SCOTTISH SCHOOLS SCIENCE EQUIPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS SCIENCE

EQUIENTENT RESEARCH

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Introduction

The whole of this bulletin is given over to the article on 'Restricted Chemicals', issued in the April issue of 'Education in Science' (No. 37). It is the work of the Materials and Processes Group, and our Mr Cochrane has been particularly closely involved in the preparatory work for this article, so that he is well qualified to answer any questions which may arise from its application.

Chemistry News

Many Education Authorities have their own lists of prohibited and restricted chemicals. Differences in these have already led to some difficulties, e.g. in practical examinations, and could in the event of an accident be used to weaken the defence or question the competence of the Authority involved to prepare or implement an adequate safety policy. In drawing up the following list of recommendations the Working Party convened by the Association for Science Education to examine safety in schools has sought the views of many science advisers, teachers and chemical suppliers. The 'distillation' of their experience has been used to prepare what is intended as a guide to good practice rather than as a set of hard and fast rules. It must be emphasised that these matters are only recommendations. Each Education Authority should prepare its own advice and guidance, and it is hoped that these recommendations will assist with this task.

The categories of restration suggested below are based on the likely experience of pupils t a particular stage in their school career. However it must be remembered that teachers know best the capabilities of their pupils, and also that the science teacher must be allowed to exercise a certain amount of professional judgement in choice and use of materials. Thus a teacher with sufficient expertise who is working in a school with adequate facilities for safely handling certain hazardous chemicals, possibly even some of those listed below as being 'not recommended' for school use, should perhaps be permitted to use them for special cases, e.g. sixth form project work. Clearly in such a case, his employer will have to be satisfied that such substances can be safely handled. It must be further pointed out that teachers have a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act to comply with any safety instructions given them by their employer and there may be science teachers in some areas who find that their Authority has banned a certain chemical which may have been shown as suitable for restricted use on the list below. In such cases, the teachers have a legal duty to follow their employer's instructions: having complied with such instructions, they may then find out why the chemical is banned, and if they consider the reason inadequate, they may ask to have the ban lifted.

The Working Party has endeavoured to balance the educational value obtained by using a particular chemical against the risk presented. One course of action is to recommend the exclusion from school of only a relatively small number of the more hazardous substances hitherto found in schools to provide teachers with information relating to the hazards of the remaining materials thus enabling them to handle those materials in a professional manner. Unless the use of each chemical is visualised it is impossible for anyone to place on it a user

restriction or a use restriction which is valid rather than one which is administratively convenient.

In some cases it has been possible to suggest alternatives for particular uses of certain chemicals, e.g. methylbenzene can be used as a suitable alternative to benzene as a solvent. Similarly benzene (liquid at room temperature) and naphthalene (solid) can be replaced respectively in change of state experiments by cyclohexane and the higher alcohols and acids. However to show the properties of a particular substance there is often no alternative to using the substance itself and if unfortunately that substance is judged to be too hazardous then the educational objectives will clearly have to be sought by other means.

The absence of a chemical from this list cannot be used to imply anything about it. The list simply covers those chemicals which have been found in schools, and which present sufficient risk to have been noted by the Education Authorities and by members of the Working Party. As new information relating to hazards comes available it will be necessary to add or subtract from the restrictions. For example, a few years ago it was common to see pupils preparing N-nitrosamines in open test-tubes. Syllabuses do change and this often results in new materials being used and often in some hitherto well used chemicals being left unused on shelves.

The labels on the containers of most chemicals recently purchased will probably carry limited information as to the hazards and the precautions for handling. Suppliers and manufacturers are willing to provide information but teachers may wish to have at hand a reference book. A number of these have been included in the Safety Bibliography published in September 1979 issue of Education in Science.

Many chemicals present an intrinsic hazard in being toxic, highly flammable, explosive or corrosive. Others are unstable in storage e.g. potassium which forms unstable peroxides on prolonged storage or react unfavourably with ubiquitous materials such as air, moisture, wood etc. e.g. chloric(VII) acid. For some substances it is the experimental method employed and/or their incompatibility with other chemicals which give rise to the hazard e.g. propane-1,2,3,-triol (glycerol) is not regarded as an intrinsically hazardous substance but it will react vigorously if mixed with potassium manganate(VII).

The categories of restriction are listed below as 1-7.

- 1. Chemicals to be excluded from Schools

 These should not be stored nor should they be isolated in preparation. These are:
 - (i) a small number which have been prohibited by statutory instrument including naphthalene-2-amine (2-or beta-naphthylamine), biphenyl-4,4'-diamine (benzidine), 4-aminobiphenyl, 4-nitrobiphenyl and their salts.

X

- (ii) others which in the opinion of the Working Party give rise to such a degree of hazard that their use in schools cannot be justified.
- 2. Chemicals not recommended to be normally held or stored

 These pose a high degree of risk and most syllabuses will not require them, but they may be needed for sixth year projects and options.

 I.g. analytical procedures likely to be used

in environmental studies need the use of small amounts of potassium cyanide as a masking agent. It is felt that exceptions can be made in such special cases provided that -

- (i) schools have adequate facilities to handle such materials i.e. secure storage, fume cupboards, ventilation etc. and are equipped for A level or Sixth Year Studies Work.
- (ii) teachers and pupils have the appropriate information and experience.

Employers may insist that teachers seek advice from them before making such decisions. In cases of doubt teachers should seek advice from their employers.

3. Chemicals restricted to small quantity for observation or exhibition only.

Many wish to store small samples of materials for observation purposes only. These should be kept securely and it should be borne in mind that the forbidden status of such chemicals makes them more attractive to some pupils.

4. Chemicals restricted to small quantities - in storage

It is difficult to give a recommended maximum value for the amount to be stored owing to the differences in syllabuses and the courses followed and in the local geography of the school. Some schools are on more than one site and others have laboratories which are widely separated within the one building. The dangers involved in transporting commonly used chemicals would be greater than those involved in storing twice the amount divided between the two sites.

However if it is found that most of the stock is consumed in the course of a year or of a term then that amount should not be exceeded.

5. Chemicals restricted to certain users.

(a) Teachers only
(b) Senior pupils i.e. post '0' Grade and post '0' level
(c) '0' Grade, '0' Level or CSE and above (meaning the last two/three years of these and similar courses).
(d) Years 1 and 2 of secondary schools (11/12 years upwards) with close teacher supervision.

S

0

All practical work to be carried out by pupils should in the first instance be supervised, in the sense that experimental details in texts and investigation sheets be checked and if necessary modified to suit the experience of the pupils and the facilities available. (During the use of some chemicals by certain users closer supervision is required, to these the suffix t has been added. For example see bromine element).

A number of chemicals which are not required by the syllabuses of some Examination Boards until after '0' Grade or '0' Level are required by others at an earlier stage. The designation of user category made on this list (i.e. 0 or 0t or S) has been decided on the basis of the hazards involved and on the likely experience and ability of pupils at a particular stage rather than on the demands of individual syllabuses.

6. Chemicals restricted to use in special circumstances only.

E.g. for use in fume cupboards.

Again it will be necessary to exercise discretion e.g. it would

be no less safe to use lead(II) bromide or its solution outside of a fume cupboard than inside one, but if the salt were molten in order to electrolyse it then a fume cupboard is required. Though not ideal many substances can be safely handled in a well ventilated open laboratory, provided that the scale of operation is small e.g. up to 5cm³ of propanone. If a larger scale is used with open vessels then the use of a fume cupboard is recommended.

(F)

7. Chemicals with a short safe shelf-life.

L

These should only be purchased in small quantities and replaced by new stock at regular intervals, preferably not more than a year in most cases. Date stamping of new stock is recommended. Many chemicals are available in several portions of small quantities e.g. phosphorus(V) oxide can be purchased in 4 x 25g sealed containers and each upon opening can be used up within a short period of time. Purchased in this way the cost per gram is usually high, but on the other hand any initial saving, resulting from the purchase of one single large amount, is lost if disposal proves necessary. A visual check should be kept on such materials, and those in unopened sealed containers may be kept for longer periods. Such substances have been marked with an L.

Finally the Working Party would welcome suggestions from science teachers as to other chemicals which might be included in this list, and for safer alternatives to any of the restricted chemicals.

Summary of Key

Х	excluded from school laboratories	(1)
N	not recommended	(2)
E	exhibition sample only	(3)
R	restrict inventory	(4)
T	teacher use only	(5)
S	also used by senior pupils	(5)
0	also used by pupils on '0' Grade, '0' Level or CSE and similar courses.	(5)
t	can with close teacher supervision be used by years one and two of secondary school. (The suffix t following on a user restriction implies that more direct supervision may be advisable).	(5)
F	to be used in fume cupboard	(6)
(F)	to be used in fume cupboard if in open vessels on a scale other than small	(6)
L	short safe shelf life	(7)

Numbers in brackets refer to categories in the Introduction.

		-5-		
anthracene antimony antimony compounds aromatic amines (except aminobiphenyls or napthalenamines)			methanal alkyl halides all unlabelled bottles which contain substances of un- known composition aluminium powder aluminium bromide.	Name acetonitrile (methyl cyanide) aerosol sprays alcohols other than ethanol aldehydes other than
m sulphate, hloride (botous) and mol	X S, St R, St St avoid raising dust Ot, (F) N.L alternatives are	R.T.L R.S.L X Ot,(F) X Prepare as required and immediately dispose of excess.	R,Ot,(F) X Rt R.S.L	Restriction R,S,F R,Ot,F R,O,(F) R,O,(F)
benzenecarbaldehyde (benzaldehyde) benzenecarbonyl chloride (benzoyl chloride) benzene-1, 3-diamine (m-phenylenediamine) benzene-1, 4-diamine (p-phenylenediamine) benzene-1, 2-diol (catechol)	sulphate ct's solution ide e, use as a ent	barium, metal barium compounds, solid barium compounds, dilute solution barium chromate(VI)	fibre mats platinised centred gauzes gloves azo dyes	ds forms)
	O use altern cycloh state state	117. If sho from a	wool a silica resist centre gauzes Use he R, Ot	Restri N If to be zinc. X cer paper,

Restriction

paper, wool and platinised wool available. Calcium silicate matrix heat zinc. R, Ot See article on Use heat resistant leather centred or stainless steel resistant mats and ceramic to be shown use impure Carcinogens in Bulletin gauzes available. K ceramic wool forms of If Marsh's Test needs

N should not be isolatrom any preparation. R, T, L should not be isolated

R,St,F (small scale preparative work). \mathbb{R} ,S,(F) alternative solvent. Use cyclohexane for change of state experiment. use methylbenzene as

bromides) 3-bromoprop-1-ene (allyl bromide) butanal butane cylinder butanoic acid butan-1-ol (n-butanol)	1-bromobutane (n-butyl bromide) 2-bromobutane (sec-butyl bromide) bromoethane (ethyl bromomethane (methyl bromide) bromomethane (methyl bromide) 2-bromo-2-methylpropane (t-butyl bromide) bromopropane (propyl	methane (Caradate 20) bismuth bismuth compounds bleaching powder bromates bromine, element bromine, dilute solutions bromobenzene (phenyl	Name benzene-1,3-diol (resorcinol) benzene-1,4-diol (quinol or hydroquinone) benzenesulphonic acid benzene-1,2,3-triol (pyrogallol) benzonitrile beryllium compounds biphenyl-4,4'-diamine (benzidine) bis(4-isocyanatophenyl)
R,O,(F) R,O,(F) N not recommended in lab. R,S O,(F)	R,S,(F) S,(F) R,S,(F) R,T,F R,S,(F)	S O O R,O,L R,S St,F	Restriction Ot.F S S St S R,S,F E R,S,F E R,S,F
chlorides) chlorides) chlorides) chloroethane (ethylchloroethane) chloroethane	chlorates(III) (chlorites) chlorates(V) (chlorates(VII) chlorates(VII) (perchlorates)	carbon disulphide camphor chlorates(I) (Hypo-	Name butan-2-ol (sec-butanol) butanone (methyl ethyl ketone) cadmium cadmium compounds calcium, metal turnings calcium hydride calcium oxide calcium sulphide carbon dioxide, solid carbon monoxide
II S, S, (F) A, S, (F)	vented. I quantitie d as in fra lisation of nation produ tum chlorate be stored.	aration. aration. If use dimethylbenzene as solvent for preparing rhombic sulphur and ethyl cinnamate for prism experiment. Solvent for prism experiment. Solvent as solvetion: ensure solvetions.	Restriction O, (F) O, (F) O, (F) O, St R, St R, St R, St, L R, St

1,2-dibromopropane (propylene dibromide)	1,2-dibromoethane (ethylene dibromide)	(N,N'-dialkylanilines) di(benzenecarbonyl) peroxide (benzoyl peroxide)	DDT decanedioyl dichloride (sebacoyl chloride) Devarda's alloy N.N'-dialkylphenylamines	cyclohexanol cyclohexanone cyclohexanone	sulphuric acid) crude oil cyanates cyanides	440	<pre>alchromates(v1) solutions solids chromium(VI) oxide (chromium trioxide)</pre>	chlorides) chlorosulphonic acid chromates(VI) and	chloride monomer) (chloromethyl) benzene (benzyl chloride) chloropropanes (propyl	Name
, A) (E)	N may be formed as in test for unsat-uration, but should not be isolated.	N di(dodecanyl) peroxide is alter- native polymerisation	Ot, F	(a) (a) (b) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c	- H. 4	O T Do not store. Decon 90 good alter-	R W O	R, St, F	R,S,F	Restriction X
dioxan dipentene	<pre>2,'4-dinitrochiorobenzene 2,'4-dinitrofluorobenzene dinitrophenols 2,'4-dinitrophenyl- hvdrazine</pre>	dinitrobenzenes 3,5-dinitrobenzoic acid 4,4'-dinitrobiphenyl 2,4'-dinitrobromobenzene	<pre>3, 3'-dimethylbiphenyl- 4, 4'-diamine (o-toli- dine) dimethyl formamide dimethyl sulphate</pre>	dimethylamine dilute solutions	diethyl sulphate diiodine hexachloride (iodine trichloride) 3,3'-dimethoxybiphenyl-	(lauroyl peroxide) diethylamine diethylamine, dilute solution	<pre>dichloroethanoic acid (dichloroacetic acid) 2,4-dichlorophenols di(dodecanoyl) peroxide</pre>	dines) dichlorodimethylsilane 1,2 -dichloroethane	dichlorobiphenyl-4,4'- diamines (chlorobezi-	Name dichlorobenzenes
R, St. L	ν. Α. Α. Μ.		ਲ ਨ ਸ	ਨ, 0t, F 0	R, St, F	R,Ot,F	म, ७ ८ ८	pp HH HH	toxic o	Restric R.S.F

Restriction

R,S,F 1,2-isomer most toxic of the three isomers.

ethylamine ethylamine, dilute solution ethylbenzene ethylbenzoate ethyl carbamate ethyl ethanoate (ethyl acetate) ethyl methanoate (ethyl formate)	(acetic acid, glacial) (acetic anhydride) (acetic anhydride) (acetic anhydride) ethanol ethanol (acetyl chloride (acetyl chloride) ethene cylinder (ethylene) ethers (general) ethoxyethane (diethyl ethoxyethanol (cello- solve)	(metaldenyde) ethanal trimer (paraldehyde) ethane cylinder ethane-1,2-diamine (ethylene diamine) ethanedioic acid and salts (oxalic acid and salts) solid dilute solution	Name diphenylamine, solution for redox indicator esters (general) ethanal (acetaldehyde) ethanal tetramer
R, Ot, F O, (F) O, (F) N, O, (F)	R, S, (F) O, (F) S, F N R, S, F R, S, F, L	R, S, F R, S, F R, S, F	Restriction R,St Otherwise N R,O,(F) R,O,(F) Ot
hydrazine sulphate hydrides, metal hydriodic acid hydrobromic acid hydrocarbons, aliphatic hydrocarbons, aryl hydrochloric acid, conc hydrofluoric acid hydrogenation catalysts hydrogen cyanide hydrogen cylinder	ne -1,6 ametdioi dioy pic pic pic pine ine	fluorides, solid fluorides, solution germanium tetrachloride heptane hexacyanoferrates(II) (ferrocyanides) hexacyanoferrates(III) (ferricyanides) solutions of hexacyano- ferrates hexamethylcosane	Name ethyne cylinder (acetylene) Fehlings solution No 2 fluorene fluorene
R, St R, S R, S O small scale, (F) S, (F) Ot R, St	R,S,F R,O,(F) Ct O Ct O O Ot,F O,(F)	R,T Ot R,S,F R,O,(F) S S Ot no heating, no addition of strong acids	Restriction X Ot Use water bath. Alternative is Benedict's or Barfoed's solution. N

lithium hydride lithium hydroxide	hydride		, H, D	lead(II) chloride lead(II) chromate(VI)	Ō	O 5 10 x		acid	ogen peroxide 20 vol ogen peroxide O vol ogen sulphide gas	Name
) stable and are) suitable for some R,T,F,L) applications R,S		evels t if heated T		electrolysis F Ot N		R,T,F	S S R,T O, lower levels t, if heated t, (F)	y be used outside me cupboard.		Restriction
Millon's reagent	methylphenols (cresols) N-methylphenylamine (N-methylaniline)	<pre>(methy1 formate) methy1 2-methy1propen- oate (methy1 methacry- cate)</pre>	methyl ethyl ketone peroxide methyl methanoate	3-methylbutyl ethanoate (iso-amyl acetate) methyl ethanoate (methyl acetate)	solution methylbenzene (toluene) 5-methylbutanol (iso-	(o-anisidine) '+-methoxyphenylamine (p-anisidine) methylamine methylamine, dilute	<pre>methanoic acid (formic acid) methanol 2-methoxyphenylamine</pre>	mercury alkyls mercury salts, solid mercury salts, solution methanal (formaldehyde, formalin)	magnesium powder magnesium ribbon mercury	Name
Albustix, Cole's modification of Millon's reagent or Sakaguchi Test.	R,St,F	R,S,F,L	Ot O, (F)	5, (F) 0, (F)	0t,(F)	C, F	<pre>presence of hydrogen chloride. Ot,(F) Ot,(F) R.S.F</pre>	Do u	Ot t R,St in well ventilated room on spillage tray	Restriction

-10-	
molybdenum naphthalen-1-amine (1-naphthylamine) naphthalen-2-amine (2-naphthylamine) naphthalene N-naphthylethane-1, 2- diamine as solution (N.E.D. or N-naphthy- lethylenediamine) naphthylthiourea (ANTU) Nessler's reagent nickel salts, solution ninkel, dust nickel salts, solution ninhydrin, serosol spray nitric acid conc nitric acid, fuming nitrobenzene +-nitrobiphenyl nitrogen dioxide nitrogen triiodide nitrogen triiodide nitrogen triiodide nitrophenols (nitrophenyl)azo) benzene-1,3-diol solution (Magneson II) +((4-nitrophenyl)azo) naphthalen-1-ol solution (Magneson II)	**
R,S R,T,F liquid paraffin is preferred for storing alkali metals X X O For cooling curves use hexadecan-1-ol, octadecan- 1-ol, hexadecanoic or octadecanoic acid R,St R,St R,St R,St R,St R,St R,St,F R,St O F R,St O O F R St O O F O O F O O F O O O F O O O O O O O	J);+5;-)+;;5
nitrosamines nitrosophenols, 2-and 3-isomers 4-nitrosophenol octane octane oct-1-ene oleum orthophosphoric acid, dilute osmic acid orthosphosphoric acid, dilute osmic acid oxygen mixture (potassium chlorate(V))/ manganese(IV) oxide) paraffin oil paraquat pentane pentan-1-ol and 2-ol (n- and sec-amyl alcohol) pentan-3-one (diethyl ketone) pentyl ethanoate (amyl acetate) peroxides, inorganic (excluding H 0) peroxides, inorganic (excluding H 0) peroxides, befor, BP below 80°C petroleum ether, BP below 80°C phenols, dilute solutions e.g. indicators phenylammonium salts (anilinium salts)	Namo
	estriction

phenylethene (styrene) phenylhydrazine and salts phenylthiourea (P.T.U.) also phenylthiocarba- mide (P.T.C.) phosphides, metal phosphorus, red phosphorus, white phosphorus pentabromide phosphorus trichloride photassium manide (potassium potassium hydrogen- solution <2 molar potassium hydroxide, solution <2 molar potassium hydroxide, solid, melt or concentrated solution potassium mitrate potassium sulphide propanol (propionalde- hyde) propanol acid (propio- propan-1-ol and -2-ol (n-propyl alcohols)	Name
Ot see Bulletin 117. N R,Ot, F R,Ot, F R,Ot, F R,St, F,L R,	Restriction
propanone (acetone) propylamine propylamine, dilute solution propyl ethanoate (propyl acetate) pyridine selenium and compounds silicon tetrachloride silver nitrate solution sodium azide sodium azide sodium chlorate(I) sodium hydroxide, solution (hypochlorite) sodium hydroxide, solution <2 molar sodium hydroxide, solution sodium hydroxide, solic, melt or concentrated solution sodium nitrate (bisulphate) sodium nitrate sodium pentacyanoni- trosylferrate(II) (sodium nitroprusside) sodium sulphide sodium sulphide sodium sulphide sulphur chlorides sulphur dioxide canister sulphuric acid, conc sulphuric acid, dilute tellurium metal and compounds	Name
Etting St, F Co St, F	Restric

Restriction

O, below O if t, (F)
S, F
O

OPYL O, (F)
R, St, F
R, T cold tea is alternative for taste buds experiment ds R, S, F
e R, S, F
e R, S, F
ion Ot

R,S Ot N,L R,St R,S R,S Ot Ensure container is e) vented

vented Ot St Restriction

Name

X tellurium compounds R, St, F 1, 1, 1-trichloroethane is less tetrachloromethane (carbon harmful substitute for solvent applitetrachloride) cations. thallium and compounds Χ T Do not store Thermit mixture Do not heat to decomposition or add thiocyanates, solid strong acids R,S See Bulletin 117. thiourea (also thiocarbamide) tin(II) chloride (stannous chloride) tin(IV) chloride (stannic R.S.F.L chloride) titanium(IV) chloride R.T.F (titanium tetrachloride) t. (F) 1,1,1-trichloroethane as solvent 2, 2, 2-trichloroethanediol R.S.F (chloral hydrate) S trichloroethanoic acid (trichloroacetic acid) trichloroethene (trichloro-N 1,1,1-trichloroethane is a less harmful substitute for solvent applications. ethylene) as solvent R, St, F 1, 1, 1-trichloroethane is a less trichloromethane (chloroharmful substitute for solvent applications. form) 3, 4, 5-trinitrobenzoic acid (gallic acid) R,S 2,4,6-trinitrophenol (picric acid) R, t, F turpentine uranium compounds, solid R, T S uranium compounds, solution vanadium(V) oxide (vanadium T pentoxide) S vanadates(V) R.S xylene cyanol solid zinc powder R, t S zinc chloride Χ zinc chromate(VI)

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