



June 18, 2009

To: Hobart Brothers' Distributors and Customers

Re: ***Proposed Change to the Threshold Limit Value for Manganese***

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists ("ACGIH") has issued a Notice of Intended Change for the Threshold Limit Value ("TLV") for manganese. If adopted, the current TLV for respirable particulate manganese will be lowered from 0.2 mg/m³ to 0.02 mg/m³. This TLV applies to manganese in welding fumes. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") has not changed its legally-mandated Permissible Exposure Limit ("PEL") for manganese, which is 5.0 mg/m³.

Although the PEL is the legally-mandated exposure limit, customers may choose to control exposure to welding fumes based on the ACGIH's TLV. If the Notice of Intended Change is adopted, those who rely on the TLV may need to institute additional engineering controls to maintain exposure to welding fumes below the new TLV for respirable particulate manganese. You should consult a qualified Industrial Hygienist about engineering controls that may be necessary to maintain or decrease current exposure to welding fumes and whether air-supplied respirators may be required to maintain exposure to welding fumes below applicable limits.

We do not know when or if the Notice of Intended Change will be adopted or whether the ACGIH believes it has a sound scientific basis for changing the TLV for respirable particulate manganese. In any event, we wanted you to be aware of the proposal so that you could begin your analysis and planning now. Please review the documentation regarding the Notice of Intended Change to the TLV for respirable particulate manganese at the ACGIH's website: <http://www.acgih.org/TLV/NIC.htm>. The ACGIH has invited public comment on this Notice of Intended Change. If you have information that may effect the ACGIH's decision, you should provide it by the July 31, 2009 deadline for submitting comments.

As always, feel free to speak to your Hobart Sales Representative about optimizing your welding process. Additionally, our Customer Service Department can discuss alternate products and processes that may help you reduce exposure to welding fumes. On Hobart's website, you can link to a free download of ANSI Z49.1, "Safety in Welding, Cutting and Allied Processes," at: <http://www.hobartbrothers.com/aboutus/health-and-safety>.

Hobart Brothers Company values your safety and your business. If you ever need additional information, assistance or help in finding a qualified Industrial Hygienist, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Hensley
Distribution Support Manager
HOBART BROTHERS COMPANY