

Two important factors emerged:

- a) This is a facility with very few products. Any new process or application of unusual chemicals immediately attracts the attention of the employees.
- b) According to the regulations, environmental and health hazards associated with new chemicals have to be discussed with representatives of the working staff before they are introduced.

Protection equipment

The aim was to examine to what extent the protection equipment provided could be used in the production of toxic substances. At this facility the protection equipment was excellent, ranging from suits with full air-supply and civilian gas masks to a supply of fresh air in the plant. A collective protection shelter equipped with filters etc was also found to be in excellent order. Such shelters in factories are obligatory in Norway.

The first aid or medical supply did not reveal drugs such as atropine, reactivators, BAL og corticosteroid spray, which could be used to counteract intoxication with Schedule 1 compounds.

Concluding conference

After a brief private meeting among the inspectors, the staff of the facility were informed of the findings of the inspection. The inspectors reported that they had verified that the Schedule 3 compound was used for legitimate production purposes and that the flow of thionyl chloride could easily be followed and was well accounted for. Later it was also ascertained