

Safety and Health Evaluation of Pollution Prevention Equipment

The Navy is committed to providing safe equipment for operators and maintenance personnel. Navy policy guidance requires systematic evaluation of equipment for safety and health considerations. Since 1994 the Navy has procured commercial off-the-shelf pollution prevention (P2) equipment in order to minimize the volume of hazardous material stored and waste generated at Navy shore facilities. Other than the general standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, specific safety and health design standards for this type of equipment are not available at this time.



Large Parts Washer

To address this issue, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFACENGCOM) developed a process to evaluate P2 equipment using Technical Safety Worksheets



55 Gallon Drum Crusher

(TSWs) and Technical Safety Data Sheets (TSDSs). The TSW was developed using recognized product and process safety/health references. It is a seven-page evaluation form covering potential safety and health hazards associated with the installation, operation, and maintenance of P2 equipment. The TSDS is similar to a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), a document required by OSHA to inform users of safety and health hazards associated with specific hazardous materials.

TSDSs provide safety information and precautions for operators, maintenance personnel, safety managers, environmental specialists, and industrial hygienists during equipment installation, operation, and maintenance. TSWs and TSDSs assist the Navy in procuring equipment that is safe as well as environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

Twenty-five P2 equipment items were evaluated on site at Navy shore activities from October 1997 to January 1998. The equipment was observed while being operated as recommended by the manufacturers. Each evaluation included a review of the manufacturer's documentation for proper installation, operation, and maintenance. Safety and health concerns observed during operation of the equipment were noted. Completed TSWs provided recommendations to assist P2 equipment program managers in making corrective or preventive decisions to improve the safety and health



Vertical Baler

aspects of current or future equipment. The report can be viewed at the NAVFACENCOM website, www.navfac-safety.navy.mil by clicking on *Topics*, then on *Pollution Prevention*.

TSWs and TSDSs provide Navy activities with clear and concise instructions for installation, operation and maintenance of P2 equipment. In addition, they increase manufacturers' awareness of safety and health issues regarding use of their equipment. Evaluations of P2 equipment using TSWs and TSDSs are a proactive approach to assist the Navy in reducing potential injuries or illness at shore activities through procurement of safer equipment.

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