

**Minutes of Safe Practices Subcommittee of the Committee on Chemical Safety
7pm, April, 2002 Peabody Hotel, Orlando, Florida**

Attending: Paul Schickedantz, Michael Cournoyer, Steve Sichak, Russell Phifer (Chair), Barbara Foster, Herb Silber (ConC liaison), Art Marcinkowski, and Harry Elston (guest).

1. The subcommittee reviewed the status of the Mercury Spills booklet being prepared by the Task Force on Laboratory Environmental, Health & Safety. The booklet is scheduled to have for a completed first draft by May 1; it will be available for review at the Boston meeting prior to final editing by the Task Force at its Fall meeting. The main headings are: General description of Mercury, Mercury toxicity, Common mercury spill situations, Spill cleanup, Waste disposal, Monitoring for mercury, Regulatory considerations, and Mercury substitutes. The appendices will include a bibliography/references section, sources of cleanup and monitoring products, and mercury recycling sources.
2. Subcommittee charter discussion - the subcommittee discussed our mission statement and charge, and how it distinguishes itself from the other subcommittees. Michael Cournoyer noted that in DOE, the charge based on a "safe practices" description would be to provide requirements for performing chemical processes safely in chemical laboratories and chemical manufacturing facilities.

Through discussion, the following mission statement was developed: "Provide guidance to CCS on the development and implementation of safe practices in the chemical workplace through the preparation of policy statements and safety related media."

The subcommittee discussed the recent letter from Amanda Yarnell regarding the use of sodium and lithium aluminum hydride as drying agents in drying/purifying solvents. She was curious as to the extent that academic laboratories are using absorbent column-based purification methods to replace the use of these chemicals, which are highly reactive. The discussion included the relative costs associated with various methods, including the disposal of these chemicals, as well as the cultural influences associated with the traditional methods. Michael Cournoyer agreed to prepare a draft policy statement for the subcommittee covering recommendations for the use of alternative drying/purification techniques.

A final point of discussion was on safety considerations of the processes that win green chemistry awards.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Phifer, Subcommittee Chair

AGENDA FOR SAFE PRACTICES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING,
ORLANDO, APRIL 6, 2002

1. Review minutes of previous meeting
2. Status of mercury spills booklet (Task Force on Lab EH&S)
3. Defining subcommittee responsibilities - name change? Focus?
4. New business