

Health and Safety Executive Operational Circular

Field Operations Division

OC 285/7 (REV)

To

Agricultural and Factory Inspectors

FCG Specialist Inspectors (Mech, Occ Hyg, Elec and Process Safety)

Employment Medical Advisers

REVISION OF CODE OF PRACTICE CP 18: THE SAFE STORAGE, HANDLING AND USE OF SPECIAL GASES IN THE MICRO-ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

This OC, which revises and replaces OC 285/7, advises inspectors and others dealing with the micro-electronics industry of the recent revision of Code of Practice CP 18 concerning special gases and gas mixtures supplied in transportable gas containers. One copy of the revised Code has been distributed to each area (file 285).

1 The Code, available through the British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA), 14 Tollgate, Eastleigh, Hants SO53 3TG (tel: 01703 641488), has been produced in conjunction with the Federation of the Electronics Industry (FEI) and prepared by a subgroup of the Micro-electronics Semiconductor Manufacturing Joint Working Group (JWG). This JWG comprises representatives from manufactures of semiconductors, suppliers of plant and substances, trade unions and HSE.

2 The revised Code provides updated technical and safety information on procedures relating to the safe storage, handling, connection and use of highly reactive and toxic gases such as silane (SiH_4), phosphine (PH_3) and arsine (AsH_3).

3 Although primarily aimed at firms manufacturing micro-electronic devices such as semiconductor "chips", the Code may also be relevant to other industries,

research laboratories and further educational establishments where the use of such gases occurs.

4 Advice is given on potential hazards, provision of suitable gas supply points and systems and the disposal of waste gases. Guidance on safe operating principles together with proper installation and maintenance of plant is also covered. However, bulk supply installations, gases in the cryogenic state, gas manufacturing, cylinder filling and distribution are outside its scope. The safe operation of associated manufacturing processes is not included.

5 The Code also gives updated commentry on, and makes reference to, current UK regulations and other useful standards and guides on relevant issues such as control of hazardous substances, pressure systems, personal protective equipment at work, hazard information and packaging and environmental protection. Adherence to the advice should prevent incidents of the type that have occured and assist in compliance with legal requirements.

6 Inspectors are encouraged to draw the attention of relevant firms to the revised publication, particularly those not listed within it as having been involved in the JWG.

CANCELLATION OF INSTRUCTIONS

7 OC 285/7 - cancel and destroy.

10 November 1995

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ASI headings

Arsine: electronic: gas(es): phosphine: semiconductors: silane: toxic.