

Formaldehyde

1. Process

- a. General handling of Formaldehyde (37%) or Formalin

2. Describe process, hazardous chemical, or hazard class

- a. Toxic
- b. Carcinogen
- c. Flammable

3. Personal Protective Equipment

- a. If airborne exposures are suspected contact the Office of Regulatory Compliance (ORC) for consultation. Formaldehyde Exposure Assessments are required by law.
- b. Eye: Eye protection should be selected on potential for splash and exposure. *Minimum potential:* safety glasses with side shields when only low splash hazard exists (e.g. placing a tissue sample in a container). Chemical splash goggles should be worn if using or transferring larger quantities.
- c. Skin: Disposable or lightweight nitrile, neoprene, natural rubber or PVC gloves provide protection from incidental contact. Heavier gloves should be used when extended handling of contaminated or preserved materials or immersion is likely. A chemically resistant apron should be used when transferring or using large quantities and splash is likely

4. Engineering Controls

- a. Work with formaldehyde only in a fume hood or with local exhaust ventilation.
- b. Use only in an area equipped with a douse shower and eyewash.

5. Special Handling Procedures and Storage Requirements

- a. Read Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) prior to first use.
- b. Keep in a tightly closed container.
- c. Separate from oxidizing agents.
- d. Keep away from heat and flame.

6. Spill and Accident Procedures

- a. Small spills: Do not attempt cleanup if you feel unsure of your ability to do so or if you perceive the risk to be greater than normal laboratory operations. Absorb incidental spills. Collect and submit for waste disposal by the ORC.
- b. Notify others in area. Evacuate room/immediate area. If splashed on an individual or in eyes flush for 15 minutes with copious quantities of water. Call Police (523-

3000) for HazMat response. Post area and prevent unnecessary entry until ORC response team arrives. Provide assistance to ORC as requested.

- c. Inhalation: Remove to fresh air.
- d. Ingestion: If swallowed and the victim is conscious, dilute, inactivate, or absorb the ingested formaldehyde by giving milk, activated charcoal, or water. Any organic material will inactivate formaldehyde. Get medical attention immediately.
- e. Skin Contact: In case of contact, immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes while removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. Thoroughly clean shoes before reuse. Get medical attention immediately.
- f. Eye Contact: Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting lower and upper eyelids occasionally. Get medical attention immediately.

7. Decontamination Procedures

- a. Wash surfaces thoroughly with soap and water.
- b. Contain decontamination materials for proper waste disposal

8. Waste Disposal Procedures

- a. Formaldehyde is a listed RCRA hazardous waste. Dispose of waste through the ORC.

9. MSDS Location

- a. Available in lab
- b. Available through ORC
- c. Available through manufacturer's website