

Material Safety Data Sheet

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Genium Publishing Corporation
1145 Catalyn Street
Schenectady, NY 12303-1836 USA
(518) 377-8855



No. 310
METHYLENE CHLORIDE
(Revision F)

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SECTION 1. MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

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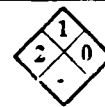
Material Name: METHYLENE CHLORIDE

Description (Origin/Uses): Used widely in paint removers, as a solvent for plastics, as a degreasing agent, in propellant mixtures for aerosol sprays, and as a blowing agent in foams.

Other Designations: Dichloromethane; Freon 30®; Methane Dichloride; Methylene Bichloride; Methylene Dichloride; CH₂Cl₂; CAS No. 0075-09-2

Manufacturers: Contact your supplier or distributor. Consult the latest edition of the *Chemicalweek Buyers' Guide* (Genium ref. 73) for a list of suppliers.

HMIS
H 2 R 1 NFPA
F 1 I 3
R 0 S 3
PPG* K 1
*See sect. 8



SECTION 2. INGREDIENTS AND HAZARDS/EXPOSURE LIMITS

Methylene Chloride, ca 100%

OSHA PEL
8-Hour TWA: 500 ppm
Ceiling: 1000 ppm Acceptable Maximum Peak
above the Ceiling: 2000 ppm for 5 Minutes in
Any 2-Hour Period

ACGIH TLV, 1988-89
TLV-TWA: 50 ppm, 175 mg/m³
(Adopted 1988-89)

Toxicity Data*
Rat, Oral, LD₅₀: 2136 mg/kg
Human, Inhalation, TC₅₀: 500 ppm (8 Hours)

*See NIOSH, RTECS (PA8050000), for additional data with references to irritative, reproductive, mutagenic, and tumorigenic effects.

SECTION 3. PHYSICAL DATA

Boiling Point: 103.55°F (39.75°C) at 76 Torrs
Melting Point: -142°F (-96.7°C)
Vapor Density (Air = 1): 2.9
Vapor Pressure: 440 Torrs at 77°F (25°C)

Molecular Weight: 84.94 Grams/Mole
Solubility in Water (%): 1% by Weight
Specific Gravity (H₂O = 1): 1.3255 at 68°F (20°C)
% Volatile by Volume: Ca 100

Appearance and Odor: A clear, colorless, volatile liquid; distinctive, penetrating, ethereal odor. The odor will not serve as a useful warning property because concentrations of 100 ppm are not easily perceptible. Most persons can detect this odor at above 300 ppm.

SECTION 4. FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

Flash Point* Autoignition Temperature: 1033°F (556°C) LEL: 12% v/v UEL: 19% v/v

Extinguishing Media: *Methylene chloride is not flammable under ordinary conditions. However, flammable vapor-air mixtures can form at approximately 212°F (100°C). Use water spray to cool fire-exposed containers and to flush spills away from exposures. Use extinguishing agents that will put out the surrounding fire. **Unusual Fire or Explosion Hazards:** Methylene chloride vapor is heavier than air and may collect and concentrate in low-lying, confined spaces. The high vapor pressure of methylene chloride means that when it is spilled, its vapor concentration in air can increase rapidly. If this vapor is heated, an explosion hazard is associated with the vapor-air mixture. Containers of this material may rupture violently if they are involved in fires. **Special Fire-fighting Procedures:** Wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with a full facepiece operated in the pressure-demand or positive-pressure mode.

SECTION 5. REACTIVITY DATA

Stability/Polymerization: Methylene chloride is stable in closed containers during routine operations. Hazardous polymerization cannot occur. **Chemical Incompatibilities:** Methylene chloride can react dangerously with nitrogen tetroxide, liquid oxygen, potassium, sodium, sodium-potassium alloys, lithium, potassium hydroxide with N-methyl-N-nitroso urea, potassium *t*-butoxide, and finely powdered aluminum and magnesium. **Conditions to Avoid:** Avoid all exposure to sources of ignition, heat, and incompatible chemicals. Prolonged exposure to water may cause hydrolysis to highly corrosive hydrochloric acid when the temperature is above 140°F (60°C). In oxygen-enriched atmospheres or when heated (>212°F [100°C]), methylene chloride vapor can be readily ignited. **Hazardous Products of Decomposition:** Exposure to high temperature (from open flame, hot surfaces, uninsulated steam lines, welding arcs, etc.) can produce toxic and corrosive thermal-oxidative products of decomposition such as hydrogen chloride, carbon monoxide, and even small quantities of phosgene gas, which is extremely poisonous.

SECTION 6. HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

Carcinogenicity: Methylene chloride is listed as a suspected human carcinogen by the ACGIH (which classifies it as a group A2 carcinogen). **Summary of Risks:** Accidental contact of liquid methylene chloride with skin or eyes causes painful irritation and possible burns if not promptly removed. Exposure by way of contaminated gloves, clothing, or paint remover formulations can produce these same irritant effects. Long-term exposure to mild or moderate doses of methylene chloride may cause a delayed (24 to 48 hours) onset of dizziness, headache, mental confusion, slurred speech, double vision, and sleeplessness. Medical recovery can be slow. Overexposure to methylene chloride can cause elevated levels of carboxy hemoglobin in the blood (this same effect results from overexposure to carbon monoxide). **Medical Conditions Aggravated by Long-Term Exposure:** None reported. **Target Organs:** Skin, eyes, respiratory system, CNS, liver, kidneys, and blood. **Primary Entry:** Inhalation, skin contact/absorption. **Acute Effects:** Headache, giddiness, stupor, irritability, fatigue, tingling in the limbs, and narcosis that is not usually fatal if the exposure is terminated before anesthetic death occurs. **Chronic Effects:** The ACGIH classification of this material as a suspected human carcinogen implies that cancer is a possible effect of chronic exposure to methylene chloride. **FIRST AID:** Eyes. Immediately flush eyes, including under the eyelids, gently but thoroughly with

SECTION 6. HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION, cont.

flooding amounts of running water for at least 15 minutes. **Skin.** Rinse the affected area with flooding amounts of water and then wash it with soap and water. **Inhalation.** Remove the exposed person to fresh air; restore and/or support his or her breathing as needed. Have qualified medical personnel administer oxygen as required. **Note to Attending Physician:** Do not administer adrenalin. **Ingestion.** Unlikely. Should this type of exposure occur, do not induce vomiting because of the danger of aspiration. If spontaneous vomiting should occur, position the exposed person's head below his or her trunk to resist aspiration. **Get medical help (in plant, paramedic, community) for all exposures.** Seek prompt medical assistance for further treatment, observation, and support after first aid. **Note to Physician:** Absorbed methylene chloride is stored in body fat and metabolizes to carbon monoxide. This produced carbon monoxide increases and sustains carboxyhemoglobin levels in the blood, which concomitantly reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. NIOSH advises preplacement and annual medical exams that emphasize liver, kidney, eye, skin, CNS, and respiratory system functions and a complete blood count. Simultaneous exposure to tobacco smoke, alcohol, and carbon monoxide, along with heavy manual labor, increases the body burden of a worker as well as the toxic hazards of the methylene chloride. In significant exposures, serum methylene chloride levels are of no clinical importance. Neurologic and hepatic status as well as carboxy hemoglobin should be monitored.

SECTION 7. SPILL, LEAK, AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Spill/Leak: Notify safety personnel, evacuate unnecessary personnel, eliminate all sources of ignition immediately, and provide adequate explosion-proof ventilation. Cleanup personnel need protection against this liquid's contact with the skin or eyes as well as inhalation of its vapor. Contain large spills and collect waste or absorb it with an inert material such as sand, earth, or vermiculite. Use nonsparking tools to place waste liquid or absorbent into closable containers for disposal. Keep waste out of sewers, watersheds, and waterways. **Waste Disposal:** Contact your supplier or a licensed contractor for detailed recommendations. Follow Federal, state, and local regulations.

OSHA Designations

Listed as an Air Contaminant (29 CFR 1910.1000 Subpart Z).

EPA Designations (40 CFR 302.4)

RCRA Hazardous Waste, NO. U080

CERCLA Hazardous Substance, Reportable Quantity: 1000 lbs (454 kg), per the Clean Water Act (CWA), § 307 (a), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), § 3001.

SECTION 8. SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

Goggles: Always wear protective eyeglasses or chemical safety goggles. Where splashing is possible, wear a full face shield. Follow OSHA eye- and face-protection regulations (29 CFR 1910.133). **Respirator:** Use a NIOSH-approved respirator per Genium reference 88 for the maximum-use concentrations and/or exposure limits cited in section 2. Follow OSHA respirator regulations (29 CFR 1910.134). For emergency or nonroutine operations (spills or cleaning reactor vessels and storage tanks), wear an SCBA. **Warning:** Air-purifying respirators will *not* protect workers in oxygen-deficient atmospheres. **Other:** Wear impervious neoprene, PVA, or Viton gloves, boots, aprons, and gauntlets, etc., to prevent any skin contact with liquid methylene chloride. **Ventilation:** Install and operate general and local maximum, explosion-proof ventilation systems powerful enough to maintain airborne levels of acetone below the exposure limits cited in section 2. Local exhaust ventilation is preferred because it prevents dispersion of the contaminant into the general work area by eliminating it at its source. Consult the latest edition of Genium reference 103 for detailed recommendations. Floor or sump ventilation may be necessary. **Safety Stations:** Make emergency eyewash stations, safety/quick-drench showers, and washing facilities available in work areas. **Contaminated Equipment:** Contact lenses pose a special hazard; soft lenses may absorb irritants, and all lenses concentrate them. Do *not* wear contact lenses in any work area. Remove contaminated clothing and launder it before wearing it again; clean this material from shoes and equipment. **Other:** Because the health effects of carbon monoxide and methylene chloride are additive (see sect. 6), workplaces should be equipped with automatic sensing equipment that identifies workroom atmospheric levels of both of these materials. **Comments:** Practice good personal hygiene: always wash thoroughly after using this material and before eating, drinking, smoking, using the toilet, or applying cosmetics. Keep it off your clothing and equipment. Avoid transferring it from your hands to your mouth while eating, drinking, or smoking. Do *not* eat, drink, or smoke in any work area. Do not inhale methylene chloride vapor.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

Storage/Segregation: Store methylene chloride in closed, moisture-proof containers in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from sources of ignition, strong oxidizers, caustics, and incompatible chemicals (see sect. 5). Protect containers from physical damage.

Special Handling/Storage: Prevent moist air from entering storage containers. Provide ventilation at the floor level in storage areas because methylene chloride vapor is denser than air. Installation of a dryer and a safety seal on each tank is recommended. Aluminum is not recommended for use as a storage material; appropriate storage materials include galvanized iron, black iron, or steel. **Engineering Controls:** Make sure all engineering systems (production, transportation) are of maximum explosion-proof design. Electrically ground and bond all containers and pipelines used in shipping, transferring, reacting, production, and sampling operations to prevent generating static sparks.

Transportation Data (49 CFR 172.101-2)

DOT Shipping Name: Dichloromethane or Methylene Chloride

DOT Hazard Class: ORM-A

ID No. UN1593

DOT Packaging Requirements: 49 CFR 173.605

DOT Packaging Exceptions: 49 CFR 173.505

IMO Shipping Name: Dichloromethane

IMO Hazard Class: 6.1

IMO Label: Saint Andrew's Cross (X)*

IMDG Packaging Group: III

*Harmful-Stow away from Foodstuffs.

References: 1, 26, 38, 84-94, 100, 116, 117, 120, 122.

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Prepared by PJ Igoe, BS

Industrial Hygiene Review: DJ Wilson, CIH

Medical Review: MJ Hardies, MD