



## SECTION 6. HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

TLV 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, as Hg

Mercuric chloride is highly poisonous by inhalation and ingestion. Mercuric salts are also readily absorbed through the skin. Acute inhalation overexposure can cause irritation to the mucous membranes of the respiratory tract, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) and mouth (stomatitis). Symptoms of chronic toxicity include psychic and emotional disturbances (excitability, anxiety, depression, indecision, insomnia), nervous system effects (muscular tremors, incoordination), gingivitis, stomatitis, and kidney damage. Ingestion of HgCl<sub>2</sub> can cause severe irritation of the GI tract, difficult swallowing, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea and shock. Death may occur following ingestion of 1-4 grams or less.

**FIRST AID:** **EYE CONTACT:** Immediately flush eyes, including under eyelids, with large amounts of water. Get prompt medical attention (In-plant, paramedic, community). **SKIN CONTACT:** Remove contaminated clothing immediately. Thoroughly wash contaminated area with soap and water. Seek medical attention if irritation or other symptoms develop. **INHALATION:** Remove from exposure. Restore/aid breathing as required. Get prompt medical attention. **INGESTION:** Immediately give person a large quantity of water to drink and induce vomiting. Repeat. Keep person warm and at rest. Get medical help immediately. (Do not give anything by mouth or induce vomiting if the person is unconscious).

## SECTION 7. SPILL, LEAK AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Notify safety/environmental personnel of spills. Ventilate spill area. Clean-up personnel should wear respiratory protective equipment, gloves, goggles, and protective clothing. Carefully scoop up spilled material into a suitable container. Minimize dust generation. Absorb solution spills on an inert material. Wash area with dilute calcium sulfide solution. Do not allow release of HgCl<sub>2</sub> to drains or waterways.

**DISPOSAL:** Reclaim material when possible. Unsalvageable waste may be disposed of in approved containers in a secured chemical waste landfill. Do not allow release of HgCl<sub>2</sub> solutions without prior treatment (such as precipitation as the sulfide) to remove mercury to allowable levels. Contact supplier or licensed chemical waste disposal contractor for instruction on the treatment/disposal of this material. Follow Local, State and Federal regulations.

EPA HAZARDOUS WASTE NUMBER: D009 (EP Toxicity; 40 CFR 261.24).

## SECTION 8. SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

Provide general and local exhaust ventilation as required to meet the TLV. NIOSH-approved respirators should be worn during nonroutine and emergency operations and whenever the TLV is exceeded. NIOSH recommends a full facepiece gas mask with high-efficiency filter and canister containing iodine-impregnated charcoal for concentrations up to 5 mgHg/m<sup>3</sup>. Above 5 mgHg/m<sup>3</sup>, positive pressure supplied air respirator or self-contained breathing apparatus are recommended.

Wear chemical safety goggles, gloves and protective clothing (aprons, coveralls, etc.) when handling this material. Launder contaminated clothing before reuse.

Eyewash stations, safety showers and washing facilities should be readily accessible to workers handling this material.

Contact lenses pose a special hazard; soft lenses absorb and all lenses concentrate irritants.

## SECTION 9. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location away from incompatibles. Protect containers from physical damage. Maintain good housekeeping practice to prevent accumulation of dust. Use techniques that minimize dust generation. Clean up spills promptly. Employees should be trained in safe handling procedures for this highly toxic material. Workers should follow good personal hygiene practices: wash thoroughly after handling, before eating, drinking, and smoking and after the workshift. Promptly remove contaminated clothing and wash any area of the skin that comes in contact with this material.

Preplacement and periodic medical exams of exposed workers are recommended with emphasis on CNS involvement, kidney dysfunction, and other symptoms of mercury toxicity. Urinary mercury determinations are often used as a measure of Hg absorption. Levels of 0.1 to 0.5 mgHg/L are considered significant.

DOT CLASS: Poison B

LABEL: Poison

SHIPPING NAME: Mercuric Chloride, solid

DOT ID #: UN 1624

DATA SOURCE(S) CODE (See Glossary) 2, 4, 8, 12, 14, 19, 43, 44, 49, 55, 58, 60.V.

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APPROVALS

INDUST. HYGIENE/SAFETY

MEDICAL REVIEW:

FOR APPROVED 11/85

JW 11-85

Dec 85