

Material Safety Data Sheet

Mercury

Hazards Identification

Appearance: silver liquid.

Danger! Corrosive. Harmful if inhaled. May be absorbed through intact skin. Causes eye and skin irritation and possible burns. May cause severe respiratory tract irritation, GI irritation, liver and kidney damage and CNS effect.

Target Organs: Blood, kidneys, central nervous system, liver, brain.

Potential Health Effects

Eye: May cause discoloration on the front surface of the lens, eye irritation and ulceration of the conjunctiva and cornea.

Skin: May cause skin sensitization, skin irritation, skin rash and possible burns.

Ingestion: May cause severe and permanent damage to the digestive tract.

Inhalation: Causes chemical burns to the respiratory tract.

Chronic: May cause liver and kidney damage and CNS effect

First Aid Measures

Eyes: Get medical aid immediately. Do NOT allow victim to rub eyes or keep eyes closed. Extensive irrigation with water is required (at least 30 minutes).

Skin: Get medical aid immediately. Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. Destroy contaminated shoes.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. If victim is conscious and alert, give 2-4 cupfuls of milk or water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical aid immediately. Wash mouth out with water.

Inhalation: Get medical aid immediately. Remove from exposure and move to fresh air immediately. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Do NOT use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If breathing has ceased apply artificial respiration using oxygen and a suitable mechanical device such as a bag and a mask.

Notes to Physician: The concentration of mercury in whole blood is a reasonable measure of the body-burden of mercury and thus is used for monitoring purposes. Treat symptomatically and supportively. Persons with kidney disease, chronic respiratory disease, liver disease, or skin disease may be at increased risk from exposure to this substance.

Antidote: The use of d-Penicillamine as a chelating agent should be determined by qualified medical personnel. The use of Dimercaprol or BAL (British Anti-Lewisite) as a chelating agent should be determined by qualified medical personnel.

Accidental Release Measures

General Information: Use proper personal protective equipment

Spills/Leaks: Absorb spill with inert material (e.g. vermiculite, sand or earth), then place in suitable container. Avoid runoff into storm sewers and ditches which lead to waterways. Clean up spills immediately, observing precautions in the Protective Equipment section. Provide ventilation.

Handling and Storage

Handling: Wash thoroughly after handling. Remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. Minimize dust generation and accumulation. Keep container tightly closed. Do not get on skin or in eyes. Do not ingest or inhale. Use only in a chemical fume hood. Discard contaminated shoes. Do not breathe vapor.

Storage: Keep container closed when not in use. Store in a tightly closed container. Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from incompatible substances. Keep away from metals. Store protected from azides.