





## Safe Handling of Photographic Chemicals

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First Edition

## INTRODUCTION

This book has been prepared by Eastman Kodak Company as a guide to the safe handling of the chemicals used in photographic processing and related work. The production of the book does not imply that these chemicals are particularly hazardous nor that they are any less safe now than they have been hitherto.

Throughout the world, photography is practiced by many different people, not only those in the photographic business, but those who use photography in support of their own trade or profession. In the aggregate, therefore, the amount of chemicals used daily is enormous. The incidence of serious accidents or illness resulting from their use is comparatively rare; a fact that testifies to the low health hazard presented by these chemicals.

It should not be inferred from the foregoing that photographic chemicals can be handled without due care, because few chemicals, if any, are completely harmless in all circumstances. When brought into contact with living tissue, most chemicals produce some effect that may vary between mild irritation and severe injury, depending on the nature of the substance, its concentration, and on the frequency or duration of contact. Sometimes skin contact with chemicals results in an allergic response, which is called allergic contact dermatitis.

There is nothing particularly difficult or time-consuming in handling photographic chemicals safely, but it requires a knowledge of any hazards involved and of the proper way to avoid them. Long experience has shown that when good chemical handling methods are applied conscientiously, the loss of employees' working time caused by chemical-related illness or accidents is reduced to the minimum or eliminated altogether.

Another aspect of this matter is compliance with the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA). Under this law, authorized inspectors may carry out safety inspections of any work place. The scope of these inspections is comprehensive. All matters relating to safety are noted. In a photographic processing plant, the safety precautions used in handling chemicals and the related safety equipment are, of course, examined.

Although it is outside the scope and purpose of this book to discuss OSHA regulations in detail, it is hoped that the information presented will help to maintain adequate standards for the safe handling of photographic chemicals. Further, the book will be a useful tool for supervisors and others who have the responsibility for training people in photographic work as well as for professional and amateur photographers who work by themselves.

Some people experienced in handling chemicals may feel that this book errs on the side of overcaution. This may be so, but the aim of the book is to promote safety, rather than to give precise instructions for all the different conditions that exist in photographic processing. Every manager, supervisor, or other individual should consider what safety precautions are necessary in their particular circumstances.



I'm your Guide. Please follow me.

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