

FACT SHEET

Environment Chemical Hazards and Risk Minimization

Before starting any work with hazardous materials, review the SDSs of the specific chemicals

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Environment

Environmental or aquatic toxicity hazards will be identified with the Environment pictogram.

Section 2 of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) will contain a Hazard Statement describing the nature of the environmental chemical. Examples:

- *Very toxic to aquatic life*
- *Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects*

***See the "Hazard Statements" guide for more detailed information.*

Hazard Communication

The "Environment" pictogram identifies substances that are:

- **Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment** - intrinsic properties of a substance or a mixture to be injurious to an organism in an aquatic exposure to that substance.
- **Hazardous to the Ozone Layer** - substance or mixture that harms public health and the environment by destroying ozone in the upper atmosphere




Handling and Storage Precautions

- Review instructions and precautions provided by the manufacturer/distributor with respect to recommended storage and handling instructions.
- Store by hazardous class and in secondary containment. Clearly label storage location and/or secondary containment with hazard class.
- Follow general safe chemical handling practices as outlined in the ECU Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP).
- Observe all specific safety procedures established in the lab safety plans.
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including a closed lab coat, closed toed/heeled, nonwoven shoes, eye protection, and compatible gloves.
- DO NOT drain dispose of materials that are hazardous for the aquatic environment.



What do I need to know?

- Review instructions and precautions provided by manufacturer/distributor with respect to recommended storage and handling
- Follow general safe chemical handling/storage practices as outlined in the ECU CHP
- Substitute for less toxic/hazardous chemicals where possible
- Use chemicals on the smallest scale and concentration feasible
- Wear proper PPE when handling acute toxicants: ANSI-approved safety glasses, compatible gloves, lab coat, full-length pants, closed-heel and closed-toe shoes


Short-Term (Acute) Aquatic Hazard

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Symbol		No symbol	No symbol
Signal word	Warning	No symbol	No signal word
Hazard statement	Very toxic to aquatic life	Toxic to aquatic life	Harmful to aquatic life

Long-Term (Chronic) Aquatic Hazard

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Symbol			No symbol	No symbol
Signal word	Warning	No signal word	No signal word	No signal word
Hazard Statement	Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects	Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects	Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects	May cause long lasting harmful effects to aquatic life

Hazard to the Ozone Layer

	Category 1
Symbol	
Signal word	Warning
Hazard Statement	Harms public health and the environment by destroying ozone in the upper stratosphere

Resources

- [GHS Handbook, Revision 7 \(The Purple Book\)](#)
- [GHS Pictogram \(OSHA Quickcard\)](#)
- [Safety Data Sheet Information](#)
- [How to Read a Safety Data Sheet](#)