

Silver sulfate

sc-203379

Material Safety Data Sheet



The Power is Question

Hazard Alert Code Key: **EXTREME** **HIGH** **MODERATE** **LOW**

Section 1 - CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

PRODUCT NAME

Silver sulfate

STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE

CONSIDERED A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACCORDING TO OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200.

NFPA



SUPPLIER

Company: Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.

Address:

2145 Delaware Ave

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Telephone: 800.457.3801 or 831.457.3800

Emergency Tel: CHEMWATCH: From within the US and Canada:
877-715-9305

Emergency Tel: From outside the US and Canada: +800 2436 2255
(1-800-CHEMCALL) or call +613 9573 3112

PRODUCT USE

Used as laboratory reagent. Monomer

SYNONYMS

Ag₂SO₄, "sulphuric acid, disilver (1+) salt", "sulfuric acid, disilver (1+) salt", "sulphuric acid silver salt", "sulfuric acid silver salt", "silver sulphate, normal", "silver sulfate, normal", 10234

Section 2 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

CANADIAN WHMIS SYMBOLS



EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

RISK

Risk of serious damage to eyes.

Irritating to respiratory system and skin.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS

SWALLOWED

- Sulfates are not well absorbed orally, but can cause diarrhea.
- The material has NOT been classified as "harmful by ingestion". This is because of the lack of corroborating animal or human evidence. The material may still be damaging to the health of the individual, following ingestion, especially where pre-existing organ (e.g. liver, kidney) damage is evident. Present definitions of harmful or toxic substances are generally based on doses producing mortality (death) rather than those producing morbidity (disease, ill-health). Gastrointestinal tract discomfort may produce nausea and vomiting. In an occupational setting however, unintentional ingestion is not thought to be cause for concern.

EYE

- If applied to the eyes, this material causes severe eye damage.

SKIN

- This material can cause inflammation of the skin oncontact in some persons.
- The material may accentuate any pre-existing dermatitis condition.
- Skin contact is not thought to have harmful health effects, however the material may still produce health damage following entry through wounds, lesions or abrasions.
- Open cuts, abraded or irritated skin should not be exposed to this material.
- Entry into the blood-stream, through, for example, cuts, abrasions or lesions, may produce systemic injury with harmful effects. Examine the skin prior to the use of the material and ensure that any external damage is suitably protected.

INHALED

- The material can cause respiratory irritation in some persons. The body's response to such irritation can cause further lung damage.
- Persons with impaired respiratory function, airway diseases and conditions such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis, may incur further disability if excessive concentrations of particulate are inhaled.

CHRONIC HEALTH EFFECTS

• Long-term exposure to respiratory irritants may result in disease of the airways involving difficult breathing and related systemic problems. Limited evidence suggests that repeated or long-term occupational exposure may produce cumulative health effects involving organs or biochemical systems.

Long term exposure to high dust concentrations may cause changes in lung function i.e. pneumoconiosis; caused by particles less than 0.5 micron penetrating and remaining in the lung. Prime symptom is breathlessness; lung shadows show on X-ray.

Chronic exposure to silver salts may cause a permanent ashen gray discoloration to the skin, conjunctiva and internal organs. A mild chronic bronchitis can occur.

Section 3 - COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

HAZARD RATINGS

	Min	Max
Flammability:	0	■
Toxicity:	0	■
Body Contact:	3	■
Reactivity:	0	■
Chronic:	2	■

Min/Nil=0
Low=1
Moderate=2
High=3
Extreme=4



NAME	CAS RN	%
silver sulfate	10294-26-5	> 98

Section 4 - FIRST AID MEASURES

SWALLOWED

- Immediately give a glass of water.
- First aid is not generally required. If in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Center or a doctor.

EYE

- If this product comes in contact with the eyes:
 - Immediately hold eyelids apart and flush the eye continuously with running water.
 - Ensure complete irrigation of the eye by keeping eyelids apart and away from eye and moving the eyelids by occasionally lifting the upper and lower lids.
 - Continue flushing until advised to stop by the Poisons Information Center 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

- If skin contact occurs:
 - Immediately remove all contaminated clothing, including footwear
 - Flush skin and hair with running water (and soap if available).

- Seek medical attention in event of irritation.

INHALED

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- If fumes or combustion products are 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.

NOTES TO PHYSICIAN

- Treat symptomatically.

Section 5 - FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Vapour Pressure (mmHG):	Negligible.
Upper Explosive Limit (%):	Not applicable
Specific Gravity (water=1):	5.45
Lower Explosive Limit (%):	Not applicable

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA

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- There is no restriction on the type of extinguisher which may be used.

Use extinguishing media suitable for surrounding area.

FIRE FIGHTING

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- Alert Emergency Responders and tell them location and nature of hazard.
- Wear breathing apparatus plus protective gloves for fire only.
- Prevent, by any means available, spillage from entering drains or water course.
- Use fire fighting procedures suitable for surrounding area.
- Do not approach containers suspected to be hot.
- Cool fire exposed containers with water spray from a protected location.
- If safe to do so, remove containers from path of fire.
- Equipment should be thoroughly decontaminated after use.

GENERAL FIRE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS COMBUSTIBLE PRODUCTS

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- Non combustible.
- Not considered to be a significant fire risk, however containers may burn.

Decomposition may produce toxic fumes of: sulfur oxides (SOx), metal oxides.

May emit poisonous fumes.

May emit corrosive fumes.

FIRE INCOMPATIBILITY

- None known.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

Glasses:

Chemical goggles.

Gloves:

Respirator:

Particulate

Section 6 - ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

MINOR SPILLS

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- Clean up all spills immediately.
- Avoid breathing dust and contact with skin and eyes.
- Wear protective clothing, gloves, safety glasses and dust respirator.
- Use dry clean up procedures and avoid generating dust.
- Sweep up, shovel up or vacuum up (consider explosion-proof machines designed to be grounded during storage and use).
- Place spilled material in clean, dry, sealable, labeled container.

MAJOR SPILLS

- Moderate hazard.

- CAUTION: Advise personnel in area.
- Alert Emergency Responders and tell them location and nature of hazard.
- Control personal contact by wearing protective clothing.
- Prevent, by any means available, spillage from entering drains or water courses.

- Recover product wherever possible.
- IF DRY: Use dry clean up procedures and avoid generating dust. Collect residues and place in sealed plastic bags or other containers for disposal. IF WET: Vacuum/shovel up and place in labelled containers for disposal.
- ALWAYS: Wash area down with large amounts of water and prevent runoff into drains.
- If contamination of drains or waterways occurs, advise emergency services.

ACUTE EXPOSURE GUIDELINE LEVELS (AEGL) (in ppm)

AEGL 1: The airborne concentration of a substance above which it is predicted that the general population, including susceptible individuals, could experience notable discomfort, irritation, or certain asymptomatic nonsensory effects. However, the effects are not disabling and are transient and reversible upon cessation of exposure.

AEGL 2: The airborne concentration of a substance above which it is predicted that the general population, including susceptible individuals, could experience irreversible or other serious, long-lasting adverse health effects or an impaired ability to escape.

AEGL 3: The airborne concentration of a substance above which it is predicted that the general population, including susceptible individuals, could experience life-threatening health effects or death.

Section 7 - HANDLING AND STORAGE

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING

- Avoid all personal contact, including inhalation.
- Wear protective clothing when risk of exposure occurs.
- Use in a well-ventilated area.
- Prevent concentration in hollows and sumps.
- DO NOT enter confined spaces until atmosphere has been checked.
- DO NOT allow material to contact humans, exposed food or food utensils.
- Avoid contact with incompatible materials.
- When handling, DO NOT eat, drink or smoke.
- Keep containers securely sealed when not in use.
- Avoid physical damage to containers.
- Always wash hands with soap and water after handling.
- Work clothes should be laundered separately.
- Launder contaminated clothing before re-use.
- Use good occupational work practice.
- Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.
- Atmosphere should be regularly checked against established exposure standards to ensure safe working conditions are maintained.

RECOMMENDED STORAGE METHODS

- Glass container.
- Polyethylene or polypropylene container.
- Check all containers are clearly labelled and free from leaks.

STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Store in original containers.
- Keep containers securely sealed.
- Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area.
- Store away from incompatible materials and foodstuff containers.
- Protect containers against physical damage and check regularly for leaks.
- Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.

SAFE STORAGE WITH OTHER CLASSIFIED CHEMICALS



X: Must not be stored together

O: May be stored together with specific preventions

+: May be stored together

Section 8 - EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

EXPOSURE CONTROLS

Source	Material	TWA ppm	TWA mg/m ³	STEL ppm	STEL mg/m ³	Peak ppm	Peak mg/m ³	TWA F/CC	Notes
Canada - British Columbia Occupational Exposure Limits	silver sulfate (Silver and Compounds (as Ag))		0.01		0.03				
Canada - Ontario Occupational Exposure Limits	silver sulfate (Silver, water - soluble compounds of (as silver))		0.01						
US - Minnesota Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs)	silver sulfate (Silver (metal dust and soluble compounds, as Ag))		0.01						
US OSHA Permissible Exposure Levels (PELs) - Table Z1	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLV)	silver sulfate (Silver - Soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						TLV Basis: argyria
US - Vermont Permissible Exposure Limits Table Z-1-A Transitional Limits for Air Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US - Vermont Permissible Exposure Limits Table Z-1-A Final Rule Limits for Air Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US - Tennessee Occupational Exposure Limits - Limits For Air Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US - California Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, soluble compounds, as Ag)		0.01						
US - Idaho - Limits for Air Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US - Hawaii Air Contaminant Limits	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
US - Michigan Exposure Limits for Air Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
Canada - Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations - Contamination Limits	silver sulfate (Silver soluble compounds, (as Ag))		0.01		0.03				
Canada - Yukon Permissible Concentrations for Airborne Contaminant Substances	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))	-	0.01	-	0.03				
US - Washington Permissible exposure limits of air contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal dust and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01		0.03				
Canada - Prince Edward Island Occupational Exposure Limits	silver sulfate (Silver - Soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						TLV Basis: argyria
US - Wyoming Toxic and Hazardous Substances Table Z1 Limits for Air Contaminants	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						
Canada - Nova Scotia Occupational Exposure Limits	silver sulfate (Silver - Soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						TLV Basis: argyria
US - Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (Z1)	silver sulfate (Silver, metal and soluble compounds (as Ag))		0.01						

Canada - Northwest Territories Occupational Exposure Limits (English)	silver sulfate (Silver, soluble compounds (as Ag))	0.01	0.03
Canada - Alberta Occupational Exposure Limits	silver sulfate (Silver - Soluble compounds, as Ag)	0.01	
Canada - Quebec Permissible Exposure Values for Airborne Contaminants (English)	silver sulfate (Silver: Soluble compounds (as Ag))	0.01	

EMERGENCY EXPOSURE LIMITS

Material	Revised IDLH Value (mg/m3)	Revised IDLH Value (ppm)
silver sulfate	10	

MATERIAL DATA

SILVER SULFATE:

• The adopted TLV-TWA for silver dust and fumes is 0.1 mg/m3 and for the more toxic soluble silver compounds the adopted value is 0.01 mg/m3. Cases of argyria (a slate to blue-gray discoloration of epithelial tissues) have been recorded when workers were exposed to silver nitrate at concentrations of 0.1 mg/m3 (as silver). Exposure to very high concentrations of silver fume has caused diffuse pulmonary fibrosis. Percutaneous absorption of silver compounds is reported to have resulted in allergy. Based on a 25% retention upon inhalation and a 10 m3/day respiratory volume, exposure to 0.1 mg/m3 (TWA) would result in total deposition of no more than 1.5g in 25 years.

PERSONAL PROTECTION



Consult your EHS staff for recommendations

EYE

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- Safety glasses with side shields.
- Chemical goggles.
- Contact lenses pose a special hazard; soft lenses may absorb irritants and all lenses concentrate them. DO NOT wear contact lenses.

HANDS/FEET

- Suitability and durability of glove type is dependent on usage. Important factors in the selection of gloves include: such as:
 - frequency and duration of contact,
 - chemical resistance of glove material,
 - glove thickness and
 - dexterity

Select gloves tested to a relevant standard (e.g. Europe EN 374, US F739).

- When prolonged or frequently repeated contact may occur, a glove with a protection class of 5 or higher (breakthrough time greater than 240 minutes according to EN 374) is recommended.
- When only brief contact is expected, a glove with a protection class of 3 or higher (breakthrough time greater than 60 minutes according to EN 374) is recommended.
- Contaminated gloves should be replaced.

Gloves must only be worn on clean hands. After using gloves, hands should be washed and dried thoroughly. Application of a non-perfumed moisturiser is recommended.

Experience indicates that the following polymers are suitable as glove materials for protection against undissolved, dry solids, where abrasive particles are not present.

- polychloroprene
- nitrile rubber
- butyl rubber
- fluorocautchouc
- polyvinyl chloride

Gloves should be examined for wear and/ or degradation constantly.

OTHER

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- Overalls.
- P.V.C. apron.
- Barrier cream.
- Skin cleansing cream.
- Eye wash unit.
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- Respirators may be necessary when engineering and administrative controls do not adequately prevent exposures.
- The decision to use respiratory protection should be based on professional judgment that takes into account toxicity information,

exposure measurement data, and frequency and likelihood of the worker's exposure - ensure users are not subject to high thermal loads which may result in heat stress or distress due to personal protective equipment (powered, positive flow, full face apparatus may be an option).

- Published occupational exposure limits, where they exist, will assist in determining the adequacy of the selected respiratory. These may be government mandated or vendor recommended.
- Certified respirators will be useful for protecting workers from inhalation of particulates when properly selected and fit tested as part of a complete respiratory protection program.
- Use approved positive flow mask if significant quantities of dust becomes airborne.
- Try to avoid creating dust conditions.

RESPIRATOR

Protection Factor	Half-Face Respirator	Full-Face Respirator	Powered Air Respirator
10 x PEL	P1	-	PAPR-P1
	Air-line*	-	-
50 x PEL	Air-line**	P2	PAPR-P2
100 x PEL	-	P3	-
	-	Air-line*	-
100+ x PEL	-	Air-line**	PAPR-P3

* - Negative pressure demand ** - Continuous flow

Explanation of Respirator Codes:

Class 1 low to medium absorption capacity filters.

Class 2 medium absorption capacity filters.

Class 3 high absorption capacity filters.

PAPR Powered Air Purifying Respirator (positive pressure) cartridge.

Type A for use against certain organic gases and vapors.

Type AX for use against low boiling point organic compounds (less than 65°C).

Type B for use against certain inorganic gases and other acid gases and vapors.

Type E for use against sulfur dioxide and other acid gases and vapors.

Type K for use against ammonia and organic ammonia derivatives

Class P1 intended for use against mechanically generated particulates of sizes most commonly encountered in industry, e.g. asbestos, silica.

Class P2 intended for use against both mechanically and thermally generated particulates, e.g. metal fume.

Class P3 intended for use against all particulates containing highly toxic materials, e.g. beryllium.

The local concentration of material, quantity and conditions of use determine the type of personal protective equipment required.

Use appropriate NIOSH-certified respirator based on informed professional judgement. In conditions where no reasonable estimate of exposure can be made, assume the exposure is in a concentration IDLH and use NIOSH-certified full face pressure demand SCBA with a minimum service life of 30 minutes, or a combination full facepiece pressure demand SAR with auxiliary self-contained air supply. Respirators provided only for escape from IDLH atmospheres shall be NIOSH-certified for escape from the atmosphere in which they will be used.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS

- Local exhaust ventilation is required where solids are handled as powders or crystals; even when particulates are relatively large, a certain proportion will be powdered by mutual friction.
- If in spite of local exhaust an adverse concentration of the substance in air could occur, respiratory protection should be considered.

Such protection might consist of:

(a): particle dust respirators, if necessary, combined with an absorption cartridge;

(b): filter respirators with absorption cartridge or canister of the right type;

(c): fresh-air hoods or masks

Air contaminants generated in the workplace possess varying "escape" velocities which, in turn, determine the "capture velocities" of fresh circulating air required to effectively remove the contaminant.

Type of Contaminant:	Air Speed:
direct spray, spray painting in shallow booths, drum filling, conveyer loading, crusher dusts, gas discharge (active generation into zone of rapid air motion)	1-2.5 m/s (200-500 f/min.)
grinding, abrasive blasting, tumbling, high speed wheel generated dusts (released at high initial velocity into zone of very high rapid air motion).	2.5-10 m/s (500-2000 f/min.)

Within each range the appropriate value depends on:

Lower end of the range	Upper end of the range
1: Room air currents minimal or favorable to capture	1: Disturbing room air currents
2: Contaminants of low toxicity or of nuisance value only.	2: Contaminants of high toxicity
3: Intermittent, low production.	3: High production, heavy use
4: Large hood or large air mass in motion	4: Small hood-local control only

Simple theory shows that air velocity falls rapidly with distance away from the opening of a simple extraction pipe. Velocity generally decreases with the square of distance from the extraction point (in simple cases). Therefore the air speed at the extraction point should be adjusted, accordingly, after reference to distance from the contaminating source. The air velocity at the extraction fan, for example, should be a minimum of 4-10 m/s (800-2000 f/min) for extraction of crusher dusts generated 2 meters distant from the extraction point. Other mechanical considerations, producing performance deficits within the extraction apparatus, make it essential that theoretical air velocities are multiplied by factors of 10 or more when extraction systems are installed or used.

Section 9 - PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Solid.

Does not mix with water.

Sinks in water.

State	Divided solid	Molecular Weight	311.8
Melting Range (°F)	1205.6	Viscosity	Not Applicable
Boiling Range (°F)	1985 decomposes	Solubility in water (g/L)	Partly miscible
Flash Point (°F)	Not applicable	pH (1% solution)	Not applicable
Decomposition Temp (°F)	Not available.	pH (as supplied)	Not applicable
Autoignition Temp (°F)	Not applicable	Vapour Pressure (mmHG)	Negligible.
Upper Explosive Limit (%)	Not applicable	Specific Gravity (water=1)	5.45
Lower Explosive Limit (%)	Not applicable	Relative Vapor Density (air=1)	Not applicable
Volatile Component (%vol)	Not applicable.	Evaporation Rate	Not applicable

APPEARANCE

Odourless, white crystalline powder or colourless crystals that darken on exposure to light. Slowly soluble in 125 parts of water. Soluble in ammonium hydroxide, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, hot water (14.1g/l @ 100 C). Insoluble in alcohol.

Section 10 - CHEMICAL STABILITY

CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO INSTABILITY

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- Presence of incompatible materials.
- Product is considered stable.
- Hazardous polymerization will not occur.

STORAGE INCOMPATIBILITY

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- WARNING: Avoid or control reaction with peroxides. All transition metal peroxides should be considered as potentially explosive. For example transition metal complexes of alkyl hydroperoxides may decompose explosively.
- The pi-complexes formed between chromium(0), vanadium(0) and other transition metals (haloarene-metal complexes) and mono- or poly-fluorobenzene show extreme sensitivity to heat and are explosive.
- Avoid reaction with borohydrides or cyanoborohydrides

Metals and their oxides or salts may react violently with chlorine trifluoride. Chlorine trifluoride is a hypergolic oxidizer. It ignites on contact (without external source of heat or ignition) with recognized fuels - contact with these materials, following an ambient or slightly elevated temperature, is often violent and may produce ignition. The state of subdivision may affect the results.

- Silver or silver salts readily form explosive silver fulminate in the presence of both nitric acid and ethanol. The resulting fulminate is much more sensitive and a more powerful detonator than mercuric fulminate.
- Silver and its compounds and salts may also form explosive compounds in the presence of acetylene and nitromethane.

Avoid strong acids.

- Protect from light.

For incompatible materials - refer to Section 7 - Handling and Storage.

Section 11 - TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

silver sulfate

TOXICITY AND IRRITATION

- unless otherwise specified data extracted from RTECS - Register of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances.
- Asthma-like symptoms may continue for months or even years after exposure to the material ceases. This may be due to a non-allergenic condition known as reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS) which can occur following exposure to high levels of highly irritating compound. Key criteria for the diagnosis of RADS include the absence of preceding respiratory disease, in a non-atopic individual, with abrupt onset of persistent asthma-like symptoms within minutes to hours of a documented exposure to the irritant. A reversible airflow pattern, on spirometry, with the presence of moderate to severe bronchial hyperreactivity on methacholine challenge testing and the lack of minimal lymphocytic inflammation, without eosinophilia, have also been included in the criteria for diagnosis of RADS. RADS (or asthma) following an irritating inhalation is an infrequent disorder with rates related to the concentration of and duration of exposure to the irritating substance. Industrial bronchitis, on the other hand, is a disorder that occurs as result of exposure due to high concentrations of irritating substance (often particulate in nature) and is completely reversible after exposure ceases. The disorder is characterised by dyspnea, cough and mucus production.

No significant acute toxicological data identified in literature search.

Section 12 - ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Refer to data for ingredients, which follows:

SILVER SULFATE:

- Data from tap water studies with human volunteers indicate that sulfates produce a laxative effect at concentrations of 1000 - 1200 mg/litre, but no increase in diarrhoea, dehydration or weight loss. The presence of sulfate in drinking-water can also result in a noticeable taste; the lowest taste threshold concentration for sulfate is approximately 250 mg/litre as the sodium salt. Sulfate may also contribute to the corrosion of distribution systems. No health-based guideline value for sulfate in drinking water is proposed. However, there is an increasing likelihood of complaints arising from a noticeable taste as concentrations in water increase above 500 mg/litre.

Sulfates are removed from the air by both dry and wet deposition processes. Wet deposition processes including rain-out (a process that occurs within the clouds) and washout (removal by precipitation below the clouds) contribute to the removal of sulfate from the atmosphere.

In soil, the inorganic sulfates can adsorb to soil particles or leach into surface water and groundwater. Sulfates can be taken up by plants and be incorporated into the parenchyma of the plant.

Sulfate in water can also be reduced by sulfate bacteria (Thiobacilli) which use them as a source of energy.

- For silver and its compounds:

Environmental fate:

Silver is a rare but naturally occurring metal, often found deposited as a mineral ore in association with other elements. Emissions from smelting operations, manufacture and disposal of certain photographic and electrical supplies, coal combustion, and cloud seeding are some of the anthropogenic sources of silver in the biosphere. The global biogeochemical movements of silver are characterized by releases to the atmosphere, water, and land by natural and anthropogenic sources, long-range transport of fine particles in the atmosphere, wet and dry deposition, and sorption to soils and sediments.

In general, accumulation of silver by terrestrial plants from soils is low, even if the soil is amended with silver-containing sewage sludge or the plants are grown on tailings from silver mines, where silver accumulates mainly in the root systems.

The ability to accumulate dissolved silver varies widely between species. Some reported bioconcentration factors for marine organisms (calculated as milligrams of silver per kilogram fresh weight organism divided by milligrams of silver per litre of medium) are 210 in diatoms, 240 in brown algae, 330 in mussels, 2300 in scallops, and 18 700 in oysters, whereas bioconcentration factors for freshwater organisms have been reported to range from negligible in bluegills (*Lepomis macrochirus*) to 60 in daphnids; these values represent uptake of bioavailable silver in laboratory experiments. Laboratory studies with the less toxic silver compounds, such as silver sulfide and silver chloride, reveal that accumulation of silver does not necessarily lead to adverse effects. At concentrations normally encountered in the environment, food-chain biomagnification of silver in aquatic systems is unlikely. Elevated silver concentrations in biota occur in the vicinities of sewage outfalls, electroplating plants, mine waste sites, and silver iodide-seeded areas. Maximum concentrations recorded in field collections, in milligrams total silver per kilogram dry weight (tissue), were 1.5 in marine mammals (liver) (except Alaskan beluga whales *Delphinapterus leucas*, which had concentrations 2 orders of magnitude higher than those of other marine mammals), 6 in fish (bone), 14 in plants (whole), 30 in annelid worms (whole), 44 in birds (liver), 110 in mushrooms (whole), 185 in bivalve molluscs (soft parts), and 320 in gastropods (whole).

Ecotoxicity:

In general, silver ion was less toxic to freshwater aquatic organisms under conditions of low dissolved silver ion concentration and increasing water pH, hardness, sulfides, and dissolved and particulate organic loadings; under static test conditions, compared with flow-through regimens; and when animals were adequately nourished instead of being starved. Silver ions are very toxic to microorganisms. However, there is generally no strong inhibitory effect on microbial activity in sewage treatment plants because of reduced bioavailability due to rapid complexation and adsorption. Free silver ion was lethal to representative species of sensitive aquatic plants, invertebrates, and teleosts at nominal water concentrations of 1-5 ug/litre. Adverse effects occur on development of trout at concentrations as low as 0.17 ug/litre and on phytoplankton species composition and succession at 0.3-0.6 ug/litre.

A knowledge of the speciation of silver and its consequent bioavailability is crucial to understanding the potential risk of the metal. Measurement of free ionic silver is the only direct method that can be used to assess the likely effects of the metal on organisms. Speciation models can be used to assess the likely proportion of the total silver measured that is bioavailable to organisms. Unlike some other metals, background freshwater concentrations in pristine and most urban areas are well below concentrations causing toxic effects. Levels in most industrialized areas border on the effect concentration, assuming that conditions favour bioavailability. On the basis of available toxicity test results, it is unlikely that bioavailable free silver ions would ever be at sufficiently high concentrations to cause toxicity in marine environments.

No data were found on effects of silver on wild birds or mammals. Silver was harmful to poultry (tested as silver nitrate) at concentrations as low as 100 mg total silver/litre in drinking-water or 200 mg total silver/kg in diets. Sensitive laboratory mammals were adversely affected at total silver concentrations (added as silver nitrate) as low as 250 ug/litre in drinking-water (brain histopathology), 6 mg/kg in diet (high accumulations in kidneys and liver), or 13.9 mg/kg body weight (lethality).

Silver and Silver Compounds; Concise International Chemical Assessment Document (CICAD) 44 IPCS InChem (WHO)

'The transport of silver through estuarine and coastal marine systems is dependent on biological uptake and incorporation. Uptake by phytoplankton is rapid, in proportion to silver concentration and inversely proportional to salinity. In contrast to studies performed with other toxic metals, silver availability appears to be controlled by both the free silver ion concentration and the concentration of other silver complexes. Silver incorporated by phytoplankton is not lost as salinity increase; as a result silver associated with cellular material is largely retained within the estuary. Phytoplankton exhibit a variable sensitivity to silver. Sensitive species exhibit a marked delay in the onset of growth in response to silver at low concentrations, even though maximum growth rates are similar to controls. A delay in the onset of growth reduces the ability of a population to respond to short-term favourable conditions and to succeed within the community.

James G. Saunders and George R Abbe: Aquatic Toxicology and Environmental Fate; ASTM STP 1007, 1989, pp 5-18.

- DO NOT discharge into sewer or waterways.

Section 13 - DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

US EPA Waste Number & Descriptions

A. General Product Information

Toxicity characteristic: use EPA hazardous waste number D011 (waste code E) if this substance, in a solid waste, produces an extract containing greater than 5 mg/L of silver.

Disposal Instructions

All waste must be handled in accordance with local, state and federal regulations.

• Legislation addressing waste disposal requirements may differ by country, state and/ or territory. Each user must refer to laws operating in their area. In some areas, certain wastes must be tracked.

A Hierarchy of Controls seems to be common - the user should investigate:

- Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Disposal (if all else fails)

This material may be recycled if unused, or if it has not been contaminated so as to make it unsuitable for its intended use. Shelf life considerations should also be applied in making decisions of this type. Note that properties of a material may change in use, and recycling or reuse may not always be appropriate.

DO NOT allow wash water from cleaning equipment to enter drains. Collect all wash water for treatment before disposal.

- Recycle wherever possible or consult manufacturer for recycling options.
- Consult Waste Management Authority for disposal.
- Bury residue in an authorized landfill.
- Recycle containers where possible, or dispose of in an authorized landfill.

Section 14 - TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

NOT REGULATED FOR TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS: DOT, IATA, IMDG

Section 15 - REGULATORY INFORMATION

silver sulfate (CAS: 10294-26-5) is found on the following regulatory lists;

"Canada Domestic Substances List (DSL)", "Canada Toxicological Index Service - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System - WHMIS (English)", "Canada Toxicological Index Service - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System - WHMIS (French)", "US Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) - Inventory"

Section 16 - OTHER INFORMATION

LIMITED EVIDENCE

• Cumulative effects may result following exposure*.

* (limited evidence).

Reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of this information, but the author makes no warranty of merchantability or any other warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to this information. The author makes no representations and assumes no liability for any direct, incidental or consequential damages resulting from its use. For additional technical information please call our toxicology department on +800 CHEMCALL.

• Classification of the mixture and its individual components has drawn on official and authoritative sources as well as independent review by the Chemwatch Classification committee using available literature references.

A list of reference resources used to assist the committee may be found at:

www.chemwatch.net/references.

• The (M)SDS is a Hazard Communication tool and should be used to assist in the Risk Assessment. Many factors determine whether the reported Hazards are Risks in the workplace or other settings. Risks may be determined by reference to Exposures Scenarios. Scale of use, frequency of use and current or available engineering controls must be considered.

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