

# Tetrabutylammonium bromide

sc-208427



The Power is Question

Material Safety Data Sheet

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

## Section 1 - CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

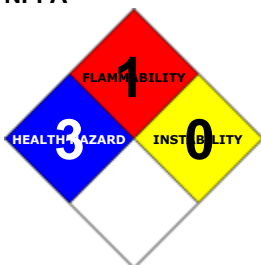
### PRODUCT NAME

Tetrabutylammonium bromide

### STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE

**CONSIDERED A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACCORDING TO OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200.**

### NFPA



### SUPPLIER

Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.  
2145 Delaware Avenue  
Santa Cruz, California 95060  
800.457.3801 or 831.457.3800

### EMERGENCY

ChemWatch

Within the US & Canada: 877-715-9305

Outside the US & Canada: +800 2436 2255

(1-800-CHEMCALL) or call +613 9573 3112

### SYNONYMS

C16-H36-Br-N, (CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>NBr, "quaternary ammonium compound"

## Section 2 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

### CHEMWATCH HAZARD RATINGS

	Min	Max	
Flammability:	1		
Toxicity:	2		
Body Contact:	3		
Reactivity:	1		
Chronic:	3		

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



### CANADIAN WHMIS SYMBOLS



## EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

### RISK

Harmful if swallowed.

Irritating to skin.

Risk of serious damage to eyes.

Toxic to aquatic organisms.

## POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

### ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS

#### SWALLOWED

■ Accidental ingestion of the material may be harmful; animal experiments indicate that ingestion of less than 150 gram may be fatal or may produce serious damage to the health of the individual.

■ Bromide poisoning causes intense vomiting so the dose is often removed.

Effects include drowsiness, irritability, inco-ordination, vertigo, confusion, mania, hallucinations and coma.

■ Concentrated solutions of many cationics may cause corrosive damage to mucous membranes and the esophagus.

Nausea and vomiting (sometimes bloody) may follow ingestion.

#### EYE

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

#### SKIN

■ This material can cause inflammation of the skin on contact in some persons.

■ The material may accentuate any pre-existing dermatitis condition.

■ 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 is not thought to produce either adverse health effects or irritation of the respiratory tract following inhalation (as classified using animal models).

Nevertheless, adverse effects have been produced following exposure of animals by at least one other route and good hygiene practice requires that exposure be kept to a minimum and that suitable control measures be used in an occupational setting.

■ 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

■ Limited evidence suggests that repeated or long-term occupational exposure may produce cumulative health effects involving organs or biochemical systems.

There is some evidence that human exposure to the material may result in developmental toxicity. This evidence is based on animal studies where effects have been observed in the absence of marked maternal toxicity, or at around the same dose levels as other toxic effects but which are not secondary non-specific consequences of the other toxic effects.

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.

Chronic intoxication with ionic bromides, historically, has resulted from medical use of bromides but not from environmental or occupational exposure; depression, hallucinosis, and schizophreniform psychosis can be seen in the absence of other signs of intoxication. Bromides may also induce sedation, irritability, agitation, delirium, memory loss, confusion, disorientation, forgetfulness (aphasias), dysarthria, weakness, fatigue, vertigo, stupor, coma, decreased appetite, nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, hallucinations, an acne like rash on the face, legs and trunk, known as bronchoderma (seen in 25-30% of case involving bromide ion), and a profuse discharge from the nostrils (coryza). Ataxia and generalised hyperreflexia have also been observed. Correlation of neurologic symptoms with blood levels of bromide is inexact. The use of substances such as brompheniramine, as antihistamines, largely reflect current day usage of bromides; ionic bromides have been largely withdrawn from therapeutic use due to their toxicity. Several cases of foetal abnormalities have been described in mothers who took large doses of bromides during pregnancy.

Prolonged or repeated skin contact may cause degreasing with drying, cracking and dermatitis following.

## Section 3 - COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

NAME	CAS RN	%
tetrabutylammonium bromide	1643-19-2	>98

## Section 4 - FIRST AID MEASURES

## SWALLOWED

· IF SWALLOWED, REFER FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION, WHERE POSSIBLE, WITHOUT DELAY. · Where Medical attention is not immediately available or where the patient is more than 15 minutes from a hospital or unless instructed otherwise:

## 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.

## SKIN

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

## INHALED

· If dust is inhaled, remove from contaminated area. · Encourage patient to blow nose to ensure clear passage of breathing. · If irritation or discomfort persists seek medical attention.

## NOTES TO PHYSICIAN

- For exposures to quaternary ammonium compounds;
- For ingestion of concentrated solutions (10% or higher): Swallow promptly a large quantity of milk, egg whites / gelatin solution. If not readily available, a slurry of activated charcoal may be useful. Avoid alcohol. Because of probable mucosal damage omit gastric lavage and emetic drugs.
- For dilute solutions (2% or less): If little or no emesis appears spontaneously, administer syrup of Ipecac or perform gastric lavage.

## Section 5 - FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

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

## EXTINGUISHING MEDIA

- Water spray or fog.
- Foam.

## FIRE FIGHTING

- Alert Emergency Responders and tell them location and nature of hazard.
- Wear breathing apparatus plus protective gloves.

## GENERAL FIRE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS COMBUSTIBLE PRODUCTS

- Combustible solid which burns but propagates flame with difficulty.
  - Avoid generating dust, particularly clouds of dust in a confined or unventilated space as dusts may form an explosive mixture with air, and any source of ignition, i.e. flame or spark, will cause fire or explosion. Dust clouds generated by the fine grinding of the solid are a particular hazard; accumulations of fine dust may burn rapidly and fiercely if ignited.
- Combustion products include: carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), hydrogen bromide, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material.
- May emit poisonous fumes.
- May emit corrosive fumes.

## FIRE INCOMPATIBILITY

- Avoid contamination with oxidizing agents i.e. nitrates, oxidizing acids, chlorine bleaches, pool chlorine etc. as ignition may result.

## PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Glasses:  
Chemical goggles.
- Gloves:
- Respirator:
- Particulate

## Section 6 - ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

### MINOR SPILLS

- Remove all ignition sources.
- Clean up all spills immediately.
- Avoid contact with skin and eyes.
- Control personal contact by using protective equipment.
- Use dry clean up procedures and avoid generating dust.
- Place in a suitable, labelled container for waste disposal.

### MAJOR SPILLS

- Moderate hazard.
- CAUTION: Advise personnel in area.

· Alert Emergency Responders and tell them location and nature of hazard.

## Section 7 - HANDLING AND STORAGE

### PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING

- Avoid all personal contact, including inhalation.
  - Wear protective clothing when risk of exposure occurs.
- Empty containers may contain residual dust which has the potential to accumulate following settling. Such dusts may explode in the presence of an appropriate ignition source.
- Do NOT cut, drill, grind or weld such containers.
  - In addition ensure such activity is not performed near full, partially empty or empty containers without appropriate workplace safety authorisation or permit.

### 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.

## Section 8 - EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

### EXPOSURE CONTROLS

Source	Material	TWA ppm	TWA mg/m³	STEL ppm	STEL mg/m³	Peak ppm	Peak mg/m³	TWA F/CC	Notes
Canada - Ontario Occupational Exposure Limits	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particles (Insoluble or Poorly Soluble) Not Otherwise)		10 (I)						
Canada - British Columbia Occupational Exposure Limits	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particles (Insoluble or Poorly Soluble) Not Otherwise Classified (PNOC))		10 (N)						
Canada - Ontario Occupational Exposure Limits	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Specified (PNOS) / Particules (insolubles ou peu solubles) non précisées par ailleurs)		3 (R)						
US - Tennessee Occupational Exposure Limits - Limits For Air Contaminants	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particulates not otherwise regulated Respirable fraction)		5						
US - California Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particulates not otherwise regulated Respirable fraction)		5						(n)
US - Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (Z-1)	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR) (f) Total Dust)	-	10						Bold print identifies substances for which the Oregon Permissible

US - Michigan Exposure Limits for Air Contaminants	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particulates not otherwise regulated, Respirable dust)	5	Exposure Limits (PELs) are different than the federal Limits. PNOR means "particles not otherwise regulated."
US - Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (Z-1)	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR) (f) Respirable Fraction)	5	Bold print identifies substances for which the Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) are different than the federal Limits. PNOR means "particles not otherwise regulated."
US - Wyoming Toxic and Hazardous Substances Table Z1 Limits for Air Contaminants	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR)(f)-Respirable fraction)	5	
Canada - Prince Edward Island Occupational Exposure Limits	tetrabutylammonium bromide (Particles (Insoluble or Poorly Soluble) [NOS] Inhalable particles)	10	See Appendix B current TLV/BEI Book

ENDOELTABLE

**PERSONAL PROTECTION**



**RESPIRATOR**

•Particulate. (AS/NZS 1716 & 1715, EN 143:2000 & 149:2001, ANSI Z88 or national equivalent)

**EYE**

- Safety glasses with side shields.
- Chemical goggles.

**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, AS/NZS 2161.1 or national equivalent).

- 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, AS/NZS 2161.10.1 or national equivalent) 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, AS/NZS 2161.10.1 or national equivalent) 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

- Overalls.
- P.V.C. apron.
- Barrier cream.
- Skin cleansing cream.
- Eye wash unit.

#### 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.
- Exhaust ventilation should be designed to prevent accumulation and recirculation of particulates in the workplace.

## Section 9 - PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

### PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Solid.

Mixes with water.

State	Divided solid	Molecular Weight	322.38
Melting Range (°F)	217- 219	Viscosity	Not Applicable
Boiling Range (°F)	Not available.	Solubility in water (g/L)	Miscible
Flash Point (°F)	Not available	pH (1% solution)	Not available.
Decomposition Temp (°F)	Not available.	pH (as supplied)	Not applicable
Autoignition Temp (°F)	Not available	Vapour Pressure (mmHG)	Negligible
Upper Explosive Limit (%)	Not available	Specific Gravity (water=1)	Not available.
Lower Explosive Limit (%)	Not available	Relative Vapor Density (air=1)	Not applicable
Volatile Component (%vol)	Negligible	Evaporation Rate	Not applicable

### APPEARANCE

Hygroscopic crystalline powder; mixes with water.

## Section 10 - CHEMICAL STABILITY

### CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO INSTABILITY

- Presence of incompatible materials.
- Product is considered stable.

### STORAGE INCOMPATIBILITY

- Avoid reaction with oxidizing agents.

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

## Section 11 - TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

tetrabutylammonium bromide

## TOXICITY AND IRRITATION

### TETRABUTYLAMMONIUM BROMIDE:

- unless otherwise specified data extracted from RTECS - Register of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances.
- Most undiluted cationic surfactants satisfy the criteria for classification as Harmful (Xn) with R22 and as Irritant (Xi) for skin and eyes with R38 and R41.

#### For quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs):

Quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) are cationic surfactants. They are synthetic organically tetra-substituted ammonium compounds, where the R substituents are alkyl or heterocyclic radicals. A common characteristic of these synthetic compounds is that one of the R's is a long-chain hydrophobic aliphatic residue

The cationic surface active compounds are in general more toxic than the anionic and non-ionic surfactants. The positively-charged cationic portion is the functional part of the molecule and the local irritation effects of QACs appear to result from the quaternary ammonium cation.

Due to their relative ability to solubilise phospholipids and cholesterol in lipid membranes, QACs affect cell permeability which may lead to cell death. Further QACs denature proteins as cationic materials precipitate protein and are accompanied by generalised tissue irritation.

It has been suggested that the experimentally determined decrease in acute toxicity of QACs with chain lengths above C16 is due to decreased water solubility.

In general it appears that QACs with a single long-chain alkyl groups are more toxic and irritating than those with two such substitutions. The straight chain aliphatic QACs have been shown to release histamine from minced guinea pig lung tissue. However, studies with benzalkonium chloride have shown that the effect on histamine release depends on the concentration of the solution. When cell suspensions (11% mast cells) from rats were exposed to low concentrations, a decrease in histamine release was seen. When exposed to high concentrations the opposite result was obtained.

In addition, QACs may show curare-like properties (specifically benzalkonium and cetylpyridinium derivatives, a muscular paralysis with no involvement of the central nervous system. This is most often associated with lethal doses Parenteral injections in rats, rabbits and dogs have resulted in prompt but transient limb paralysis and sometimes fatal paresis of the respiratory muscles. This effect seems to be transient.

From human testing of different QACs the generalised conclusion is obtained that all the compounds investigated to date exhibit similar toxicological properties.

Acute toxicity: Studies in rats have indicated poor intestinal absorption of QACs. Acute toxicity of QACs varies with the compound and, especially, the route of administration. For some substances the LD50 value is several hundreds times lower by the i.p. or i.v. than the oral route, whereas toxicities between the congeners only differ in the range of two to five times.

At least some QACs are significantly more toxic in 50% dimethyl sulfoxide than in plain water when given orally

Probably all common QAC derivatives produce similar toxic reactions, but as tested in laboratory animals the oral mean lethal dose varies with the compound .

Oral toxicity: LD50 values for QACs have been reported within the range of 250-1000 mg/kg for rats, 150-1000 mg/kg for mice, 150-300 mg/kg for guinea pigs and about 500 mg/kg b.w. for rabbits and dogs . The ranges observed reflect differences in the study designs of these rather old experiments as well as differences between the various QACs.

The oral route of administration was characterised by delayed deaths, gastrointestinal lesions and respiratory and central nervous system depression. It was also found that given into a full stomach, the QACs lead to lower mortality and fewer gastrointestinal symptoms. This support the suggestion of an irritating effect

Dermal toxicity: It has been concluded that the maximum concentration that did not produce irritating effect on intact skin is 0.1%. Irritation became manifest in the 1-10% range. Concentrations below 0.1% have caused irritation in persons with contact dermatitis or broken skin.

Although the absorption of QACs through normal skin probably is of less importance than by other routes , studies with excised guinea pig skin have shown that the permeability constants strongly depends on the exposure time and type of skin

Sensitisation: Topical mucosal application of QACs may produce sensitisation. Reports on case stories and patch test have shown that compounds such as benzalkonium chloride , cetalkonium chloride and cetrimide may possibly act as sensitisers . However, in general it is suggested that QACs have a low potential for sensitising man It is difficult to distinguish between an allergic and an irritative skin reaction due to the inherent skin irritating effect of QACs.

#### Long term/repeated exposure:

Inhalation: A group of 196 farmers (with or without respiratory symptoms) were evaluated for the relationship between exposure to QACs (unspecified, exposure levels not given) and respiratory disorders by testing for lung function and bronchial responsiveness to histamine. After histamine provocation statistically significant associations were found between the prevalence of mild bronchial responsiveness (including asthma-like symptoms) and the use of QACs as disinfectant. The association seems even stronger in people without respiratory symptoms.

Genetic toxicity: QACs have been investigated for mutagenicity in microbial test systems. In Ames tests using Salmonella typhimurium with and without metabolic activation no signs of mutagenicity has been observed. Negative results were also obtained in E. coli reversion and B. subtilis rec assays. However, for benzalkonium chloride also positive and equivocal results were seen in the B. subtilis rec assays.

No significant acute toxicological data identified in literature search.

## CARCINOGEN

BROMINE COMPOUNDS (ORGANIC OR INORGANIC)	US Environmental Defense Scorecard Suspected Carcinogens	Reference(s)	P65-MC
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## Section 12 - ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Toxic to aquatic organisms.

## Ecotoxicity

Ingredient	Persistence: Water/Soil	Persistence: Air	Bioaccumulation	Mobility
tetrabutylammonium bromide	No Data Available	No Data Available		

## Section 13 - DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Disposal Instructions

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

‡ Puncture containers to prevent re-use and bury at an authorized landfill.

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.
- Consult manufacturer for recycling options or consult Waste Management Authority for disposal if no suitable treatment or disposal facility can be identified.

## Section 14 - TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

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

## Section 15 - REGULATORY INFORMATION

**tetrabutylammonium bromide (CAS: 1643-19-2) is found on the following regulatory lists;**

"Canada Domestic Substances List (DSL)", "US DOE Temporary Emergency Exposure Limits (TEELs)", "US Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) - Chemical Substance Inventory"

## Section 16 - OTHER INFORMATION

### LIMITED EVIDENCE

- Cumulative effects may result following exposure\*.
- May be harmful to the foetus/ embryo\*.

\* (limited evidence).

### Denmark Advisory list for selfclassification of dangerous substances

Substance CAS Suggested codes tetrabutylammonium bromide 1643- 19- 2 N; R50

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- Classification of the preparation 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](http://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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