

MERCURY (II) THIOCYANATE

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1. Product Identification

Synonyms: Mercuric Thiocyanate; Mercuric Sulfocyanate; Mercuric Sulfocyanide

CAS No.: 592-85-8

Molecular Weight: 316.79

Chemical Formula: Hg(SCN)₂

Product Codes: CHEM-302 and others

2. Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredient	CAS No	Percent	Hazardous
Mercuric Thiocyanate	592-85-8	90 - 100%	Yes

3. Hazards Identification

Potential Acute Health Effects:

DANGER! MAY BE FATAL IF SWALLOWED. HARMFUL IF INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH SKIN. CAUSES IRRITATION TO SKIN, EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT. MAY CAUSE ALLERGIC SKIN REACTION. MERCURY COMPOUNDS AFFECT THE KIDNEYS AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

SAF-T-DATA^(tm) Ratings

Health Rating: 4 - Extreme (Poison)

Flammability Rating: 0 - None

Reactivity Rating: 1 - Slight

Contact Rating: 3 - Severe (Life)

Lab Protective Equip: GOGGLES & SHIELD; LAB COAT & APRON; VENT HOOD; PROPER GLOVES

Storage Color Code: Blue (Health)

Potential Health Effects

Inhalation:

Causes irritation to the respiratory tract. Symptoms include sore throat, coughing, pain, tightness in chest, breathing difficulties, shortness of breath and headache. Pneumonitis may develop. Can be absorbed through inhalation with symptoms to parallel ingestion.

Ingestion:

Highly Toxic! Average lethal dose for inorganic mercury salts is about 1 gram. May cause burning of the mouth and pharynx, abdominal pain, vomiting, corrosive ulceration, bloody diarrhea. May be followed by a rapid and weak pulse, shallow breathing, paleness, exhaustion, central nervous system problems, tremors and collapse. Delayed death may occur from renal failure.

Skin Contact:

Causes irritation. Symptoms include redness and pain. May cause burns. May cause sensitization. Can be absorbed through the skin with symptoms to parallel ingestion.

Eye Contact:

Causes irritation to eyes, may cause burns and eye damage.

Chronic Exposure:

Chronic exposure through any route can produce central nervous system damage. May cause muscle tremors, personality and behavior changes, memory loss, metallic taste, loosening of the teeth, digestive disorders, skin rashes, brain damage and kidney damage. Can cause skin allergies and accumulate in the body. Repeated skin contact can cause the skin to turn gray in color. Not a known reproductive hazard, but related mercury compounds can damage the developing fetus and decrease fertility in males and females.

Aggravation of Pre-existing Conditions:

Persons with nervous disorders, or impaired kidney or respiratory function, or a history of allergies or a known sensitization to mercury may be more susceptible to the effects of the substance.

4. First Aid Measures

Inhalation:

Remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Get medical attention immediately.

Ingestion:

Induce vomiting immediately as directed by medical personnel. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact:

Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Get medical attention immediately. Wash clothing before reuse. Thoroughly clean shoes before reuse.

Eye Contact:

Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting lower and upper eyelids occasionally. Get medical attention immediately.

5. Fire Fighting Measures

Fire:

Not considered to be a fire hazard. Expands many times in volume when heated; decomposes at melting point.

Explosion:

Sealed containers may rupture when heated.

Fire Extinguishing Media:

Use any means suitable for extinguishing surrounding fire. Do not allow water runoff to enter sewers or waterways.

Special Information:

In the event of a fire, wear full protective clothing and NIOSH-approved self-contained breathing apparatus with full facepiece operated in the pressure demand or other positive pressure mode. Toxic fumes of mercury cyanide, sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides may be released in a fire.

6. Accidental Release Measures

Ventilate area of leak or spill. Clean-up personnel require protective clothing and respiratory protection from dust.

Spills: Pick up and place in a suitable container for reclamation or disposal in a method that does not generate dust. Sprinkle area with sulfur or calcium polysulfide to suppress mercury. US Regulations (CERCLA) require reporting spills and releases to soil, water and air in excess of reportable quantities. The toll free number for the US Coast Guard National Response Center is (800) 424-8802.

7. Handling and Storage

Keep in a tightly closed light-resistant container, stored in a cool, dry, ventilated area. Protect against physical damage. Protect from direct sunlight. Follow strict hygiene practices. Containers of this material may be hazardous when empty since they retain product residues (dust, solids); observe all warnings and precautions listed for the product.

8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

Airborne Exposure Limits:

- OSHA Acceptable Ceiling Concentration:

mercury and mercury compounds: 0.1 mg/m³ (TWA), skin

- ACGIH Threshold Limit Value (TLV):

inorganic and metallic mercury, as Hg: 0.025 mg/m³ (TWA) skin, A4 Not classifiable as a human carcinogen.

- ACGIH Biological Exposure Indices:

total inorganic mercury in urine (preshift): 35 ug/g creatinine;

total inorganic mercury in blood (end of shift): 15 ug/l.

Ventilation System:

A system of local and/or general exhaust is recommended to keep employee exposures below the Airborne Exposure Limits. Local exhaust ventilation is generally preferred because it can control the emissions of the contaminant at its source, preventing dispersion of it into the general work area. Please refer to the ACGIH document, *Industrial Ventilation, A Manual of Recommended Practices*, most recent edition, for details.

Personal Respirators (NIOSH Approved):

If the exposure limit is exceeded and engineering controls are not feasible, a half facepiece particulate respirator (NIOSH type N95 or better filters) may be worn for up to ten times the exposure limit or the maximum use concentration specified by the appropriate regulatory agency or respirator supplier, whichever is lowest. A full-face piece particulate respirator (NIOSH type N100 filters) may be worn up to 50 times the exposure limit, or the maximum use concentration specified by the appropriate regulatory agency, or respirator supplier, whichever is lowest. If oil particles (e.g. lubricants, cutting fluids, glycerine, etc.) are present, use a NIOSH type R or P filter. For emergencies or instances where the exposure levels are not known, use a full-facepiece positive-pressure, air-supplied respirator. **WARNING:** Air-purifying respirators do not protect workers in oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

Skin Protection:

Wear impervious protective clothing, including boots, gloves, lab coat, apron or coveralls, as appropriate, to prevent skin contact.

Eye Protection:

Use chemical safety goggles and/or full face shield where dusting or splashing of solutions is possible. Maintain eye wash fountain and quick-drench facilities in work area.

9. Physical and Chemical Properties

Appearance:

White, off white, yellow to grey powder.

Odor:

Odorless.

Solubility:

Negligible.

Specific Gravity:

4.00

pH:

No information found.

% Volatiles by volume @ 21°C (70°F):

0

Boiling Point:

Not applicable.

Melting Point:

165°C (329°F)

Vapor Density (Air=1):

11.0

Vapor Pressure (mm Hg):

No information found.

Evaporation Rate (BuAc=1):

No information found.

10. Stability and Reactivity

Stability:

Stable under ordinary conditions of use and storage.

Hazardous Decomposition Products:

Mercury, cyanides, and oxides of sulfur and nitrogen may be emitted when heated to decomposition.

Hazardous Polymerization:

Will not occur.

Incompatibilities:

Aluminum in the presence of moisture. Strong acids.

Conditions to Avoid:

Moisture, heat, light, dusting and incompatibles.

11. Toxicological Information

Toxicological Data:

Oral rat LD50: 46 mg/kg.

Reproductive Toxicity:

All forms of mercury can cross the placenta to the fetus, but most of what is known has been learned from experimental animals. See Chronic Health Hazards.

Ingredient	Cancer Lists		IARC Category
	Known	Anticipated	
Mercuric Thiocyanate (592-85-8)	No	No	3

12. Ecological Information

Environmental Fate:

For mercury: This material has an experimentally-determined bioconcentration factor (BCF) of greater than 100. This material is expected to significantly bioaccumulate.

Environmental Toxicity:

For mercury: This material is expected to be toxic to aquatic life. The LC50/96-hour values for fish are less than 1 mg/l.

13. Disposal Considerations

Whatever cannot be saved for recovery or recycling should be handled as hazardous waste and sent to a RCRA approved waste facility. Processing, use or contamination of this product may change the waste management options. State and local disposal regulations may differ from federal disposal regulations. Dispose of container and unused contents in accordance with federal, state and local requirements.

14. Transport Information

Domestic (Land, D.O.T.)

Proper Shipping Name: MERCURY THIOCYANATE

Hazard Class: 6.1

UN/NA: UN1646

Packing Group: II

Information reported for product/size: 125G

International (Water, I.M.O.)

Proper Shipping Name: MERCURY THIOCYANATE

Hazard Class: 6.1

UN/NA: UN1646

Packing Group: II

Information reported for product/size: 125G

International (Air, I.C.A.O.)

Proper Shipping Name: MERCURY THIOCYANATE

Hazard Class: 6.1

UN/NA: UN1646

Packing Group: II

Information reported for product/size: 125G

15. Regulatory Information

Chemical Inventory Status - Part 1

Ingredient	TSCA	EC	Japan	Australia
Mercuric Thiocyanate (592-85-8)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Chemical Inventory Status - Part 2

Ingredient	Korea	Canada	DSL	NDSL	Phil.
Mercuric Thiocyanate (592-85-8)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Federal, State & International Regulations - Part 1

	SARA 302		SARA 313	
Ingredient	RQ	TPQ	List	Chemical Catg.
Mercuric Thiocyanate (592-85-8)	No	No	No	Mercury comp

Federal, State & International Regulations - Part 2

	RCRA		TSCA	
Ingredient	CERCLA	261.33	8(d)	
Mercuric Thiocyanate (592-85-8)	10	No	No	

Chemical Weapons Convention: No TSCA 12(b): No CDTA: No

SARA 311/312: Acute: Yes Chronic: Yes Fire: No Pressure: No

Reactivity: No (Pure / Solid)

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS A CHEMICAL(S) KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS OR OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HARM.

Australian Hazchem Code: 2Z

Poison Schedule: S7

WHMIS: This MSDS has been prepared according to the hazard criteria of the Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) and the MSDS contains all of the information required by the CPR.

16. Other Information

NFPA Ratings: Health: 3 Flammability: 0 Reactivity: 0

Label Hazard Warning:

DANGER! MAY BE FATAL IF SWALLOWED. HARMFUL IF INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH SKIN. CAUSES IRRITATION TO SKIN, EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT. MAY CAUSE ALLERGIC SKIN REACTION. MERCURY COMPOUNDS AFFECT THE KIDNEYS AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

Label Precautions:

Do not breathe dust.

Keep container closed.

Use only with adequate ventilation.

Wash thoroughly after handling.

Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.

Label First Aid:

If swallowed, induce vomiting immediately as directed by medical personnel. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes or skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. In all cases get medical attention immediately.

Product Use:

Laboratory Reagent and Consumer Hobby

Revision Information:

No Changes.

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