



CHEMICALS USED IN PROCESSING

IN THE DEVELOPER IN THE FIXER

ACETIC ACID
ETHYLENE/DIETHYLENE GLYCOL
GLUTARALDEHYDE
HYDROQUINONE
PHENIDONE
POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

ACETIC ACID
ALUMINIUM CHLORIDE
AMMONIUM THIOSULPHATE

RADIOGRAPHIC FILM PROCESSING PROCEDURES

SAFE WORK PRACTICE FOR RADIOGRAPHERS AND DARKROOM TECHNICIANS



YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

- IF YOU OFTEN FEEL UNWELL AT WORK IN THE DARKROOM - REPORT TO YOUR SUPERVISOR.
- YOU MAY BECOME ALLERGIC TO PROCESSING CHEMICALS.

WORK RELATED ILLNESS IS PREVENTABLE IF WARNINGS ARE HEEDED.

WARNING SIGNS

IF THESE SYMPTOMS OCCUR AND PERSIST THEY SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED:

RESPIRATORY TRACT: Nasal Discharge, Catarrh, Sinus problems, Laryngitis

NON RESPIRATORY: Itchy eyes, Mouth ulcers, Tinnitus, Severe Headaches, Hoarseness, Nausea, Chest pains, Extreme fatigue, Heart arrhythmias, Painful joints, loss of feeling in hands or feet.

WHERE ARE THE DANGERS?

- MIXING THE CHEMICALS
- OPERATING THE PROCESSOR
- CLEANING THE PROCESSOR
- * DISPOSAL OF USED FIXER & PROCESSOR WASTE ...
- * SILVER RECOVERY ...
- * HANDLING NEWLY PROCESSED FILM,

VENTILATION

- ALWAYS USE THE VENTILATION SYSTEM PROVIDED
- VENTILATION SHOULD OPERATE NIGHT & DAY,
- ENSURE A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF FRESH AIR IN THE WORK AREA (15 AIR CHANGE PER HOUR)
- FUMES FROM PROCESSOR MUST BE DUCTED TO THE OUTSIDE OF BUILDING.
- ALL PROCESSORS MUST HAVE EXHAUST SYSTEMS FITTED.
- HOODS SHOULD BE FITTED OVER ALL PROCESSORS. (To act as "FUME CABINETS" FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS - E.G. GLUTARALDEHYDE.)

DETECTING THE DANGERS

- STRONG SMELL OF CHEMICALS IN WORKPLACE
- IMPROVE AIR INTAKE IMMEDIATELY
- ENSURE VENTILATION SYSTEM IS WORKING,
- LEAKING PROCESSOR, FAULTY EXHAUST - OR BROKEN EXHAUST,
- SWITCH OFF MACHINE & CALL ENGINEER
- * DO NOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE PROCESSOR UNTIL FAULTS ARE RECTIFIED.

SAFE WORK PRACTICE.

- AVOID INHALING FUMES
- AVOID SKIN CONTACT WITH CHEMICALS
- WEAR RESPIRATOR WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS
- WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS
- WEAR RUBBER GLOVES WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS
- KEEP AWAY FROM PROCESSING AREA UNLESS WORKING THERE
- WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AT END OF WORKING SESSION
- READ MANUFACTURERS' LABELS CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS
- DO NOT SMOKE IN PROCESSING OR DARKROOMS
- DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN PROCESSING AREAS

DARKROOM HYGIENE

WASTE CHEMICALS should not be collected in the work area. They should be piped directly into containers sited in a special storage area from where they can be easily removed, in accordance with environmental safety regulations.

STRICT HYGIENE must be observed; benches and floors must be cleaned immediately after spillages. Used fixer must not be left uncovered or in the processing area.

THERE SHOULD BE a floor drain to enable the technician to rinse away any chemical spillage. The entire surface should be sealed to ensure that no chemical spillage can soak into the floor covering.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

SPILLAGES should be cleaned up immediately, using water to dilute the chemicals. A large spillage should be absorbed by dry sand or vermiculite. Protective clothing, goggles, respirator and rubber gloves must be worn. Rubber boots may be necessary also.

FIRST AID

Skin contamination: wash immediately with plenty of water, and use a neutral soap/flouder if a Neutraliser or Bedolite is available.

Accidental ingestion: all foods should be removed to fresh air immediately and given artificial respiration immediately if breathing has stopped.

Accidental ingestion: if conscious, give plenty of water to drink, seek medical aid if necessary. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING.

Eye Spillages: wash eye with copious quantities of water for 15 minutes. If irritation persists obtain medical advice.