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REPORT	OCUMENTATION P	AGE	Form Approved OM8 No 0704-0188
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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blan	k) 2. REPORT DATE	3. REPORT TYPE AN	D DATES COVERED
4 TITLE AND SUBTITLE	1990 December	Final, oo Apr	5. FUNDING NUMBERS
Evaluation of the Abso of Bis(2-Chloroethyl)	rption and Desorption Sulfide (HD) from Woo	n od Samples	P-FP-88 1050
6. AUTHOR(S)			1
Vickers, Eugene L., Zi Sturdivan, Larry M., a	rnhelt, Anthony F., I nd Ferguson, Foy E.	Lofton, Anthony,	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION N/	AME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION
CDR, CRDEC, ATTN: SMC	CR-RS, APG, MD 21010)-5423	CRDEC-TR-253
9. SPONSORING, MONITORING AGE	NCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(E	5)	10. SPONSORING MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	STATEMENT		125. DISTRIBUTION CODE
Approved for public re	lease; distribution	is unlimited	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 word The Research Dir Engineering Center to Forest Products Lab Development and Engin wood samples met the desorbed HD of 36 mic samples representing treatments grossly f tested by covering a To isolate the influ produced by differen samples were tested, panels sprayed with a none of the wood samp treatment was more th	ectorate of the U.S. ested treated and untro- pratory at the requi- meering Center, Picat U.S. Army NBC decom- rograms per square cen- 51 different treatm ailed and were elimi 3-cm ² area of the sur- ences of wood type and t paths through the a statistically base liphatic polyurethane- bles met the acceptance han double the 36 mic	Army Chemical i reated wooden sam est of the U.S. inny Arsenal, NJ taminability req ntimeter specific ents were submit face with 25 mics ad their treatment equipment, and the d experimental de served as control to criteria of MI rograms per squar	Research, Development an ples submitted by the U.S Army Armament Research to determine whether th uirements (upper limit o ed in MIL-C-46168C). Wooder ted for analysis. Fort aining 11 treatments wer roliters of HD (972 pure) at from extraneous effect the sequence in which th esign was employed. Stee ols. The results show tha L-C-46168C. Even the bes re centimeter requirement
14. SUBJECT TERMS Chemical agent regists	Ince HD		15. NUMBER OF PAGES
Wood products	GD		16. PRICE CODE
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT	JESOTE 100 18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFI OF ABSTRACT	CATION 20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRA
UNCLASSIFIED	UNCLASSIFIED	UNCLASSIFIED	UL
VSN 7540-01-280-5500			Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89) Prescribed by ANSI Sta. 239-18

298-102

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PREFACE

The work described in this report was authorized under U.S. Army - Funded Agreement No. FP-88 1050. This testing was started in April 1988 and was completed in June 1990. Due to test facility shut down, testing was postponed from late calendar year 1989 to early calendar year 1990.

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EVALUATION OF THE ABSORPTION AND DESORPTION OF BIS(2-CHLOROETHYL) SULFIDE (HD) FROM WOOD SAMPLES

1. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army requires that mission essential materiel meet Department of Defense standards for chemical survivability. The basic requirement is that select materials, if exposed to chemical agent, not retain the chemical agent in amounts which can cause subsequent harm to personnel. The overall objective of the work described in this report was to determine the amount of agent that was desorbed, under typical conditions over a 24-hour period, from various woods, wood composites and treated wood. This study was conducted in response to a request by the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory US(FPL) to the Project Manager, Ammunition Logistics, and performed by the Analytical Systems Group of the Research Directorate of the U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center (CRDEC). This investigation is to establish whether or not these wood-based materials meet the standard for chemical survivability. CRDEC tested a number of types of treated and untreated materiels to ascertain their resistance to the absorption and subsequent desorption of toxic chemical agents. The test used was adapted from the procedure described in MIL-C-46168C (ME), used to evaluate Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC). The test was modified as required to accommodate the automated monitoring equipment. According to the MIL standard, the upper limit on desorbed HD is 180 micrograms from a 5 square centimeter test area over a 24-hour period. This translates to 36 micrograms per square centimeter.

Wood samples submitted by US(FPL) had first been screened by exposure to chloroethyl ethyl sulfide (CEES), a simulant of the chemical agent, bis (2 chloroethyl) sulfide (HD). Some of the preliminary results were confirmed at CRDEC before agent testing was begun. The number of types of wood samples to be tested was reduced via a series of screening tests to eliminate those treatments desorbing large quantities of chemical agent. The test incorporated some of the best treatments from the screening tests along with samples which had been given those or other, similar treatments, then subjected to "rough handling" to simulate the wear and tear that wood products might experience on the The experimental design for the test was chosen to battlefield. statistically isolate the effect of the treatments that were applied to the wood samples from extraneous effects resulting from different paths through the equipment and the sequence in which the samples were tested. Samples of standard, primed metal panels, sprayed with an aliphatic polyurethane coating by the Belvoir Research, Development and Engineering Center were also inserted into the test as controls. These controls were determined to desorb approximately 3 times the allowable quantity of HD through tests conducted at Dugway Proving Ground according to MIL-C-46168C.

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2. MATERIALS

A Chemical Agent Standard Analytical Reference Material (CASARM) distilled mustard (HD) from lot number HD-U-6216-CTF-N was used to test the wood samples. The mole percent purity was determined to be 97.6% by freezing point determination and 96.6% by Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). Major impurities were fragments of dithiane (1.5 mole %), ethyl (0.8 mole %), and ethylene (1.1 mole %) as determined from NMR spectra. This composition is typical of U.S. stock mustard.

Wood samples, as provided by the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), consisted of Southern Pine, Aspen, Red Oak, Douglas Fir, Soft Maple, Hard Maple, and Waferboard Brand composite. Most of the samples tested were either coated with existing materials expected to enhance resistance to chemical agent or left uncoated. The samples were in one of two shapes: round disks with grooves cut in them to fit inside the test cell or squares. A listing of the samples tested along with details of treatment can be found in the Appendix. The wood samples were first screened by the US(FPL) using chloroethyl ethyl sulfide (CEES), a simulant much less toxic than mustard. A portion of the 51 samples which passed these simulant tests were also tested with the same simulant at CRDEC. The simulant-screening results from the two laboratories were in agreement.

3. **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE**

As mentioned above, a modified CARC testing procedure was used for this study. The surface of the material being evaluated was covered with agent HD and allowed to remain covered for 30 minutes. The surface was then rinsed with solvent to remove any liquid agent and monitored for 24 hours to measure the agent desorbed from the surface.

3.1 <u>Equipment</u>.

A Telos Labs model 650-SP sulfur/phosphorus monitoring system was used to monitor the samples for mustard vapor in the form of sulfur emission. The monitoring system (manufactured by Telos Labs. Inc., Fremont, CA) is a multiport chemical analyzer which can sample up to 24 different sampling ports. A flame photometric detector was used to detect sulfur containing compounds. Two stainless steel blocks, each containing 5 sample cells, were connected to the monitoring system using teflon tubing. Thus, a total of 10 samples could be tested at one time. The Telos instrument was attached to the house vacuum which pulled air through the cells along with any agent vapor present into the instrument. Each cell was sampled for 37.5 seconds every 15 minutes. For the remainder of the interval the effluent airstream was directed through a charcoal adsorbent bed.

3.2 <u>Experimental Design.</u>

The experimental design used in the test was a Partially Balanced Incomplete Block (PBIB). This design is shown in the matrix given in Table 1. Three of the "best" treatments (code #327, 331 and 333) obtained from the screening runs were chosen for the test, along with some which had received similar coatings then subjected to "rough handling" before being submitted to CRDEC for testing. Interspersed among the treatments being tested were four groups of the control polyurethane-coated steel panels. The polvurethane coated control was known to exceed the required acceptance limit for HD desorption by a factor of almost three from previous tests at the Chemical Laboratory, Dugway Proving Ground. The polyurethane coated control was known to exceed the required acceptance limit for HD desorption by a factor of almost three from previous tests at the Chemical Laboratory, Duqway Proving Ground. Table 2 shows the day the sample was tested and the test cell used. There are four samples numbered 1, four numbered 2, etc. For example, Code 331 (lot #2) was tested on Days 1,2,3, and 5 and was placed in cells 5,1,6 and 7 respectively.

Lot	Treatment	Lot	Treatment
1	Code 327	· 9	Code 393.5
2	Code 331	10	Control
3	Code 333	11	Code 356.5
4	Code 331.5	12	Code 404.5
5	Code 333.5	13	Code 185.5
6	Control	14	Control
7	Code 334.5	15	Control
8	Code 375.5		

Table 1. Sample Allocation for the Test

NOTE: See the Appendix for description of Codes

Table 2. Sample Matrix for Test (lot numbers appear under each day)

Cell #	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
1	1	2	3	10	14	15
2	4	1	5	15	13	9
3	14	13	8	6	7	1
4	10	9	11	1	6	12
5	2	11	13	5	8	10
6	15	12	2	8	4	6
7	5	14	9	12	2	7
8	3	5	6	7	15	11
9	8	4	14	11		
10	12	7	-4	3	10	13

3.3 <u>Procedures</u>.

The monitoring system was calibrated daily by introducing certified, known concentrations of sulfur dioxide directly to the detector. The concentration of the calibration gas was changed by varying the flow of diluent air. During calibration a conversion factor table was generated and stored in the computer memory which translates the digital signal from the analyzer, expressed in analyzer response units (ARU), to parts per billion (ppb) concentration. The system's computer was programmed to convert the ppb concentration into micrograms per square centimeter of sample area.

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Each combination of wood type and treatment was assigned a code number by the supplier. The various combinations (codes) will be referred to hereafter as "treatments" and the group of samples of each treatment will be referred to as "lots." The test contained 15 treatments which were tested together according to the experimental design. Four samples of each treatment (two round and two square) were tested except when samples were lost due to instrument malfunctions or when there were insufficient samples of a particular treatment to make up a full complement of four samples.

The procedure used during testing is described below:

a. Ten samples were randomly drawn from the lots selected according to the experimental design and placed on a stainless steel tray inside a fume hood.

b. 25 microliters of HD were dispensed from a disposable micro-pipette and spread over a 3 cm^2 area (in a circle 2 cm in diameter) in the center of each sample and left on the surface for 30 minutes.

c. After 30 minutes of contact time each sample was washed with agitation for 15 seconds in a sequence of two containers of isopropyl alcohol and a container of water, then allowed to air dry. The alcohol and water were replaced after each wash.

d. Finally, the samples were placed into individual sample cells and the air sampling process started.

4. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Predicted values for mustard desorbed were calculated from the raw data using an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) technique. The predicted value of the mean desorption level for the treatment type as well as the lower 95% confidence limit on that mean is

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included in Table 3. The desorption level of the control is significantly higher than the known values for those panels.

The confidence level is usually used to indicate that the mean of some population would meet a criterion with the specified level of confidence (e.g., the upper confidence limit is below a specified maximum) and we will not accept a nominally acceptable estimate without a high degree of confidence that the "true" population mean is in the acceptable region. Here, however, the confidence limit shows just the opposite. The figures in the table indicate that the upper limit on desorption is exceeded with a high measure of probability; i.e., there is less than a 5% chance that the "true" mean of any of the wood treatments is less than the limit established in the CARC specification.

<u> </u>	HD Desorbe	d, microgra	ms/sq cm	
Code	Predicted Mean Amt.	Lower 95% Conf. Lt.	Pass/Fail	
185.5	1,041	324	Fail	
327	358	112	Fail	
331	359	112	Fail	
331.5	275	86	Fail	
333	239	75	Fail	
333.5	961	299	Fail	
334.5	509	159	Fail	
356.5	1,468	457	Fail	
375.5	1,319	411	Fail	
393.5	303	94	Fail	
404.5	1,207	376	Fail	
Control*	229	130		

Table 3. Results of Test

*Control indicates the polyurethane coated steel panels.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This series of tests designed to ascertain the resistance of a number of types of treated wooden materials to chemical agents resulted in the following:

a. All samples failed the laboratory criterion of 36 micrograms per square centimeter.

b. The predicted mean desorption amount from the samples was greater than 100 micrograms per square centimeter.

APPENDIX

Sample Description

Descriptions of samples used in the test are as follows:

Code	Sample	Wood	Treatment	Day
185.5	13	Red Oak	rough handled*	2
			+ phenolic resin /61	3 F
				5
				0
327	1	Douglas	Aromatic + aliphatic	1
		Fir	polvurethane coat	2
				4
				6
331	2	Red Oak	phenolic resin 761 +	1
	-		aliphatic polyurethane	2
			coat	วิ
				5
				5
331.5	4	Red Oak	rough handled	1
			phenolic resin 761 +	2
			aliphatic	3
			arrhung 10	5
				5
333	3	Southern	phenolic resin 761	1
		Pine	+ aliphatic	3
			polvurethane coat	4
				6
				Ū
333.5	5	Southern	rough handled	1
		Pine	phenolic resin 761	2
			+ aliphatic	3
			-	4
334.5	7	Red Oak	rough handled	2
	·		phenolic regin 875	2 A
			+ 2 alightetic	5
			· c arthuarte	5
				O .
356.5	11	Southern	rough handled	2
		Pine	flame retardant +	3
			2 aliphatic	4
			•	6

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375.5	8	Southern Pine	rough handled EHMA + fluoro	1 3 4 5
393.5	9	Hard Maple	rough handled phenolic resin 761	2 3 5 6
404.5	12	Waferboard 8% adh	rough handled + 2 aliphatic	1 2 4 6
Control	6	Steel panels	aliphatic polyurethane	3 4 5 6
Control	10			1 4 5 6
Control	14	"		1 2 3 5
Control	15	'n		1 4 5 6

*The rough handled samples were supplied by Virginia Polytechnic Institute after being subjected to a rough handling treatment.

APPENDIX

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