

PREVENTION *quarterly*

OhioEPA

Office of

Pollution Prevention

FALL 1996

ISO 14000



Say What You Do - Do What You Say

ISO 14000 is a group of voluntary standards and guideline reference documents for environmental management, including environmental management systems, eco-labeling, environmental auditing, life-cycle assessment, environmental performance evaluation, and environmental aspects in product standards. ISO was conceived to help businesses build sound environmental management systems and processes into existing business systems and practices. The standards will influence the design, manufacturing and marketing of products; the selection of raw materials; and the types of environmental data that is gathered and how this data is communicated.

Although predicting the outcome of these standards is difficult, ISO

14000 may be important to Ohio's industries for many reasons. These include customer requirements, international trading competitiveness, and competitiveness in general.

Some industries, such as chemical manufacturers, have reviewed their experience with ISO 9000 (a series of standards focused on quality). Many U.S. companies did not adopt ISO 9000 standards until they began to lose market share in European markets. Determined not to make the same mistake twice, many

chemical manufacturers are closely monitoring and participating in ISO 14000 development and plan to adopt the standards.

Some businesses may require their suppliers to participate in ISO 14000. For example, IBM will adopt the ISO 14000 standards, and IBM is instructing their suppliers that if they want to do business with IBM, they will have to comply with ISO 14000.

The focus of the Environmental Management System Standards (ISO 14001- one set of the ISO 14000 standards) is on management. An Environmental Management System (EMS) includes the following steps:

1. policy and commitment;
2. planning;
3. implementation;
4. measurement and evaluation; and
5. review and improve.

An EMS helps an organization establish and meet its own policy goals through objectives and targets, organizational structures and accountability, management controls and review functions - all with top management oversight. An EMS ***(Continued on page 3)***

ISO 14000 Conference Information Inside



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Do You Want to Take a Gamble? Acetone Use Involves Risk

If you use acetone, and especially if you have increased your use of this chemical, you might want to reconsider your options. Acetone is an extremely flammable solvent that has caused or worsened many fires at some locations where the chemical is used. Although some environmental regulations regarding acetone have been relaxed, it remains a very hazardous chemical demanding your constant attention. You may want to switch to a material that is safer to use or otherwise reduce your use of acetone.

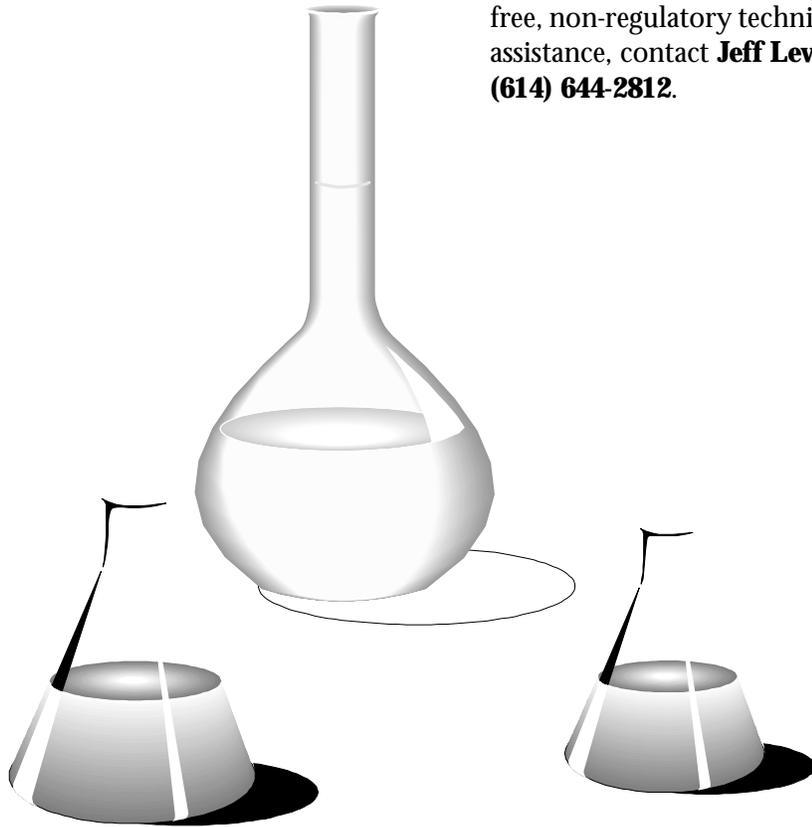
Under the Clean Air Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently determined that acetone has negligible ground-level ozone-forming properties and exempted it from some air pollution regulations. Ohio EPA is considering similar changes in state air pollution rules. Also, U.S. EPA removed acetone from the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), the database for reporting toxic chemical uses, releases, and transfers from certain manufacturing facilities. TRI reporting is no longer required for acetone. Due to these regulatory modifications, acetone has emerged as an attractive alternative to other, more toxic and ozone-depleting chemicals. Acetone remains a regulated substance by other regulatory agencies, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Depending on how it is used, acetone could be considered a hazardous waste.

What are your options?

Chemical suppliers are formulating new, low-toxicity products that may be more effective than acetone and safer to use. Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention (OPP) encourages facilities to first consider changes that will minimize the need for cleaning with acetone, such as process changes, equipment modifications, material substitutions, and product redesigns or reformulations. Once cleaning requirements have been minimized, facilities should consider using a less toxic material or

cleaning method for each specific cleaning application. Before converting to an alternative solvent, study the substance's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), which provides information about physical properties, safety precautions, and waste disposal.

The Office of Pollution Prevention will publish a fact sheet on acetone regulation in October 1996, and can provide information on alternatives to acetone through various sources, including case studies and the Internet. OPP can also supply details regarding acetone's regulatory status. For more information or to ask for free, non-regulatory technical assistance, contact **Jeff Lewis at (614) 644-2812.**



ISO 14000

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directs an organization to say what it does and then do what it says. It does not set requirements for environmental compliance nor do these standards establish requirements for specific levels of pollution prevention or performance. The Environmental Management Systems specification document calls for environmental policies which include a commitment to both compliance with environmental laws and prevention of pollution.

ISO 14000 certification will present a challenge to most companies in Ohio. However, for businesses that have already incorporated the concepts of pollution prevention into their management systems, the certification process may be easier. Pollution prevention requires that companies think holistically and consider the environmental impacts of design decisions, raw material choices, process line changes, and plant operation decisions. These are all important components of ISO 14000.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), a private sector, international federation of national standards bodies, is developing the ISO 14000 standards. The U.S. is represented by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The ISO 14000 EMS standards will probably become final international standards by late summer-early fall 1996. For more information on ISO 14000, contact **Andrea Futrell at (614) 644-2813**.

Voluntary Partnerships for Pollution Prevention

Over the last several years, an important change has taken place in the national strategy for protecting the environment. Through an array of partnership programs, referred to collectively as **Partners for the Environment**, U.S. EPA and states are demonstrating that voluntary goals and commitments achieve real environmental results in a timely, cost-effective way. These cooperative partnerships focus on pollution prevention and are designed to work with a variety of groups, including small and large businesses, citizen groups, state and local governments, universities and trade associations. The goal of these partnerships is to set and reach environmental goals such as conserving water and energy, and reducing green house gasses, toxic emissions, solid wastes, indoor air pollution, and pesticide risk.

In addition to program development, these partnerships are designed to offer participants effective tools and support to address environmental issues. These services may include programmatic, technical, and financial support or incentives to participate in these voluntary partnerships.

The results of these partnerships are impressive. Thousands of organizations are working cooperatively with U.S. EPA to achieve measurable environmental results, often more quickly and with lower costs than would be the case with traditional regulatory approaches. However, with more than 25 partnerships at the federal level alone, it is becoming increasingly difficult to know which is the best for your organization. To address this, U.S. EPA has published **Partnerships in Preventing Pollution: A Catalog of the Agency's Partnerships Programs** (U.S. EPA, 100-B-96-001, Spring 1996). This publication provides short descriptions of available partnerships, as well as appropriate contacts to obtain additional information. If you would like a copy of this publication, contact Michelle Price, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, or Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention at **(614) 644-3469**.

ISO 14000 Conference
Chicago, IL
November 19 & 20

For more information, fax the information below to
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Co-sponsored by: U.S. EPA, The Global Environment and Technology Foundation,
& The American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Internet Resources

CAGE - <http://clean.rti.org/cage>

The Coating Alternatives Guide (**CAGE**) is an expert system and information base designed to recommend low-emitting alternative coating technologies to coatings users. CAGE also provides summarized information on recommended alternatives. If you do not have Internet access, you can get a copy of the CAGE expert system on diskette from **Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention** by calling **(614) 644-3469**.

SAGE - <http://clean.rti.org/>

The Solvent Alternatives Guide (**SAGE**) is a comprehensive guide designed to provide pollution prevention information on solvent and process alternatives for parts cleaning and degreasing. If you do not have Internet access, you can get a copy of the SAGE expert system on diskette from **Ohio EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention** by calling **(614) 644-3469**.

The Ohio Alliance for the Environment - Fall Conference

Environmental Information on the Internet - Accessing Online Information About Ohio

Tuesday, November 19 at the Holiday Inn on the Lane (Lane Avenue), in Columbus.

For more information, contact The Ohio Alliance for the Environment at (614) 421-7819 or visit them on the Internet at <http://shell.idt.net/~oaenvi19/oe.htm>

Visit OPP on the Internet :

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oppmain.html>



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