# Lithium stearate



# Section 1 - CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

# **PRODUCT NAME** Lithium stearate

# STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE

CONSIDERED A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACCORDING TO OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200.



# SUPPLIER

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# **SYNONYMS**

Reactivity:

Chronic:

C18-H35-O2.Li, "stearic acid, lithium salt", "lithium octadecanoate", "octadecanoic acid, lithium salt", Litholite, Stavinor

#### **CHEMWATCH HAZARD RATINGS** Min Max Flammability: 1 Toxicity: 2 Min/Nil=0 2 Body Contact: Low=1 Moderate=2

1

2

# **Section 2 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**

High=3

Extreme=4

# CANADIAN WHMIS SYMBOLS



EMERGENCY OVERVIEW RISK

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

# ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS

# SWALLOWED

Accidental ingestion of the material may be damaging to the health of the individual.

Lithium, in large doses, can cause dizziness and weakness.

If a low salt diet is in place, kidney damage can result.

■ Ingestion of anionic surfactants may produce diarrhea, bloated stomach,and occasional vomiting.

#### EYE

• There is some evidence to suggest that this material can causeeye irritation and damage in some persons.

Direct eye contact with some anionic surfactants in high concentration can cause severe damage to the cornea.

Low concentrations can cause discomfort, excess blood flow, and corneal clouding and swelling.

#### SKIN

Skin contact is not thought to have harmful health effects, however the material may still produce health damage following entry through wounds, lesions or abrasions.

- Repeated exposure may cause skin cracking, flaking or drying following normal handling and use.
- There is some evidence to suggest that this material can cause inflammation of the skin on contact in some persons.
- Anionic surfactants can cause skin redness and pain, as well as a rash.
- Cracking, scaling and blistering can occur.

• 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.

■ Fine mists generated from plant/ vegetable (or more rarely from animal) oils may be hazardous.

Extreme heating for prolonged periods, at high temperatures, may generate breakdown products which include acrolein and acrolein-like substances.

# CHRONIC HEALTH EFFECTS

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

Lithium compounds can affect the nervous system and muscle. This can cause tremor, inco-ordination, spastic jerks and very brisk reflexes.

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.

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

# Section 3 - COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

NAME	CAS RN	%
lithium stearate	4485-12-5	>98

# **Section 4 - FIRST AID MEASURES**

# SWALLOWED

· If swallowed do NOT induce vomiting. · If vomiting occurs, lean patient forward or place on left side (head-down position, if possible) to maintain open airway and prevent aspiration.

EYE

■ If this product comes in contact with the eyes: • Wash out immediately with fresh 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

Treat symptomatically.

Clinical effects of lithium intoxication appear to relate to duration of exposure as well as to level.

· Lithium produce a generalized slowing of the electroencephalogram; the anion gap may increase in severe cases.

Emesis (or lavage if the patient is obtunded or convulsing) is indicated for ingestions exceeding 40 mg (Li)/Kg.

# Section 5 - FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Vapor Pressure (mmHG):	Negligible
Upper Explosive Limit (%):	Not available
Specific Gravity (water=1):	1.025
Lower Explosive Limit (%):	Not available

# **EXTINGUISHING MEDIA**

· Foam.

# · Dry chemical powder.

# 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 (CO2), metal oxides, other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material.

May emit poisonous fumes.

May emit corrosive fumes., acrolein.

# 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.
- $\cdot$  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.

- $\cdot$  Polyethylene or polypropylene container.
- · Check all containers are clearly labelled and free from leaks.

# STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.

# 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
US - California Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants	lithium stearate (Lithium stearate)		10						
US ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLV)	lithium stearate (Stearates)		10						TLV Basis: eye, skin & upper respiratory tract irritation. Does not include stearates of toxic metals
Canada - British Columbia Occupational Exposure Limits	lithium stearate (Stearates)		10 (J)						
Canada - Prince Edward Island Occupational Exposure Limits	lithium stearate (Stearates)		10						TLV Basis: eye, skin & upper respiratory tract irritation. Does not include stearates of toxic metals
Canada - Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations - Contamination Limits	lithium stearate (Stearates)		10		20				
Canada - Nova Scotia Occupational Exposure Limits	lithium stearate (Stearates)		10						TLV Basis: eye, skin & upper respiratory tract irritation. Does not

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:

- · 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
- · fluorocaoutchouc
- · polyvinyl chloride

Gloves should be examined for wear and/ or degradation constantly.

#### OTHER

- · Overalls.
- · P.V.C. apron.
- Barrier cream.
- · Skin cleansing cream.
- · Eve 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. Does not mix with water. Sinks in water.			
State	Divided solid	Molecular Weight	290.47
Melting Range (°F)	428	Viscosity	Not Applicable
Boiling Range (°F)	Not available	Solubility in water (g/L)	Immiscible
Flash Point (°F)	Not available	pH (1% solution)	Not applicable
Decomposition Temp (°F)	Not available	pH (as supplied)	Not applicable

Autoignition Temp (°F)	Not available	Vapor Pressure (mmHG)	Negligible
Upper Explosive Limit (%)	Not available	Specific Gravity (water=1)	1.025
Lower Explosive Limit (%)	Not available	Relative Vapor Density (air=1)	Not applicable
Volatile Component (%vol)	Negligible	Evaporation Rate	Not applicable

# **APPEARANCE**

Powder; do not mix with water. Gels in mineral oil.

Because fatty acids are ionisable compounds, Kow measurements can vary greatly with pH. The variation depends upon pH and the pKa of the compound. In general, Kow values of a compound are lower when it exists predominantly in the ionised form as compared to existing primarily in the non-ionized form. Estimates for log Kow range from -3.56-6.10 for lithium greases to 11.7-14.3 for calcium greases. Many fatty acids have pKa values circumneutral, and they would exist predominantly in the molecular form at environmentally relevant pHs.Therefore, the estimates given are potentially lower than what would be expected for the salt form at typical environmental pHs. No experimental bioaccumulation data appear to be available but log Kow data from various sources are higher than 4, which indicates that fatty acids and natural lipids have a potential for bioaccumulating in aquatic organisms Material

Value

# Section 10 - CHEMICAL STABILITY

# CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO INSTABILITY

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

#### STORAGE INCOMPATIBILITY

Inorganic alkaline metal derivative.

Avoid reaction with oxidizing agents.

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

# Section 11 - TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

#### lithium stearate

# TOXICITY AND IRRITATION

LITHIUM STEARATE:

unless otherwise specified data extracted from RTECS - Register of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances.

TOXICITY

Oral (rat) LD50: 15000 mg/kg

IRRITATION Nil Reported

Fatty acid salts are of low acute toxicity. Their skin and eye irritation potential is chain length dependent and decreases with increasing chain length - they are poorly absorbed through the skin nor are they skin sensitisers. The available repeated dose toxicity data demonstrate the low toxicity of the fatty acids and their salts. Also, they are not considered to be mutagenic, genotoxic or carcinogenic, and are not reproductive or developmental toxicants. Accidental ingestion of fatty acid salt containing detergent products is not expected to result in any significant adverse health effects. This assessment is based on toxicological data demonstrating the low acute oral toxicity of fatty acid salts and the fact that not a single fatality has been reported in the UK following accidental ingestion of detergents containing fatty acid salts. Also in a report published by the German Federal Institute for Health Protection of Consumers and Veterinary Medicine, detergent products were not mentioned as dangerous products with a high incidence if poisoning. The estimated total human exposure to fatty acid salts, from the different exposure scenarios for the handling and use of detergent products containing fatty acid salts, showed a margin of exposure (MOE) of 258,620. This extremely large MOE is large enough to be reassuring with regard to the relatively small variability of the hazard data on which it is based. Also, in the UK, the recommended dietary fatty acid intake by the Department of Health is about 100 g of fatty acids per day or 1.7 g (1700 mg) of fatty acids per kilogram body weight per day. This exposure is several orders of magnitude above that resulting from exposure to fatty acid salts in household cleaning products. Based on the available data, the use of fatty acid salts in household detergent and cleaning products does not raise any safety concerns with regard to consumer.

Somnolence and changes in motor activity recorded.

Section 12 - ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

No data

# Section 13 - DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### **Disposal Instructions**

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

| 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

# lithium stearate (CAS: 4485-12-5) is found on the following regulatory lists;

"Canada Domestic Substances List (DSL)", "Canada Toxicological Index Service - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System - WHMIS (English)", "US - California Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants", "US Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) Cosmetic ingredients found safe as used", "US DOE Temporary Emergency Exposure Limits (TEELs)", "US EPA High Production Volume Chemicals Additional List", "US Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) - Chemical Substance Inventory"

# **Section 16 - OTHER INFORMATION**

# LIMITED EVIDENCE

- Ingestion may produce health damage\*.
- Cumulative effects may result following exposure\*.
- May produce discomfort of the eyes and skin\*.
- Possible risk of harm to breastfed babies\*.
- Repeated exposure potentially causes skin dryness and cracking\*.

\* (limited evidence).

# Denmark Advisory list for selfclassification of dangerous substances

Substance CAS Suggested codes lithium stearate 4485- 12- 5 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.

■ 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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