



# **Material Safety Data Sheets**

# 1. IDENTIFICATION

Product Name Formaldehyde
Other Names Formaldehyde Solution

Code No 100-FA-2

Uses Used as disinfectant, biocide and in manufacture of phenolic resins and adhesives. Renders casein, albumin and

gelatin insoluble.

Chemical Family No Data Available

Chemical Formula CH<sub>2</sub>O

Chemical Name Formaldehyde

Product Description No Data Available

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## 2. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Hazard Categories Toxic

Risk Phrases Toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed.

Causes burns.

May cause sensitisation by skin contact.

May cause cancer by inhalation. Harmful to aquatic organisms.

Harmful: possible risk of irreversible effects through inhalation, in contact with

skin and if swallowed.

Safety Phrases Keep away from food, drink and animal feeding stuffs.

Do not breathe fumes/gas/spray/vapour.

Avoid contact with eyes.

In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek

medical advice.

Take off immediately all contaminated clothing.

Wear suitable protective clothing and gloves.

In case of insufficient ventilation, wear suitable respiratory equipment.

To clean the floor and all objects contaminated by this material use water.

To clean the floor and all objects contaminated by this material, use water to wet

product then collect with broom or shovel.

In case of accident or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately (show

the label where possible).

Use only in well ventilated areas.

Symbol









# 3. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

# Ingredients

Chemical Entity	Formula	CAS Number	Proportion
Formaldehyde	CH <sub>2</sub> O	50-00-0	37.0 %
Methanol	CH₃OH	67-56-1	10.0 %
Water	H <sub>2</sub> O	7732-18-5	BALANCE %

#### 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

Description of necessary measures according to routes of exposure

Swallowed If swallowed do NOT induce vomiting. If vomiting occurs, lean patient forward or place on left side (head-down

position, if possible) to maintain open airway and prevent aspiration.

Immediately give a glass of water.

Eye Immediately hold eyelids apart and flush the eye continuously with running water while holding eye lids open.

Continue flushing until advised to stop by the Poisons Information Centre or a doctor, or for at least 15 minutes. Transport to hospital or doctor without delay. Removal of contact lenses after an eye injury should only be

undertaken by skilled personnel.

Skin Immediately flush body and clothes with large amounts of water, using safety shower if available. Quickly remove all

contaminated clothing, including footwear. Wash skin and hair with running water. Continue flushing with water until

advised to stop by the Poisons Information Centre. Transport to hospital, or doctor.

Inhaled Remove from contaminated area. Lay patient down. Keep warm and rested. Prostheses such as false teeth, which

may block airway, should be removed, where possible, prior to initiating first aid procedures. Apply artificial respiration if not breathing, preferably with a demand valve resuscitator, bag-valve mask device, or pocket mask as

trained. Perform CPR if necessary. Transport to hospital, or doctor, without delay.

Advice to Doctor For acute or short-term repeated exposures to formaldehyde: INGESTION: Patients present early with severe

corrosion of the gastro- intestinal tract and systemic effects. Inflammation and ulceration may progress to strictures. Severe acidosis results from rapid conversion of formaldehyde to formic acid. Coma, hypotension, renal failure and apnoea complicate ingestion. Decontaminate by dilution with milk or water containing ammonium acetate; vomiting should be induced. Follow with gastric lavage using a weak ammonia solution (converts formaldehyde to relatively

inert pentamethylenetetramine). Gastric lavage is warranted only in first 15 minutes following ingestion.

SKIN: Formaldehyde can combine with epidermal protein to produce a hapten- protein couple capable of sensitising Tlymphocytes. Subsequent exposures cause a type IV hypersensitivity reaction (i.e allergic contact dermatitis).

[Ellenhorn & Barceloux: Medical Toxicology].

**Medical Conditions Aggravated** 

by Exposure

Inhalation of vapour may aggravate a pre-existing respiratory condition.

CHRONIC HEALTH EFFECTS: Principal routes of exposure are usually by inhalation of vapour and skin contact/absorption. Sensitisation may give severe responses to very low levels of exposure, i.e. hypersensitivity.

Sensitised persons should not be allowed to work in situations where exposure may occur.

As with any chemical product, contact with unprotected bare skin; inhalation of vapour, mist or dust in work place

atmosphere; or ingestion in any form, should be avoided by observing good occupational work practice.

## 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Flammability Conditions Product is a Combustible Liquid.

Extinguishing Media In case of fire, use Water spray or fog, foam, Dry chemical powder, BCF (Where regulations permit), or Carbon

dioxide. Use water delivered as a fine spray to control fire and cool adjacent area. Avoid spraying water onto liquid

pools.

Cool fire exposed containers with water spray from a protected location.

Hazardous Products of

Combustion

 $\textbf{Combustible liquid and vapour. Incompatible with oxidizing agents, acids, alkalis, active organic materials such as a such$ 

phenol and sources of ignition.

Heating may cause expansion or decomposition leading to violent rupture of containers. May emit flammable vapour

if involved in fire. At elevated temperatures, oxidation of formaldehyde produces formic acid. Decomposition products

may include toxic fumes of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. Acid catalysis can produce impurities: methylal, methyl formate.

Undergoes non-hazardous self-polymerization to form paraformaldehyde (Methanol reduces precipitation.)

Personal Protective Equipment

Fire fighters should wear a positive-pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and protective fire

Fire fighters should wear a positive-pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and protective fire fighting clothing (includes fire fighting helmet, coat, trousers, boots and gloves), gas tight chemical resistant suit.

Clear fire area of all non-emergency personnel. Stay upwind. Keep out of low areas. Eliminate ignition sources. Move fire exposed containers from fire area if it can be done without risk. Do not approach containers suspected to be hot. Equipment should be thoroughly decontaminated after use. When any large container (including road and rail tankers) is involved in a fire, consider evacuation by 500 metres in all directions. Do NOT allow fire fighting water to reach

waterways, drains or sewers. Store fire fighting water for treatment.

Flash Point 62°C

Lower Explosion Limit 7%

Auto Ignition Temperature No Data Available

Hazchem Code X

**Upper Explosion Limit** 

## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

General Response Procedure

Personnel involved in the clean up should wear full protective clothing as listed in section 8. Avoid accidents, clean up immediately. Evacuate all unnecessary personnel. Increase ventilation. Avoid walking through spilled product as it is slippery when spilt. Stop leak if safe to do so. Do NOT let product reach drains or waterways. If product does enter a waterway, advise the Environmental Protection Authority or your local Waste Management. Use clean, non-sparking tools and equipment. Shut off all possible sources if ignition.

Clean Up Procedures

Storage

Soak up spilled product using absorbent non-combustible material such as sand or soil. Avoid using sawdust or cellulose. When saturated collect material, transfer to suitable, labelled, dry chemical-waste containers and dispose of promptly as hazardous waste. Neutralise spill with aqueous ammonia, or complex with sodium bisulphite. Place in suitable containers for disposal. Wash residue with dilute ammonia to eliminate vapour. After clean up operations, decontaminate and launder all protective clothing and equipment before storing and re-using.

## 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handling Ensure an eye bath and safety shower are available and ready for use.

Observe good personal hygiene practices and recommended procedures.

Wash thoroughly after handling. Take precautionary measures against static discharges by bonding and grounding equipment. Avoid all personal contact, including inhalation. Use in a well-ventilated area. Avoid smoking, naked lights,

heat or ignition sources. Vapour may travel a considerable distance to source of ignition. Avoid contact with incompatible materials. When handling, DO NOT eat, drink or smoke. Wash hands with soap and water after handling

Work clothes should be laundered separately: NOT at home. Avoid prolonged or repeated exposure. Atmosphere should be regularly checked against established exposure standards to ensure safe working conditions are maintained.

Personnel must be made aware of the hazards of handling formaldehyde solutions and trained to deal with emergency situations involving the material.

Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area. Keep containers tightly closed when not in use. Inspect regularly for

deficiencies such as damage or leaks.

Protect against physical damage. Store away from incompatible materials as listed in section 10. Protect from direct sunlight. Store away from foodstuff containers. This product has a UN classification of 2209 and a Dangerous Goods Class 8 Corrosive) according to The Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods By Road and Rail.

Container SUITABLE CONTAINER: Glass container is suitable for laboratory quantities.

Plastic drum.

Polyethylene or polypropylene container. Metal can.

Metal drum.

Check that containers are clearly labelled. Packaging as recommended by manufacturer.

## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

General Formaldehyde CAS 50-00-0: TWA = 1ppm (1.2mg/m3) STEL = 2ppm (2.5mg/m3) Carcinogen Category = 2

Notices = Sen Methyl Alcohol CAS 67-56-1: TWA = 200ppm (262mg/m3) STEL = 250ppm (328mg/m3) Notices = Sk NOTE: The exposure value at the TWA is the average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal 8 hour working day for a 5 day working week. Notices: Sen = Sensitiser; Sk = Absorption through the skin may be a significant source of exposure These exposure standards are guides to be used in the control of occupational health hazards. All atmospheric contamination should be kept to as low a level as is workable.

Exposure Limits No Data Available

Biological Limits No information available on biological limit values for this product.

Engineering Measures A system of local and/or general exhaust is recommended to keep employee exposures as low as possible. 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.

Preplacement and periodic medical examinations are recommended for workers exposed to formalin. Examinations should give consideration to possible irritant effects on the skin, eyes, lungs, especially if the person has a history of alleroies.

Personnel must be made aware of the hazards of handling formaldehyde solutions and trained to deal with emergency situations involving the material.

Use in a completely enclosed system as much as possible.

If respirators are used, a program should be instituted to ensure compliance with regulatory guidelines.

Personal Protection Equipment RESPIRATOR: If inhalation risk exists, wear organic vapour respirator, full- face or air-supplied breathing apparatus

(AS1715/1716).

EYES: Safety glasses with side shields or chemical goggles (AS1336/1337).

HANDS: Plastic gloves, PVC gloves, Rubber gloves, (AS2161).

CLOTHING: Chemical-resistant coveralls, PVC apron and safety footwear (AS3765/2210).

Work Hygienic Practices No Data Available

## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Physical State** Liquid

**Appearance** Liquid. On standing, especially when cold, may become cloudy.

Odour **Pungent Odour** Colour Clear, water-white.

рΗ 2.5 - 4.0 Vapour Pressure 1.3 hpa

**Relative Vapour Density** No Data Available

**Boiling Point** 94°C **Melting Point** -15°C

Freezing Point No Data Available No Data Available Solubility

**Specific Gravity** 1.09 (approx)

62°C Flash Point

No Data Available **Auto Ignition Temp Evaporation Rate** No Data Available **Bulk Density** No Data Available **Corrosion Rate** No Data Available **Decomposition Temperature** No Data Available Density No Data Available Specific Heat No Data Available

Molecular Weight No Data Available **Net Propellant Weight** No Data Available **Octanol Water Coefficient** No Data Available Particle Size No Data Available **Partition Coefficient** No Data Available **Saturated Vapour Concentration** No Data Available No Data Available **Vapour Temperature** Viscosity No Data Available

Volatile Percent >44%

**VOC Volume** No Data Available **Additional Characteristics** No Data Available Potential for Dust Explosion Product is a liquid. Fast or Intensely Burning No Data Available

Characteristics

Flame Propagation or Burning No Data Available **Rate of Solid Materials** 

Non-Flammables That Could

No Data Available

Contribute Unusual Hazards to a

Properties That May Initiate or Contribute to Fire Intensity

No Data Available

Reactions That Release Gases or May emit flammable vapour if involved in fire.

**Vapours** 

Release of Invisible Flammable

Vapours and Gases

No Data Available

## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Chemical Stability Product is stable under normal conditions of use, storage and temperature.

Corrosive Liquid. Combustible liquid and vapour. Product is stabilized with methanol. (Methanol reduces

precipitation.)

Materials to Avoid Incompatible with oxidizing agents.

**Hazardous Decomposition** 

Products

Heating may cause expansion or decomposition leading to violent rupture of containers. May emit flammable vapour if involved in fire. At elevated temperatures, oxidation of formaldehyde produces formic acid. Decomposition products may include toxic fumes of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

Acid catalysis can produce impurities: methylal, methyl formate.

Undergoes non-hazardous self-polymerization to form paraformaldehyde (Methanol reduces precipitation.)

Hazardous Polymerisation Undergoes non-hazardous self-polymerization to form paraformaldehyde.

(Methanol reduces precipitation.) Will polymerize with active organic materials such as phenol.

Concentrated solutions containing formaldehyde are unstable, both oxidising slowly to form formic acid and polymerising. In the presence of air and moisture, polymerisation takes place readily in concentrated solutions at room temperature to form paraformaldehyde, a solid mixture of linear polyoxymethylene glycols containing 90-99%

formaldehyde.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

General Information FORMALDEHYDE: Oral (woman) LDLo:108mg/Kg Oral (man) TDLo: 643mg/Kg Oral (rat) LD50:

100mg/Kg Inhalation (man) TCLo: 0.3mg/m3 Inhalation (rat) LC50: 203mg/m3 Dermal (rabbit) LD50:

270mg/Kg Skin (human): 0.15 mg/3d- I Mild Skin (rabbit): 2 mg/24H SEVERE Eye (human):

4 ppm/5m Eye (rabbit): 0.75 mg/24H SEVERE CARCINOGEN: Formaldehyde: International Agency for

Research on Cancer (IARC) - Agents Reviewed by the IARC Monographs: Group 1

HSIS Carc. Cat. 2

Eyelrritant Causes burns. The liquid is extremely discomforting to the eyes and is capable of causing pain and severe

conjunctivitis. Corneal injury may develop, with possible permanent impairment of vision, if not promptly and adequately treated. The vapour is highly discomforting and may cause lachrymation (tears) and burning sensation. The material may produce severe irritation to the eye causing pronounced inflammation. Repeated or prolonged exposure to irritants may produce conjunctivitis. The methanol stabiliser in solutions is a cause of visual impairment

and possible permanent blindness.

Ingestion Toxic if swallowed. Causes burns. Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect.

Considered an unlikely route of entry in commercial/industrial environments.

The liquid is extremely discomforting and is toxic if swallowed. Ingestion may cause immediate severe abdominal pain, with vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea, anuria, dizziness, followed by unconsciousness, convulsions and may result in

death.

Inhalation Toxic by inhalation. Causes burns. Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect.

The vapour is highly discomforting to the upper respiratory tract and repeated exposure may cause sensitisation and/or allergic reactions. Respiratory sensitisation may result in allergic/asthma like responses; from coughing and

minor breathing difficulties to bronchitis with wheezing, gasping. Sensitisation reactions may appear suddenly after repeated exposures.

The material may produce respiratory tract irritation, and result in damage to the lung including reduced lung function. Inhalation of vapour at relatively low concentrations may cause a tingling sensation in the nose and upper respiratory

tract. Slightly higher concentrations may cause a burning sensation

SkinIrritant Toxic in contact with skin. Causes burns. May cause sensitisation by skin contact. The liquid is highly discomforting

to the skin and may cause chemical burns if exposure is prolonged. The material is capable of causing allergic skin reactions skin sensitisation. Sensitisation may result in allergic dermatitis responses including rash, itching, hives or

swelling of extremities.

Toxic effects may result from skin absorption. The material may cause skin irritation after prolonged or repeated exposure and may produce on contact skin redness, swelling, the production of vesicles, scaling and thickening of

the skin.

Carcinogen Category No Data Available

## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Ecotoxicity FORMALDEHYDE: Harmful to aquatic organisms. The material is classified as an Ecotoxin\* because the Fish LC50

(96 hours) is less than or equal to 0.1 mg/L.

\*Classification of Substances as Ecotoxic (Dangerous to the Environment) Formaldehyde is ubiquitous in the environment as a contaminant of smoke and as photochemical smog. In the atmosphere, formaldehyde both photolyses and reacts with reactive free radicals (primarily hydroxyl radicals); half-lives in the sunlit tropospheres are 1.25 to 6 hours for photolysis, and 7.13-71.3 hours for reaction with hydroxyl radicals. Reaction with nitrate radicals, insignificant during the day, may be an important removal process at night. Due to its solubility, formaldehyde will efficiently transfer to rain and surface water; one model predicts dry deposition and wet removal half-lives of 19 and

50 hours, respectively.

Persistence/Degradability Half-life (hr) air: 19-50 Henry's atm m3/mol: 3.27E-07 BOD 5 if unstated: 0-1.1, 60% COD: 1.06, 100%

ThOD: 1.068 In water, formaldehyde will biodegrade to low concentrations within days; adsorption to

sediment and volatilisation are not expected to be significant routes. In soil, aqueous solutions of formaldehyde leach through the soil; at high concentrations adsorption to clay minerals may occur. Although bio- degradable under both

aerobic and anaerobic conditions the fate of formaldehyde in soil is unclear.

Mobility Formaldehyde is expected to have a high mobility.

Miscible in water.

Environmental Fate Do NOT let product reach waterways, drains and sewers.

Bioaccumulation Potential It does not bioconcentrate in the food chain.

Environmental Impact No Data Available

## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

General Information Dispose of in accordance with all local regulations.

All empty packaging should be disposed of in accordance with Local Regulations or

recycled/reconditioned at an approved facility.

Special Precautions for Land Fill Contact a specialist disposal company or the local waste regulator for advice.

Recycle wherever possible or consult manufacturer for recycling options.

Bury or incinerate residue at an approved site.

Recycle containers if possible, or dispose of in an authorised landfill.

# 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

# **Land Transport**

Proper Shipping Name FORMALDEHYDE SOLUTION with not less than 25% formaldehyde

Class 8 Corrosive Substances
Subsidiary Risk(s) No Data Available

ERG 132 Flammable Liquids - Corrosive

 UN Number
 2209

 Hazchem
 2X

 Pack Group
 III

Special Provision No Data Available

# Sea Transport

Proper Shipping Name FORMALDEHYDE SOLUTION with not less than 25% formaldehyde

Class 8 Corrosive Substances

Subsidiary Risk(s) No Data Available

 UN Number
 2209

 Hazchem
 2X

 Pack Group
 III

Special Provision No Data Available

EMS FA,SB Marine Pollutant No

## **Air Transport**

**Proper Shipping Name** FORMALDEHYDE SOLUTION with not less than 25% formaldehyde

Class 8 Corrosive Substances Subsidiary Risk(s) No Data Available

**UN Number** 2209 Hazchem 2X Pack Group Ш

**Special Provision** No Data Available

## 15. OTHER INFORMATION

Revision Key/Legend

< Less Than > Greater Than atm Atmosphere

CAS Chemical Abstracts Service (Registry Number)

cm Square Centimetres CO2 Carbon Dioxide

**COD Chemical Oxygen Demand** 

**Degrees Celcius Degrees Farenheit** 

g Grams

g/cm Grams per Cubic Centimetre

g/I Grams per Litre

**HSNO Hazardous Substance and New Organism IDLH Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health** immiscible Liquids are insoluable in each other.

inHg Inch of Mercury inH2O Inch of Water

K Kelvin kg Kilogram

kg/m Kilograms per Cubic Metre

**Ib Pound** 

LC50 LC stands for lethal concentration. LC50 is the concentration of a material in air which causes the death of 50% (one half) of a group of test animals. The material is inhaled over a set period of time, usually 1 or 4 hours. LD50 LD stands for Lethal Dose. LD50 is the amount of a material, given all at once, which causes the death of 50% (one half) of a group of test animals.

Itr or L Litre m Cubic Metre mbar Millibar mg Milligram

mg/24H Milligrams per 24 Hours mg/kg Milligrams per Kilogram mg/m Milligrams per Cubic Metre

Misc or Miscible Liquids form one homogeneous liquid phase regardless of the amount of either component present.

mm Millimetre

mmH2O Millimetres of Water mPa.s Millipascals per Second

N/A Not Applicable

NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health NOHSC National Occupational Heath and Safety Commission **OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** 

Oz Ounce

**PEL Permissible Exposure Limit** 

Pa Pascal

ppb Parts per Billion ppm Parts per Million

ppm/2h Parts per Million per 2 Hours ppm/6h Parts per Million per 6 Hours

psi Pounds per Square Inch

R Rankine

**RCP Reciprocal Calculation Procedure** STEL Short Term Exposure Limit

**TLV Threshold Limit Value** 

tne Tonne

TWA Time Weighted Average ug/24H Micrograms per 24 Hours

**UN United Nations** 

wt Weight