Monsanto

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TOXICITY AND SAFE HANDLING OF TRANSFORMER GRADE ASKARELS

From animal toxicity studies the Askarels may be considered only slightly toxic from the standpoint of ingestion or single accidental massive skin exposures. In addition, single exposures to high concentrations of vapors or high concentrations of decomposition products are generally not serious hazards. The irritating nature of such concentrations would preclude voluntary exposure. Additionally, such high concentrations would require special conditions such as high heating, atomization, or burning of the material in a fire chamber.

Repeated or prolonged skin contact should be avoided because the Askarels act as solvents for the oils and fats of the normal skin. Accordingly, drying or chapping of the skin can occur as would be the case with any commonly used solvent. In addition, there can be skin absorption if the material is allowed to remain on the skin for any prolonged period of time. Denuded or otherwise irritated skin may be more subject to irritation from accidental exposure. Obviously, if the fluid is heated, normal thermal burns may also result from the Askarels.

Under normal conditions there is no significant vapor inhalation hazard because of the low vapor pressure of the Askarels. If, however, the material is subjected to elevated temperatures or atomized, there may be any inhalation hazard. The TLV for atmospheric vapor of the Askarel fluids would be 1 mg/cm for the 42% and ½ mg/cm for the 54%.

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