

Preface

This is the first volume of the new international series “The MAK-Collection for Occupational Health and Safety” which offers as of this volume all the comprehensive toxicological documentations as well as validated analytical methods issued by the Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The Commission and the publisher Wiley-VCH hope that the new, concise title and a regular annual publication schedule will even better meet the worldwide demand for reliable, unbiased information about hazardous compounds in the work area. The new series, featuring an attractive cover design, is published in four parts, this volume belonging to Part III: Air Monitoring Methods. The volume is published concurrent with the German edition “Analytische Methoden zur Prüfung gesundheitsschädlicher Arbeitsstoffe”. Previously, the volumes were published in the series “Analyses of Hazardous Substances in Air”. Since the beginning of the nineties, when the first volume appeared, eight volumes have been published. On this occasion my special thanks are due to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, which has lent its support to the German and English collection of methods for more than three decades.

The current volume is being published by the DFG Working Subgroup “Analysis of Hazardous Substances in Air of Work Areas” in collaboration with the Analytical Working Group of the Expert Committee “Chemistry” of the Employment Accident Insurance Fund of the Chemical Industry (Berufsgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie). The Commission hopes that by publishing both sets of methods – analysis in air of hazardous substances with MAK values, so-called DFG methods and analysis in air of carcinogenic substances, so-called BGI 505 procedures – in one English volume, the growing repertoire of methods will be put to effective use, e.g. within the European Union in the efforts to protect health at the workplace.

The concept of this volume is similar to that of the preceding volumes. It comprises thirteen new analytical methods, which enable the monitoring of concentrations of different hazardous substances in the air of the workplace area, as well as a chapter on the sampling and determining of aerosols and their chemical components. This chapter provides a broad overview of the sampling procedures for dusts and the subsequent quantitative determination of different dust fractions and metal-containing components of dust.

It is gratifying for me, as chairman of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft’s Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area, to ascertain the progress that we have made towards our goal concerning the protection of workers against risks from chemical agents in work areas. For this reason I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. A. Kettrup, who has successfully headed the Working Subgroup “Analyses of Hazardous Substances in Air of Work Area” for many years, and Prof. Dr. H. Parlar, who assumed the chairmanship at the end of 2003, for their successful work.

Further, I extend my thanks to the authors and examiners of these methods for their contributions, as well the translator of this volume, Dr. J. Cito Habicht. Particular thanks go to two members of the Secretariat of the Commission – Dr. M. R. Lahaniatis and Dr. R. Schwabe – for the successful continuation of their work and their personal engagement.

H. Greim
Chairman of the Commission for the
Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical
Compounds in the Work Area