX V  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99811  
(907) 465-3712

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 1987

TO: Senator Tim Kelly, Chairman  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

FROM: Rep. Pat Pourchot *Pat*

SUBJECT: House Bill 22, Hazardous Physical Agents in the Workplace

This bill, which has been referred to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, amends current statutes by adding ten (10) specific "physical agents" to the existing several hundred hazardous and toxic substances of which employers must inform their employees if the substances or agents are in their workplace.

Tim, House Bill 22 is identical to a bill I sponsored last year -- HB 319. You might recall that this proposal, after passage in the House by a vote of 34 to 4, was favorably considered by Senate Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees. However, due to a lack of time at the end of session, it failed to get scheduled for the Senate floor, thus died in the Rules Committee.

HB 22, this session, received no opposition in the House Labor and Commerce or Finance Committees and passed the House by a vote of 33 to 6 on February 11. Senate HESS unanimously recommended "Do Pass" last Friday, April 24th.

This is a good bill which can add significant protection to Alaskan workers with minimal cost and effort by employers or the State. The Department of Labor supports this measure and has provided a zero (\$0) fiscal note as the needed information is readily available.

I would greatly appreciate your attention on this bill and committee consideration in the near future. Your staff has been provided with backup materials and I or my staff would be happy to provide further information or explanation if necessary.

Thank you for your consideration on this proposal.

# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
PAT POURCHOT

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE,  
VICE CHAIR

HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE, CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT  
COMMITTEE



## House of Representatives

ANCHORAGE  
P.O. BOX 104836  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510  
(W) (907) 278-8818  
(H) (907) 338-2425

JUNEAU  
P.O. BOX V  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99811  
(907) 465-3712

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 1987

TO: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee Members  
Senator Tim Kelly, Chairman  
Senator Dick Eliason, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp  
Senator Rick Uehling  
Senator Mike Szymanski

FROM: Representative Pat Pourchot *Pat*

SUBJECT: House Bill 22, Hazardous Physical Agents in the Workplace

House Bill 22, which has been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee for Wednesday, May 6, is identical to a bill (HB 319) which passed the House and the Senate Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees last session amending the current "Worker Right to Know" law. This proposal would add ten (10) specific "physical agents" to the existing several hundred hazardous and toxic substances of which employers must inform their employees if they might encounter these situations in their workplace.

These physical agents include microwave radiation, extreme heat, noise, and harmful ultraviolet rays. The known hazards associated with these agents are well documented in the authoritative "Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Work Environment" published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. The information on these hazardous agents needed by employers is readily available from the Alaska Department of Labor.

This is a good bill which can add significant protection to Alaskan workers with minimal cost and effort by employers of the State. Let me emphasize that the burden of providing information will fall to the Department of Labor and not to individual employers. The Department of Labor supports this measure and has provided a zero fiscal note. I have attached a brief booklet with pertinent information about House Bill 22 and would be happy to provide you or your staff with other information or explanation on the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for this consideration.

Attachment

BILL: HB 22

11:38 AM 04/27/87 4/27/87

NAME:

TITLE: "AN ACT RELATING TO HAZARDOUS PHYSICAL AGENTS IN THE  
WORKPLACE."

PRIME SPONSOR: POURCHOT

CO-SPONSOR: BOYER, ELLIS, DAVIS, KOPONEN, DAVIDSON, BROWN, DONLEY, GOLL

FISCAL NOTE: \$000 GENERAL(FNOTE) \$000 OTHER(FNOTE)

CURRENT STATUS: (S) L&C

STATUS DATE: 04/27/87

01/12/87	(H)		PREFILE RELEASED
01/19/87	(H)	23	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
01/19/87	(H)	23	LABOR & COMMERCE, HESS
01/21/87	(H)	44	HES REFERRAL WAIVED, FINANCE ADDED
01/21/87	(H)	45	CO-SPONSOR ADDED: DAVIS
01/22/87	(H)	54	CO-SPONSOR ADDED: KOPONEN
02/04/87	(H)	144	L&C RPT 6DP 1NR
02/04/87	(H)	144	ZERO FISCAL NOTE PUBLISHED 2/4/87
02/09/87	(H)	177	CO-SPONSOR ADDED: DAVIDSON
02/11/87	(H)	185	FIN RPT 7DP 2NR
02/11/87	(H)		RULES TO CALENDAR 2/11/87
02/11/87	(H)	203	READ THE SECOND TIME
02/11/87	(H)	204	ADVANCED TO THIRD READING UNAN CONSENT
02/11/87	(H)	204	READ THE THIRD TIME HB 22
02/11/87	(H)	204	PASSED Y33 N6 A1
02/11/87	(H)	208	CO-SPONSOR(S) ADDED: BROWN, DONLEY, GOLL
02/11/87	(H)	208	TRANSMITTED TO (S)
02/12/87	(S)	276	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
02/12/87	(S)	276	HESS & LABOR & COMMERCE
04/27/87	(S)		HES RPT 3DP
04/27/87	(S)		REFERRED TO LABOR & COMMERCE

SUMMARY HOUSE BILL 22  
WORKER RIGHT-TO-KNOW TO INCLUDE  
HAZARDOUS PHYSICAL AGENTS

House Bill 22 amends the "worker right-to-know" statutes to include "physical agents" with other toxic and hazardous substances about which employers must inform their employees.

The existing statute (AS 18.60) directs the Department of Labor to prepare for employers information data sheets on hazardous and toxic materials to which employees may be exposed in the workplace. Information which is compiled by the Department is transmitted to the workers by employers and includes: description of the substantial effects of the substance, known threshold levels where effects occur, activities and situations where the substances are encountered and practices, technology and preventative measures which are available to the workers which will reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of the substance. Safety training for new employees is also required.

The same notice and training requirements for hazardous and toxic substances would be applied to "physical agents" under House Bill 22. Physical Agents are only those identified by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and include:

- Ionizing radiation (x-rays)
- Heat and cold stress
- Impulsive and impact noise
- Radiofrequency, microwave, ultraviolet, and infrared radiation
- Lasers
- Hand-arm vibrations

With enactment of this bill industrial accidents could be reduced in number and severity. For example, accidents such as the microwave exposure which occurred at Clear Air Force Station several years ago may be avoided if workers are better informed of the substances to which they may be exposed and are not aware of preventative and safety precautions. Many occupations are not readily associate with exposure to dangerous levels of physical agents. Welders and pipe fitters, for example, are often exposed to hazardous exposures of ionizing radiation (x-rays) when examining welds and joints.

It should be emphasized that the bill requires only the dissemination of information and safety training by employers. It does not require that employers or employees implements any safety practices or measures.

The bill carries a fiscal note of \$0. The Department of Labor essentially will be editing existing information from national organizations relating to health and safety in the workplace, including the ACGIH, the Center for Disease Control, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

**EXAMPLES OF IMPACTS RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE  
TO CERTAIN PHYSICAL AGENTS**

<b>Physical Stress</b>	<b>Occupation Examples</b>	<b>Effects</b>
Microwave Radiation	Telecommunication station employee	Superheated body core Questionable effects include: cardiac arrhythmia, cataracts, and psychoneurological dysfunction
Ionizing Radiation (x-rays)	Hospital employees Welders	Cancer of many kinds including: bone, lung, liver, leukemia, chromosomal damage and reproductive abnormalities
Ultraviolet Radiation	Outdoor construction work	Skin cancer
Infrared Radiation	Welders Glass blowers	Flash burns to the retina, cataracts
Lasers	Hospital employees	Eye damage and burns, blindness
Heat Stress	Outdoor physical work	Heat stroke, overheating of the body, extreme conditions may cause loss of consciousness and death
Cold Stress	Oil field service workers	Frostbite, hypothermia, death
Noise	Forest products (sawmill employees and loggers)	Deafness
Hand/Arm Vibration	Construction workers Jackhammer operators Drill operators	"White finger" damage to nerve sensors that regulate circulation causing arterial spasms, chronic lack of blood to muscles causing muscle waste
Airborne Upper Sonic and Ultrasonic Acoustic Radiation	Major doses: as an industrial cleaner (industrial hygienists are not aware of such an application in Alaska)	Deafness

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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PERSONAL SERVICES						
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EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Tom Stuart, Director  
Division: Labor Standards and Safety

Phone: 465-4870  
Date: 1/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Jim Samdson  
Agency: Labor

Date: 1/23/87

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)  
Senate Secretary

Bill No. House Bill 22

Date January 22, 1987

Title "An Act relating to hazardous physical agents in the workplace."

Contact: Eileen Plate  
465-2700

Richard Arab  
465-4856

Under existing law, employers are required to provide information and training to employees on certain toxic and hazardous substances. This bill seeks to expand this "Right-to-Know" law to include physical agents.

Physical agents are defined as those listed in the "Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Work Environment" as published by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. The latest edition of this publication lists the following physical agents:

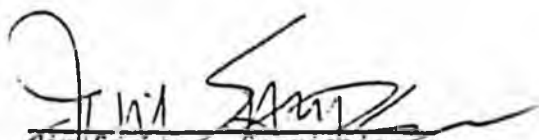
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- Ionizing Radiation
- Lasers
- Noise
- Impulse or Impact Noise
- RF/Microwave Radiation
- Ultraviolet Radiation
- Airborne Upper Sonic and Ultrasonic Acoustic Radiation
- Cold Stress
- Hand-Arm (Segmental) Vibration

Exposure to physical agents can result in permanent disabilities, such as deafness. Often employers and employees are not aware of the harmful effects of a particular hazard present in the workplace, and the training and information requirements provided in this bill would assist in filling this void. This would, in turn, effect implementation of protective measures by the employer to safeguard employees, as well as provide employees with an understanding of the importance of following safe and healthful work practices.

As part of its Occupational Safety and Health program, the Department of Labor enforces regulations to protect employees from certain physical hazards (ionizing radiation, lasers, noise, RF/Microwave radiation, and ultraviolet radiation). The information and training requirement of this bill would, therefore, enhance the Department's efforts to protect Alaska's workers.

The Department of Labor supports House Bill No. 22. It will not have a fiscal impact on the Department.

APPROVED:

  
Jim Sampson, Commissioner  
Department of Labor

# The Right-to-Know Law

In the summer of 1983, Gov. Bill Sheffield signed into law a bill which provides you the right to know about hazardous substances you are working with.

While other federal and state occupational health and safety laws give you access to your workplace medical and exposure records, this new law requires that your employer provide you with information about health effects and proper handling procedures for about 800 hazardous exposures.

Beginning July 1984, each year the Alaska Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Section (OSHS) will assemble a list of toxic and hazardous substances to be regulated. The OSHS will include substances on both the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Toxic and Hazardous Substances List and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists' list of hazardous chemicals and physical agents.

If you work with a product containing one of these hazardous substances, your employer must:

- post information relating to your rights under this law, as well as the chemical name of each toxic or hazardous substance you may be exposed to and

- conduct a safety education program for each new work assignment informing you of a) the location and properties of the hazardous substance, b) the known or suspected health effects, c) the nature of any operation that could result in exposure to hazardous or toxic substances, d) any necessary handling or hygienic practices or precautions, and e) the location, proper use, and limitation of personal protective equipment used in the workplace.

If you believe you might be exposed to a hazardous substance, you may request safety and health information about the product or exposure from your employer. The employer must supply an OSHA form 20 material safety data sheet (MSDS) or equivalent in-



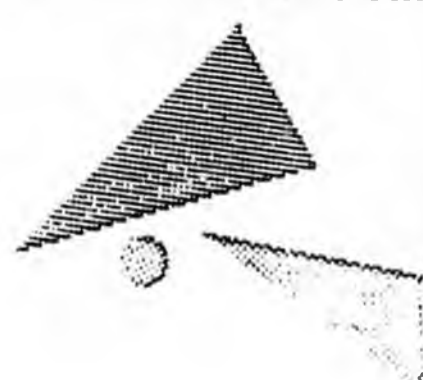
Some supporters of the right-to-know legislation watch Gov. Sheffield sign the bill into law. Pictured left to right are Dave Allison, Alaska Environmental Lobby; Resa King, Associated General Contractors; Judy Knight and Richard Arab, Department of Labor; Mariene Neve, Alaska AFL-CIO; and Richard Neve, Department of Environmental Conservation.

formation. This should include: the product name and chemical name, the name and address of the manufacturer, principal hazardous components, fire and explosion hazard data, health hazard information, precautions to follow during spills and leaks, proper disposal methods, and handling and storage practices.

If your employer does not have this information available, he/she must contact either OSHS or the product's manufacturer within three days of your request. OSHS will have an information retrieval system to assist employers. Workers also may use this system to obtain health and safety information about hazardous workplace exposures.

If you do not receive the information within 15 days of your request, the employer should eliminate the hazardous workplace exposure.

**Note:** This new law gives you only the right to know the identity of the hazardous substances with which you are working. It does not provide enforcement of procedures to avoid hazardous exposures. If you believe your work conditions are not safe and healthful, talk with your supervisor and/or union representative. If that doesn't help, file a complaint with OSHS.



# CAUTION!

*Every year hundreds of Alaskan men and women work with chemicals that are potentially dangerous to their health. What kinds of chemicals are YOU exposed to at work???*

## You Have a Right to Know About Hazardous & Toxic Substances in Your Work Place

**Q: What gives me this right?**

The Alaska Right To Know Law (AS. 60.068) requires employers, as of July 1, 1984, to collect information on hazardous substances used at their job sites and train workers on those hazards.

**Q: Do all Alaskan workers have this right?**

**YES!** The law requires that all Alaskan employers maintain information on the chemicals they use at work and communicate this information to you.

**Q: What are my rights?**

As an Alaskan worker you have the right to know about the hazards associated with the chemicals you use at work. You have the right to request this information from your employer who must provide you with this information during your work shift. If the information is not immediately available, your employer has 15 days to obtain this information and present it to you. If you do not receive the information within this time period your employer must take measures to prevent your exposure to that substance or substances. Such measures might include removing workers or the substance from the work site. Your employer will provide you with chemical hazard information in the form of a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

**Q: What is a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)?**

An MSDS is a form describing chemical health hazard information on a particular chemical product. It also explains emergency handling procedures, disposal information, provides a list of chemical ingredients, and other such information. Of note, a MSDS only provides general information and may not include all the information about a chemical product. Use the MSDS as a stepping stone to obtain more information about the chemicals with which you work. Contact Alaska Health Project if you need assistance.

**Q: What responsibility does my boss have?**

These are your boss' major responsibilities under the law:

A. Collect and maintain, post, or post notice of the workplace location of MSDSs and provide them to you upon request.

B. Post a poster informing you of your rights under the law (available from the Department of Labor and the Alaska Health Project).

C. Train new employees and other employees who are not aware of the law and who have not received health and safety instruction about the chemicals they may be exposed to at work. See the regulations for specific training requirements.

**Q: What should I do with the information once I have it?**

Save and study it, then learn as much as you can about the chemicals you work with.

Compare the product name on the MSDS with the name of the chemical you are actually using and make sure they are the same. If not, alert other workers, your foreman, and/or your steward.

Give this information to your doctor when you go for annual check ups and/or emergency situations. This information will help your doctor diagnose any illness or injury that you might have.

**Q: How can I get more information on the law and about hazards I may face on the job?**

Pick up the phone and call:

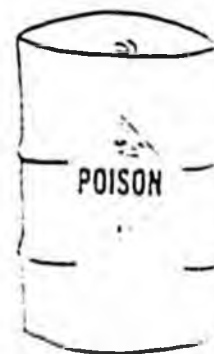
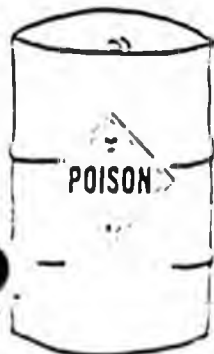
Alaska Health Project

276-2864

or

Alaska Department of Labor

264-2594



————— Please Duplicate & Post —————

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Form Approved  
OMB No. 44-R1387

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Required under USDL Safety and Health Regulations for Ship Repairing,  
Shipbuilding, and Shipbreaking (29 CFR 1915, 1916, 1917)

## SECTION I

MANUFACTURER'S NAME <b>WAYNE CHEMICAL CORP.</b>		EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NO. <b>1-800-424-9300</b>
ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) <b>300 So. Barclay Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204</b>		
CHEMICAL NAME AND SYNONYMS <b>Lead Chromate; Yellow-34; C.I. 77600</b>	TRADE NAME AND SYNONYMS <b>Chrome Yellow Med. Code 89</b>	
CHEMICAL FAMILY <b>Inorganic Pigments</b>	FORMULA <b>PbCrO<sub>4</sub></b>	

## SECTION II - HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

PAINTS, PRESERVATIVES, & SOLVENTS	%	TLV (Unit)	ALLOYS AND METALS	%	TLV (Unit)
PIGMENTS <b>Lead as Pb</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0.15mg</b>	BASE METALS		
CATALYST			ALLOYS		
VEHICLE			METAL COATINGS		
SOLVENTS			FILLER METAL PLUS COATING OR CORE FLUX		
ADDITIVES			OTHERS		
OTHERS <b>Chromate as CrO<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.10mg/m<sup>3</sup></b>			
HAZARDOUS MIXTURES OF OTHER LIQUIDS, SOLIDS, OR GASES				%	TLV (Unit)
Actual compound is PbCrO <sub>4</sub> , and components as given above are one way of expressing the contents of the product.					

## SECTION III - PHYSICAL DATA

BOILING POINT (°F.)	N/A	SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H <sub>2</sub> O=1)	3.52
VAPOR PRESSURE (mm Hg.)	N/A	PERCENT. VOLATILE BY VOLUME (%)	1.0
VAPOR DENSITY (AIR=1)	N/A	EVAPORATION RATE (_____ =1)	N/A
SOLUBILITY IN WATER	slight		
APPEARANCE AND ODOR	Fine Yellow Powder; Odorless		

## SECTION IV - FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

FLASH POINT (Methods used)	N/A	FLAMMABLE LIMITS	LEL	UEL
EXTINGUISHING MEDIA	Water			
SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES	N/A			
UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS	N/A			

### SECTION V - HEALTH HAZARD DATA

**THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE** See Section II

**EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE**  
No immediate harmful effects. Repeated breathing of excessive concentrations can cause minor irritation of skin and mucus membranes.

**EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES**

Wash thoroughly with soap and water, especially when exposed to open cuts.  
Consult physician if ingested.

### SECTION VI - REACTIVITY DATA

<b>STABILITY</b>	<b>UNSTABLE</b>		<b>CONDITIONS TO AVOID</b>
	<b>STABLE</b>	X	

**INCOMPATIBILITY (Materials to avoid)**

**HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS**

<b>HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION</b>	<b>MAY OCCUR</b>		<b>CONDITIONS TO AVOID</b>
	<b>WILL NOT OCCUR</b>	X	

### SECTION VII - SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES

**STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED** Wear respirator; vacuum into receptacle for disposal. Wash area with water.

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD** Sanitary landfill in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

### SECTION VIII - SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (Specify type)** Dust respirators approved by NIOSH

<b>VENTILATION</b>	<b>LOCAL EXHAUST</b> Required	<b>SPECIAL</b>
	<b>MECHANICAL (General)</b>	<b>OTHER</b>

**PROTECTIVE GLOVES** Leather gloves      **EYE PROTECTION** Safety goggles

**OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** Throw away plastic inserts in leather gloves.

### SECTION IX - SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORING** Store in dry area; keep containers tightly closed; protect from physical damage; avoid dust.

**OTHER PRECAUTIONS** Change clothes before eating, wash face and hands before eating or smoking; keep away from food or food products. Periodic blood tests.

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Alaskan workers should have a basic understanding of this document in order to effectively utilize their right to know about hazardous materials in the workplace.

For more information, contact Alaska Health Project, P.O. Box 10-1037, Anchorage, Alaska 99510, or phone (907) 276-2864