

CLIP, Chemical Laboratory Information Profile

"Only when you know the hazards, can you take the necessary precautionary measures."

Phenolphthalein Solution

C₂₀H₁₄O₄ (solute)

CAS No.: 77-09-8 (solute)

Synonyms: Indicator solution

Physical Properties

Pink liquid @ 8 > pH > 11, colorless otherwise; alcoholic odor.
Vapor pressure at 20 °C: approx. 30 Torr, depending upon proportions of alcohol and water.

Exposure Limits

OSHA PEL: NE for the solute
ACGIH TLV: NE for the solute

Hazardous Characteristics

Overall toxicity	Flammability	Destructive to skin/eye	Absorbed through skin	Sensitizer?	Self-reactive?	Incompatible with:
3	1	1	1	No	No	No known incompatibilities

0: None (or very low); 1: Slight; 2: Moderate; 3: High; 4: Severe.

Cited as known to be or reasonably anticipated to be carcinogenic in NTP-9?

Yes Identified as a reproductive toxin in Frazier and Hage's *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace?*

No

Typical symptoms of acute exposures:

Strong laxative. Under typical conditions of use, over-exposure to phenolphthalein solution is not likely. Ingestion of even small quantities of phenolphthalein or its solutions will purge most persons.

Storage Requirements

Store in a cool, dry, locked location with other poisons, separated from oxidizers and away from ignition sources.

Additional Remarks

Degree of flammability varies depending upon the proportions of alcohol and water. Preferably, prepare the solution by first dissolving phenolphthalein in ethanol, then diluting with at least an equal volume of water. Phenolphthalein is highly toxic as defined by the OSHA Laboratory Standard.

Notes

ReadMe

This Chemical Laboratory Information Profile is *not* a Material Safety Data Sheet. It is a brief summary for teachers and their students that describes some of the hazards of this chemical as it is typically used in laboratories. On the basis of your knowledge of these hazards and before using or handling this chemical, *you need to select the precautions and first-aid procedures to be followed*. For that information as well as for other useful information, refer to Material Safety Data Sheets, container labels, and references in the scientific literature that pertain to this chemical.

Reproductive Toxins

Some substances that in fact are reproductive toxins are not yet recognized as such. For the best readily available and up-to-date information, refer to "DART/ETIC". See the TOXNET home page at www.sis.nlm.nih.gov and click on "Toxicology search". *Note that some of the data in DART/ETIC have not been peer-reviewed*. See also Linda M. Frazier and Marvin L. Hage, *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace*; Wiley, 1998; and T. H. Shepard, *Catalog of Teratogenic Agents*, 9th ed.; Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Abbreviations

ACGIH TLV—American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists—Threshold Limit Value. C—Ceiling. CAS—Chemical Abstracts Service. mg/m³—milligrams per cubic meter. NA—Not applicable. NE—Not established. NI—No information. NTP-9—National Toxicology Program, Ninth Annual Report on Carcinogens. OSHA PEL—Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Permissible Exposure Limit. ppm—parts per million. STEL/C—Short-term exposure limit and ceiling.

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Date of preparation: October 17, 2000