

Urea

sc-29114

Material Safety Data Sheet



The Power is Question

Hazard Alert Code Key:

EXTREME

HIGH

MODERATE

LOW

Section 1 - CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

PRODUCT NAME

Urea

SYNONYMS

(NH₂)₂CO, C-H₄-N₂-O, Aquacare, Aquahydrate, Basodexan, carbamide, carbonyldiamine, "carbamide resin", "carbamimidic acid", "carbonyl diamide", isourea, Keratinamin, Nutraplus, Pastoran, Prespersion, pseudourea, "Supercel 30000", Ureaphil, Ureophil, Urevert, Urepearl, "Varioform II", "Varioform II", CSBP, "ResGen Microhyb", HYB125.GF, HYB250.GF, "Cellpaste-K 371043", "Cellpaste-101 320523", "Cellpaste-K4P 332021", Pivot, 9516940, 9517740, 9516915, 9516900, 9516912, 9516911, 9516950, 9518000, 9518012, 9515000, 9515050, 9515011, 9519950, 9519900, 9514612, 9514611, 9514600, 9514625, 9514640, 9514650, Ikon, "David Craig Urea", "Incitec Industrial Urea"

PRODUCT USE

Used widely as a fertilizer (readily available source of nitrogen). In animal feeds. Reacted with aldehydes to make resins and plastics. Condensed with malonic ester to form barbituric acid. Used extensively in the paper industry to soften cellulose. In ammoniated dentifrices. In medicine used for treatment of cerebral oedema, also as a diuretic. Also used in detergents, yeast production, dyes and pigments.

SUPPLIER

Company: Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.

Address:

2145 Delaware Ave

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Telephone: 800.457.3801 or 831.457.3800

Emergency Tel: Luis Yanez at 831.251.2170

HAZARD RATINGS

		Min	Max	
Flammability:	1			
Toxicity:	0			
Body Contact:	1			Min/Nil=0 Low=1
Reactivity:	1			Moderate=2
Chronic:	2			High=3 Extreme=4

Section 2 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE

NON-HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE. NON-DANGEROUS GOODS. According to NOHSC Criteria, and ADG Code.

POISONS SCHEDULE

None

RISK	SAFETY
■ Cumulative effects may result following exposure*.	■ Do not breathe dust.
■ Exposure may produce irreversible effects*.	■ Avoid contact with skin.

* (limited evidence).

Section 3 - COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

NAME	CAS RN	%
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urea

57-13-6

> 98.5

Section 4 - FIRST AID MEASURES

SWALLOWED

-
- Immediately give a glass of water.
- First aid is not generally required. If in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

EYE

- If this product comes in contact with eyes:
- Wash out immediately with water.
- If irritation continues, seek medical attention.
- Removal of contact lenses after an eye injury should only be undertaken by skilled personnel.

SKIN

- If skin or hair contact occurs:
- Flush skin and hair with running water (and soap if available).
- Seek medical attention in event of irritation.

INHALED

-
- If fumes or combustion products are inhaled remove from contaminated area.
- Other measures are usually unnecessary.

NOTES TO PHYSICIAN

- Treat symptomatically.

Section 5 - FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA

-
- There is no restriction on the type of extinguisher which may be used.
- Use extinguishing media suitable for surrounding area.

FIRE FIGHTING

-
- Alert Fire Brigade and tell them location and nature of hazard.
- Wear breathing apparatus plus protective gloves for fire only.
- Prevent, by any means available, spillage from entering drains or water courses.
- Use fire fighting procedures suitable for surrounding area.
- DO NOT approach containers suspected to be hot.
- Cool fire exposed containers with water spray from a protected location.
- If safe to do so, remove containers from path of fire.
- Equipment should be thoroughly decontaminated after use.

FIRE/EXPLOSION HAZARD

-
- Solid which exhibits difficult combustion or is difficult to ignite.
- 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 (420 micron or less) may burn rapidly and fiercely if ignited; once initiated larger particles up to 1400 microns diameter will contribute to the propagation of an explosion.
- A dust explosion may release of large quantities of gaseous products; this in turn creates a subsequent pressure rise of explosive force capable of damaging plant and buildings and injuring people.
- Usually the initial or primary explosion takes place in a confined space such as plant or machinery, and can be of sufficient force to damage or rupture the plant. If the shock wave from the primary explosion enters the surrounding area, it will disturb any settled dust layers, forming a second dust cloud, and often initiate a much larger secondary explosion. All large scale explosions have resulted from chain reactions of this type.
- Dry dust can also be charged electrostatically by turbulence, pneumatic transport, pouring, in exhaust ducts and during transport.

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- Build-up of electrostatic charge may be prevented by bonding and grounding.
- Powder handling equipment such as dust collectors, dryers and mills may require additional protection measures such as explosion venting.
- All movable parts coming in contact with this material should have a speed of less than 1-metre/sec.

Combustion products include: carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material.

In fire situation urea melts and flows, on further heating it decomposes giving off ammonia gas. Thermal and oxidative degradation products can include ammonia, biuret, and cyanuric acid,.

May emit poisonous fumes.

FIRE INCOMPATIBILITY

-
- Avoid contamination with oxidising agents i.e. nitrates, oxidising acids, chlorine bleaches, pool chlorine etc. as ignition may result

HAZCHEM

None

PERSONAL PROTECTION

Glasses:	Respirator:
Chemical goggles.	Particulate

Section 6 - ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

MINOR SPILLS

-
- Clean up all spills immediately.
- Avoid breathing dust and contact with skin and eyes.
- Wear protective clothing, gloves, safety glasses and dust respirator.
- Use dry clean up procedures and avoid generating dust.
- Sweep up, shovel up or
- Vacuum up (consider explosion-proof machines designed to be grounded during storage and use).
- Place spilled material in clean, dry, sealable, labelled container.

MAJOR SPILLS

- Moderate hazard.
- CAUTION: Advise personnel in area.
- Alert Emergency Services and tell them location and nature of hazard.
- Control personal contact by wearing protective clothing.
- Prevent, by any means available, spillage from entering drains or water courses.
- Recover product wherever possible.
- IF DRY: Use dry clean up procedures and avoid generating dust. Collect residues and place in sealed plastic bags or other containers for disposal. IF WET: Vacuum/shovel up and place in labelled containers for disposal.
- ALWAYS: Wash area down with large amounts of water and prevent runoff into drains.
- If contamination of drains or waterways occurs, advise Emergency Services.

Personal Protective Equipment advice is contained in Section 8 of the MSDS.

Section 7 - HANDLING AND STORAGE

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING

-
- Avoid all personal contact, including inhalation.
- Wear protective clothing when risk of exposure occurs.
- Use in a well-ventilated area.
- Prevent concentration in hollows and sumps.
- DO NOT enter confined spaces until atmosphere has been checked.

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- DO NOT allow material to contact humans, exposed food or food utensils.
- Avoid contact with incompatible materials.
- When handling, DO NOT eat, drink or smoke.
- Keep containers securely sealed when not in use.
- Avoid physical damage to containers.
- Always wash hands with soap and water after handling.
- Work clothes should be laundered separately. Launder contaminated clothing before re-use.
- Use good occupational work practice.
- Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.
- Atmosphere should be regularly checked against established exposure standards to ensure safe working conditions are maintained.

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.

SUITABLE CONTAINER

- Glass container is suitable for laboratory quantities
- Polyethylene or polypropylene container.
- Check all containers are clearly labelled and free from leaks.

STORAGE INCOMPATIBILITY

- Urea:
 - forms anhydrous ammonia and nitrous vapours on contact with hot surfaces
 - reacts violently with strong oxidisers, chlorine, inorganic chlorides, chlorites, chromyl chloride, dichromates, dicyanofurazan, fluorine, gallium perchlorate, hydrogen peroxide, lead dioxide, nitrates, nitrites, permanganates, perchlorates, titanium tetrachloride, triethylenetetramine
 - ignites or explodes on reaction with ammonium nitrate, chromyl chloride, nitrosyl perchlorate, phosphorus pentachloride
 - may form highly explosive nitrogen trichloride on contact with hexanitroethane, perchloryl fluoride, sodium perchlorate, trichloroisocyanuric acid, hypochlorites and other chlorinating agents
 - is incompatible with oxalic acid, sodium dichlorocyanurate

PACKAGING MATERIAL INCOMPATIBILITIES

Chemical Name
Urea

Container Type
Polycarbonate, PVC

STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- - Store in original containers.
 - Keep containers securely sealed.
 - Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area.
 - Store away from incompatible materials and foodstuff containers.
 - Protect containers against physical damage and check regularly for leaks.
 - Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.

SAFE STORAGE WITH OTHER CLASSIFIED CHEMICALS



X: Must not be stored together

O: May be stored together with specific preventions

+: May be stored together

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Section 8 - EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

EXPOSURE CONTROLS

The following materials had no OELs on our records

- urea: CAS:57-13-6

MATERIAL DATA

UREA:

- For urea:

CEL TWA: 10 mg/m³ (compare WEEL-TWA)

Even if individuals inhaled 10 mg/m³ of urea through the whole workday, they would only inhale 100 mg/day. This increment, even if totally absorbed, would be insignificant when compared to the 30 g/day normal excretion rate. The workplace environmental exposure limit (WEEL) established by the AIHA is protective against the effects of urea as a nuisance dust.

PERSONAL PROTECTION



EYE

-
- Safety glasses with side shields
- Chemical goggles.
- Contact lenses may pose a special hazard; soft contact lenses may absorb and concentrate irritants. A written policy document, describing the wearing of lens or restrictions on use, should be created for each workplace or task. This should include a review of lens absorption and adsorption for the class of chemicals in use and an account of injury experience. Medical and first-aid personnel should be trained in their removal and suitable equipment should be readily available. In the event of chemical exposure, begin eye irrigation immediately and remove contact lens as soon as practicable. Lens should be removed at the first signs of eye redness or irritation - lens should be removed in a clean environment only after workers have washed hands thoroughly. [CDC NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin 59]

HANDS/FEET

- Suitability and durability of glove type is dependent on usage. Factors such as:

- frequency and duration of contact,
- chemical resistance of glove material,
- glove thickness and
- dexterity,

are important in the selection of gloves.

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
- fluorocarbon
- polyvinyl chloride

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

OTHER

-
- Overalls.
- P.V.C. apron.
- Barrier cream.
- Skin cleansing cream.
- Eye wash unit.
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- Respirators may be necessary when engineering and administrative controls do not adequately prevent exposures.
- The decision to use respiratory protection should be based on professional judgment that takes into account toxicity information, exposure measurement data, and frequency and likelihood of the worker's exposure - ensure users are not subject to high thermal loads which may result in heat stress or distress due to personal protective equipment (powered, positive flow, full face apparatus may be an option).
- Published occupational exposure limits, where they exist, will assist in determining the adequacy of the selected respiratory. These may be government mandated or vendor recommended.
- Certified respirators will be useful for protecting workers from inhalation of particulates when properly selected and fit tested as part of a complete respiratory protection program.
- Use approved positive flow mask if significant quantities of dust becomes airborne.
- Try to avoid creating dust conditions.

RESPIRATOR

Protection Factor	Half-Face Respirator	Full-Face Respirator	Powered Air Respirator
10 x ES	P1 Air-line*	- -	PAPR-P1 -
50 x ES	Air-line**	P2	PAPR-P2
100 x ES	-	P3	-
		Air-line*	-
100+ x ES	-	Air-line**	PAPR-P3

* - Negative pressure demand ** - Continuous flow.

The local concentration of material, quantity and conditions of use determine the type of personal protective equipment required. For further information consult site specific CHEMWATCH data (if available), or your Occupational Health and Safety Advisor.

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.
- If in spite of local exhaust an adverse concentration of the substance in air could occur, respiratory protection should be considered.

Such protection might consist of:

- (a): particle dust respirators, if necessary, combined with an absorption cartridge;
- (b): filter respirators with absorption cartridge or canister of the right type;
- (c): fresh-air hoods or masks.

Air contaminants generated in the workplace possess varying "escape" velocities which, in turn, determine the "capture velocities" of fresh circulating air required to effectively remove the contaminant.

Type of Contaminant:	Air Speed:
direct spray, spray painting in shallow booths, drum filling, conveyer loading, crusher dusts, gas discharge (active generation into zone of rapid air motion)	1-2.5 m/s (200-500 f/min.)
grinding, abrasive blasting, tumbling, high speed wheel generated dusts (released at high initial velocity into zone of very high rapid air motion).	2.5-10 m/s (500-2000 f/min.)

Within each range the appropriate value depends on:

Lower end of the range	Upper end of the range
1: Room air currents minimal or favourable to capture	1: Disturbing room air currents
2: Contaminants of low toxicity or of nuisance value only.	2: Contaminants of high toxicity
3: Intermittent, low production.	3: High production, heavy use
4: Large hood or large air mass in motion	4: Small hood-local control only

Simple theory shows that air velocity falls rapidly with distance away from the opening of a simple extraction pipe. Velocity generally decreases with the square of distance from the extraction point (in simple cases). Therefore the air speed at the extraction point should be adjusted, accordingly, after reference to distance from the contaminating source. The air velocity at the extraction fan, for example, should be a minimum of 4-10 m/s (800-2000 f/min) for extraction of crusher dusts generated 2 metres distant from the extraction point. Other mechanical considerations, producing performance deficits within the extraction apparatus, make it essential that theoretical air velocities are multiplied by factors of 10 or more when extraction systems are installed or used.

Section 9 - PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

APPEARANCE

White crystals, granules, prill or powder; odourless or with a slight ammonia odour. Soluble in water; almost insoluble in chloroform, ether;

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soluble in concentrated hydrochloric acid. Grades available are: Fertiliser, Technical, Reagent and BP.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Solid.

Mixes with water.

State	Divided solid	Molecular Weight	60.07
Melting Range (°C)	132.7	Viscosity	Not Applicable
Boiling Range (°C)	Not available.	Solubility in water (g/L)	Miscible
Flash Point (°C)	Non Flammable	pH (1% solution)	7-9.8
Decomposition Temp (°C)	132.7	pH (as supplied)	Not applicable
Autoignition Temp (°C)	Not available.	Vapour Pressure (kPa)	Not applicable.
Upper Explosive Limit (%)	Not available.	Specific Gravity (water=1)	1.33 @ 20C/4C
Lower Explosive Limit (%)	Not available.	Relative Vapour Density (air=1)	Not applicable.
Volatile Component (%vol)	Nil @ 38 C.	Evaporation Rate	Non Volatile

Material	Value
log Kow	-2.97- -2.26

Section 10 - CHEMICAL STABILITY

CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO INSTABILITY

-
- Presence of incompatible materials.
- Product is considered stable.
- Hazardous polymerisation will not occur.

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

Section 11 - TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS

SWALLOWED

■ Although ingestion is not thought to produce harmful effects (as classified under EC Directives), the material may still be damaging to the health of the individual, following ingestion, especially where pre-existing organ (e.g. liver, kidney) damage is evident. Present definitions of harmful or toxic substances are generally based on doses producing mortality rather than those producing morbidity (disease, ill-health). Gastrointestinal tract discomfort may produce nausea and vomiting. In an occupational setting however, ingestion of insignificant quantities is not thought to be cause for concern.

Urea may irritate the gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms of ingestion may include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Urea may also cause headache, confusion and electrolyte depletion.

EYE

■ Although the material is not thought to be an irritant (as classified by EC Directives), direct contact with the eye may cause transient discomfort characterised by tearing or conjunctival redness (as with windburn). Slight abrasive damage may also result. The material may produce body irritation in certain individuals.

SKIN

■ The material is not thought to produce adverse health effects or skin irritation following contact (as classified by EC Directives using animal models). Nevertheless, good hygiene practice requires that exposure be kept to a minimum and that suitable gloves be used in an occupational setting.

Urea ointment acts to soften dry scaly skin, promotes skin absorption of other chemicals and is a common ingredient (2-20%) of skin ointments.

Adverse reactions to clinical use of high doses of urea solution include nausea and vomiting.

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Prolonged skin contact may cause stinging sensation and mild irritation and may result in dermatitis.

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 adverse health effects or irritation of the respiratory tract (as classified by EC Directives using animal models). Nevertheless, 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.

If prior damage to the circulatory or nervous systems has occurred or if kidney damage has been sustained, proper screenings should be conducted on individuals who may be exposed to further risk if handling and use of the material result in excessive exposures.

Urea in small quantities is considered to be practically non-harmful by all exposure routes. The dust should be regarded as a nuisance dust and exposure should be kept as low as practical. Confirmed asthmatics should avoid prolonged contact with urea dust. Urea may cause irritation of the respiratory tract. Symptoms may include coughing, shortness of breath. Urea may be absorbed into the bloodstream producing symptoms similar to those caused by ingestion.

CHRONIC HEALTH EFFECTS

■ Based on laboratory and animal testing, exposure to the material may result in irreversible effects and mutations in humans.

Substance accumulation, in the human body, may occur and may cause some concern following repeated or long-term occupational exposure.

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. Prime symptom is breathlessness; lung shadows show on X-ray.

High levels of exposure to urea in the Russian workplace have been reported to produce emphysema, a high incidence of protein metabolism disturbances and chronic weight loss.

The backs of rats were treated by dermal application with 10%, 20%, 40% urea ointment daily for 4 to 24 weeks. No erythema or other responses were noted at the application site. At 25 weeks there was a decrease, in the 40% urea ointment group, of brain and prostrate weights.

In medicine, avoid urea in cases of renal or hepatic impairment. Urea is excreted as a product of normal body metabolic processes.

TOXICITY AND IRRITATION

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

TOXICITY	IRRITATION
Oral (rat) LD50: 8471 mg/kg	Skin (human): 22 mg/3 d (I)- Mild
Intraperitoneal (rat) LD50: >5000 mg/kg	
Subcutaneous (rat) LD50: 8200 mg/kg	
Intratracheal (rat) LD50: 567 mg/kg	
Oral (mouse) LD50: 11000 mg/kg	
Subcutaneous (mouse) LD50: 9200 mg/kg	
Intravenous (mouse) LD50: 4600 mg/kg	
Intraperitoneal (Mouse) LD: 6608 mg/kg	
Intravenous (Rat) LD50: 5300 mg/kg	
Intravenous (Rabbit) LD: 4800 mg/kg	
Subcutaneous (Pig) LD: 14800 mg/kg	

■ The material may cause skin irritation after prolonged or repeated exposure and may produce on contact skin redness, swelling, the production of vesicles, scaling and thickening of the skin.

For urea:

There is little data that relates urea to human health other than its use in dermatology and some more limited applications in clinical medicine. The use of urea (at 10% concentration or less) in ointments and creams to treat dry skin has been widespread, and long term follow-up studies have indicated that the substance is nonallergenic and virtually free from side effects. Among other clinical therapeutic uses, the treatment of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone (SIADH) should be noted, because its chronic form has involved long term oral administration of large amounts of urea. Most patients have tolerated urea well, although diarrhoea is sometimes reported after ingestion of 60-90 g/day. The possibility exists that infection of *H. pylori* in human stomach may aggravate local effects by urea because of ammonia generation.

Acute toxicity: The acute toxicity by urea is well delineated by the oral route. Toxicity is low in mammals other than ruminants, especially cattle, and sheep, in which the rumen micro-organisms contain urease activity and metabolise urea to ammonia at a high rate. In mice and

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rats, urea is of low toxicity even by the subcutaneous and intravenous route.

Repeated dose toxicity: No well-conducted repeated dose toxicity studies on urea were located. Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity screening studies in mice and rats fed with 4500, 9000 or 45000 ppm in diet (up to about 6750 mg/kg body weight/day for mice and about 2250 mg/kg body weight/day for rats) did not uncover any treatment-related toxic syndromes in the various organs studied. Neither was any weight depression noted at terminal necropsy for animals of either sex or species at any dose levels. Thus the NOAELs were about 6750 mg/kg body weight/day for mice and about 2250 mg/kg body weight/day for rats.

Repeated dose toxicity studies with rats by skin application over 4 weeks and 25 weeks were conducted using urea ointment at 10%, 20% and 40% concentrations, and no consistent treatment-related toxic effects were found. The ointments were applied on a 20 cm² area of the back skin; it is concluded that the repeated dose toxicity of urea by dermal route is low.

Reproductive/developmental toxicity: The studies cited under repeated dose toxicity did not indicate any toxic effects on the reproductive organs of mice and rats. No adequate teratogenicity/developmental toxicity studies of urea with mammals were located. According to one rat study, 50 g/kg body weight/day administered by gavage in two doses 12 hours apart for an average of 14 days did not cause outstanding (external) teratogenicity; the mean birthweight of the newborn was lower but the litter size greater. Injection of urea into the air sack of eggs shows that urea is toxic to the development of chick embryo.

No NOAEL can be given for the reproductive/developmental toxicity of urea because appropriate studies are lacking.

Genetic toxicity: Urea has been negative in several appropriately conducted bacterial mutagenicity tests. Urea caused DNA single strand breaks in mammalian cells in vitro and was clastogenic for mammalian cells in vitro and in vivo but only at concentrations much beyond the physiological range (about 50-100 higher concentrations than found in human blood). The mechanism of genotoxicity is probably non-specific (e.g. difference in osmotic pressure across the cell membrane).

NOTE: Substance has been shown to be mutagenic in at least one assay, or belongs to a family of chemicals producing damage or change to cellular DNA.

Altered sleep time, change in motor activity, antipsychosis, dyspnea, methaemoglobinaemia, convulsions, lymphomas recorded.

Carcinogenic by RTECS criteria.

Section 12 - ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Refer to data for ingredients, which follows:

UREA:

■ Algae IC50 (72hr.) (mg/l):	10000
■ log Kow (Prager 1995):	- 1.09
■ log Kow (Sangster 1997):	- 2.11
■ log Pow (Verschuereen 1983):	1.31415929

■ For urea:

log Kow : -2.97- -2.26

Environmental fate:

According to fugacity modelling there is 99.84% and 0.16% partitioning into water and air, respectively.

Air: Urea is essentially non-volatile in solid form. Its high water solubility, low vapour pressure (solid pure urea 80 Pa at 20 C; calculated) and consequently low Henry's law constant (4.4E-8 atm m³/mol) indicate that urea will not evaporate from water to atmosphere. When released into the air, urea is expected to be readily degraded by reaction with photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals; half-life is expected to be less than 1 day.

Degradation of urea to ammonia causes NH₃-emissions to air. Emissions are higher in alkaline soil (pH>7).

Soil: When released to soil, urea will hydrolyse into ammonium in a matter of days to several weeks. According to the worldwide use pattern of urea, when 85 - 90% of urea is used as a fertilizer, the highest environmental exposure is to soil. Urea is, however, relatively leachable from the soil into surface water and groundwater because of its weak adsorption to the soil, high water solubility and low soil-water partition coefficient. This can happen especially if the soil surface is saturated with water, as might be the case after rainfall.

Water: When released into water, urea material may biodegrade to a moderate extent. Urea is not expected to evaporate significantly. Urea can be leached relatively easily into the surface water and the groundwater. The concentration of urea itself, however, is not generally detected, because of its high degradation rate. Therefore usually degradation products e.g. nitrate, nitrite and ammonium can be measured.

Bioaccumulation: Due to low log Pow value (- 1.59 at 20-25 C) urea is not likely to undergo bioaccumulation.. This material has an experimentally-determined bioconcentration factor (BCF) of less than 100.

Biodegradation: Urea is very soluble in water and degrades ultimately in the inherent biodegradability test

Ecotoxicity:

Urea has generally low acute ecotoxicity to organisms. The degradation product of urea, ammonia, is known to be toxic to all vertebrates. In neutral and acidic conditions, however, ammonia exists in the form of ammonium ion.

Of importance may be the indirect influence of urea on the environment via eutrophication and the pollution risk of urea to groundwater, when urea is used as a fertiliser and a deicer agent in airports. Ecosystems may be affected following long-term use of urea in the control of soil acidification and by ammonia emissions to air..

■ DO NOT discharge into sewer or waterways.

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Ecotoxicity

Ingredient	Persistence: Water/Soil	Persistence: Air	Bioaccumulation	Mobility
urea	LOW		LOW	HIGH

GESAMP/EHS COMPOSITE LIST - GESAMP Hazard Profiles

Name / Cas No / RTECS No	EHS	TRN	A1a	A1b	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	E1	E2	E3
Urea / CAS:57-13-6 / YR6250000	2627	2627	0	0	0	R	1	NI	0	0	(1)	1	(1)			D	1

Legend: EHS=EHS Number (EHS=GESAMP Working Group on the Evaluation of the Hazards of Harmful Substances Carried by Ships)
NRT=Net Register Tonnage, A1a=Bioaccumulation log Pow, A1b=Bioaccumulation BCF, A1=Bioaccumulation, A2=Biodegradation,
B1=Acute aquatic toxicity LC/ECIC50 (mg/l), B2=Chronic aquatic toxicity NOEC (mg/l), C1=Acute mammalian oral toxicity LD50 (mg/kg),
C2=Acute mammalian dermal toxicity LD50 (mg/kg), C3=Acute mammalian inhalation toxicity LC50 (mg/kg), D1=Skin irritation & corrosion,
D2=Eye irritation & corrosion, D3=Long-term health effects, E1=Tainting, E2=Physical effects on wildlife & benthic habitats, E3=Interference
with coastal amenities, For column A2: R=Readily biodegradable, NR=Not readily biodegradable. For column D3: C=Carcinogen,
M=Mutagenic, R=Reprotoxic, S=Sensitising, A=Aspiration hazard, T=Target organ systemic toxicity, L=Lung injury, N=Neurotoxic,
I=Immunotoxic. For column E1: NT=Not tainting (tested), T=Tainting test positive. For column E2: Fp=Persistent floater, F=Floater, S=Sinking
substances. The numerical scales start from 0 (no hazard), while higher numbers reflect increasing hazard. (GESAMP/EHS Composite List
of Hazard Profiles - Hazard evaluation of substances transported by ships)

Section 13 - DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

■ 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 or process equipment to enter drains.
- It may be necessary to collect all wash water for treatment before disposal.
- In all cases disposal to sewer may be subject to local laws and regulations and these should be considered first.
- Where in doubt contact the responsible authority.
- Recycle wherever possible.
- Consult manufacturer for recycling options or consult local or regional waste management authority for disposal if no suitable treatment or disposal facility can be identified.
- Dispose of by: Burial in a licenced land-fill or Incineration in a licenced apparatus (after admixture with suitable combustible material)
- Decontaminate empty containers. Observe all label safeguards until containers are cleaned and destroyed.

Section 14 - TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

HAZCHEM:

None (ADG6)

NOT REGULATED FOR TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS: UN, IATA, IMDG

GESAMP hazard profiles for this material can be found in section 12 of the MSDS.

Section 15 - REGULATORY INFORMATION

POISONS SCHEDULE

None

REGULATIONS

urea (CAS: 57-13-6) is found on the following regulatory lists;

Urea

sc-29114

Material Safety Data Sheet



The Power is Question

Hazard Alert Code Key:	EXTREME	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
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"Australia High Volume Industrial Chemical List (HVICL)", "Australia Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS)", "GESAMP/EHS Composite List of Hazard Profiles - Hazard evaluation of substances transported by ships", "IMO IBC Code Chapter 17: Summary of minimum requirements", "IMO MARPOL 73/78 (Annex II) - List of Other Liquid Substances", "OECD Representative List of High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals"

Section 16 - OTHER INFORMATION

■ 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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