

Health & Safety at work Act 1974

Safety Data: **Mercury (metal)**

Date of Issue: 18.5.89

PHYSICAL DATA:

Physical form: A silvery-white metal, which is liquid at normal temperature and pressures. It is odourless.

Melting point: -38.87C

Boiling point: 356.9C

Vapour pressure: 0.001mm @ 20C, 0.28mm @ 100C

Density: 13.6g per cc

OTHER DATA:

Flammability: Not applicable, BUT EVOLVES TOXIC FUMES WHEN HEATED. It is therefore essential that self-contained breathing apparatus be worn when dealing with fires that may involve mercury.

Corrosivity Data: Forms amalgams with all non-ferrous metals. It is highly corrosive to aluminium.

Recommended protection for handling: See H & SE Guidance Note EH17 (available from HMSO) and enclosed data sheet.

Spillage procedures: Contain, if possible, with wet sand and recover by vacuum suction. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST A VACUUM CLEANER BE USED AS IT WILL BECOME TOTALLY CONTAMINATED AND A SOURCE OF MERCURY VAPOUR WHENEVER IT IS SWITCHED ON.**

A 50/50 slurry of calcium hydroxide and flowers of sulphur should be spread over the affected area and allowed to dry. When swept up it will carry most of the mercury with it. This should be repeated until there is no visible trace of mercury on the affected surface. Cracks and imperfections in the surface require special attention, as this is where small droplets of mercury can be trapped.

Disposal recommendations: Mercury metal: consult your Local Authority or waste disposal contractor.

Empty mercury containers are classified as "Special Waste" under the terms of the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980 and should be disposed of in an approved manner.

First Aid treatment: See H & SE Guidance Note EH17, page 3. Medical advice should always be sought.

DATA SHEET

PARTICULAR RISKS:

TOXIC BY INHALATION AND IN CONTACT WITH SKIN

DANGER OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

IRRITATING TO EYES, RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AND SKIN

HIGHLY CORROSIVE TO ALUMINIUM

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Keep container tightly closed when not in use. When using, do not eat, smoke or drink. Wash hands after use. Do not breathe vapour or fumes. Wear suitable protective clothing- gloves and eye/face protection. Avoid contact with skin or eyes.

After contact with skin or eyes:

Rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

IF YOU FEEL UNWELL, SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE.

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