Common Name: METHYL IODIDE

CAS Number: 74-88-4
DOT Number: UN 2644

HAZARD SUMMARY
* Methyl Iodide can affect you when breathed in and by passing through your skin.
* Contact can irritate the eyes.
* Methyl Iodide can irritate the skin causing a rash or burning feeling on contact. Blister can form several hours later.
* Breathing Methyl Iodide can irritate the lungs causing coughing and/or shortness of breath. Higher exposures can cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath.
* Methyl Iodide can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.
* Exposure to Methyl Iodide can cause dizziness, slurred speech, visual disturbances, irritability, loss of muscle control, drowsiness, delirium, serious mental disorders, coma and death.
* Methyl Iodide may damage the kidneys.
* Methyl Iodide may affect the brain leading to disorientation and personality changes.

IDENTIFICATION
Methyl Iodide is a colorless liquid with a sweet, Ether-like odor. It is used as a stain in microscopy, as an insecticide fumigant, and to make other chemicals.

REASON FOR CITATION
* Methyl Iodide is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is regulated by OSHA and cited by ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, DEP, HHAG and EPA.
* Definitions are provided on page 5.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE BEING EXPOSED
The New Jersey Right to Know Act requires most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and requires public employers to provide their employees with information and training concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, 1910.1200, requires private employers to provide similar training and information to their employees.

WORKPLACE EXPOSURE LIMITS
OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is 5 ppm averaged over an 8-hour workshift.
NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit is 2 ppm averaged over a 10-hour workshift.
ACGIH: The recommended airborne exposure limit is 2 ppm averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

WAYS OF REDUCING EXPOSURE
* Where possible, enclose operations and use local exhaust ventilation at the site of chemical release. If local exhaust ventilation or enclosure is not used, respirators should be worn.
* Wear protective work clothing.
* Wash thoroughly immediately after exposure to Methyl Iodide and at the end of the workshift.
* Post hazard and warning information in the work area. In addition, as part of an ongoing education and training effort, communicate all information on the health and safety hazards of Methyl Iodide to potentially exposed workers.
This Fact Sheet is a summary source of information of all potential and most severe health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors will affect your susceptibility to any of the potential effects described below.

HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

Acute Health Effects
The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to Methyl Iodide:

* Contact can irritate the eyes.
* Methyl Iodide can irritate the skin causing a rash or burning feeling on contact. Blisters can form several hours later.
* Breathing Methyl Iodide can irritate the lungs causing coughing and/or shortness of breath. Higher exposures can cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath.
* Methyl Iodide can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.
* Exposure to Methyl Iodide can cause dizziness, slurred speech, visual disturbances, irritability, loss of muscle control, drowsiness, delirium, serious mental disorders, coma and death.

Chronic Health Effects
The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to Methyl Iodide and can last for months or years:

Cancer Hazard
* There is limited evidence that Methyl Iodide causes cancer in animals. It may cause cancer of the lungs.
* Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen. Such substances may also have the potential for causing reproductive damage in humans.

Reproductive Hazard
* According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Methyl Iodide has not been tested for its ability to affect reproduction.

Other Long-Term Effects
* Methyl Iodide can irritate the lungs. Repeated exposure may cause bronchitis to develop with cough, phlegm, and/or shortness of breath.
* Methyl Iodide may damage the kidneys.
* Methyl Iodide may affect the brain leading to disorientation and personality changes.

WORKPLACE CONTROLS AND PRACTICES

Unless a less toxic chemical can be substituted for a hazardous substance, ENGINEERING CONTROLS are the most effective way of reducing exposure. The best protection is to enclose operations and/or provide local exhaust ventilation at the site of chemical release. Isolating operations can also reduce exposure. Using respirators or protective equipment is less effective than the controls mentioned above, but is sometimes necessary.

In evaluating the controls present in your workplace, consider: (1) how hazardous the substance is, (2) how much of the substance is released into the workplace and (3) whether harmful skin or eye contact could occur. Special controls should be in place for highly toxic chemicals or when significant skin, eye, or breathing exposures are possible.
In addition, the following control is recommended:

* Where possible, automatically pump liquid Methyl Iodide from drums or other storage containers to process containers.

Good WORK PRACTICES can help to reduce hazardous exposures. The following work practices are recommended:

* Workers whose clothing has been contaminated by Methyl Iodide should change into clean clothing promptly.
* Do not take contaminated work clothes home. Family members could be exposed.
* Contaminated work clothes should be laundered by individuals who have been informed of the hazards of exposure to Methyl Iodide.
* Eye wash fountains should be provided in the immediate work area for emergency use.
* If there is the possibility of skin exposure, emergency shower facilities should be provided.
* On skin contact with Methyl Iodide, immediately wash or shower to remove the chemical. At the end of the workshift, wash any areas of the body that may have contacted Methyl Iodide, whether or not known skin contact has occurred.
* Do not eat, smoke, or drink where Methyl Iodide is handled, processed, or stored, since the chemical can be swallowed. Wash hands carefully before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the toilet.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

WORKPLACE CONTROLS ARE BETTER THAN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. However, for some jobs (such as outside work, confined space entry, jobs done only once in a while, or jobs done while workplace controls are being installed), personal protective equipment may be appropriate.

OSHA 1910.132 requires employers to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for each hazard and to train employees on how and when to use protective equipment.

The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation.

Clothing

* Avoid skin contact with Methyl Iodide. Wear protective gloves and clothing. Safety equipment suppliers/manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove/clothing material for your operation.
* All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.
* ACGIH recommends Polyvinyl Alcohol and Viton as protective materials.

Eye Protection

* Wear indirect-vent, impact and splash resistant goggles when working with liquids.
* Wear a face shield along with goggles when working with corrosive, highly irritating or toxic substances.

Respiratory Protection

IMPROPER USE OF RESPIRATORS IS DANGEROUS. Such equipment should only be used if the employer has a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing and medical exams, as described in OSHA 1910.134.

* Where the potential exists for exposure over 2 ppm, use a MSHA/NIOSH approved supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode. For increased protection use in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

* Prior to working with Methyl Iodide you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.
* A regulated, marked area should be established where Methyl Iodide is handled, used, or stored.
* Methyl Iodide is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); TRIALKYL-PHOSPHINES; SILVER CHLORIDE; SODIUM; OXYGEN; and STRONG BASES (such as SODIUM HYDROXIDE and POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE).
* Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from LIGHT and HEAT.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: If I have acute health effects, will I later get chronic health effects?
A: Not always. Most chronic (long-term) effects result from repeated exposures to a chemical.

Q: Can I get long-term effects without ever having short-term effects?
A: Yes, because long-term effects can occur from repeated exposures to a chemical at levels not high enough to make you immediately sick.

Q: What are my chances of getting sick when I have been exposed to chemicals?
A: The likelihood of becoming sick from chemicals is increased as the amount of exposure increases. This is determined by the length of time and the amount of material to which someone is exposed.
Q: When are higher exposures more likely?
A: Conditions which increase risk of exposure include physical and mechanical processes (heating, pouring, spraying, spills and evaporation from large surface areas such as open containers), and "confined space" exposures (working inside vats, reactors, boilers, small rooms, etc.).

Q: Is the risk of getting sick higher for workers than for community residents?
A: Yes. Exposures in the community, except possibly in cases of fires or spills, are usually much lower than those found in the workplace. However, people in the community may be exposed to contaminated water as well as to chemicals in the air over long periods. This may be a problem for children or people who are already ill.

Q: Don't all chemicals cause cancer?
A: No. Most chemicals tested by scientists are not cancer-causing.

Q: Should I be concerned if a chemical causes cancer in animals?
A: Yes. Most scientists agree that a chemical that causes cancer in animals should be treated as a suspected human carcinogen unless proven otherwise.

Q: But don't they test animals using much higher levels of a chemical than people usually are exposed to?
A: Yes. That's so effects can be seen more clearly using fewer animals. But high doses alone don't cause cancer unless it's a cancer agent. In fact, a chemical that causes cancer in animals at high doses could cause cancer in humans exposed to low doses.

The following information is available from:

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Occupational Health Service
PO Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
(609) 984-1863
(609) 292-5677 (fax)

Web address:  http://www.state.nj.us/health/loh/odisweb/

Industrial Hygiene Information
Industrial hygienists are available to answer your questions regarding the control of chemical exposures using exhaust ventilation, special work practices, good housekeeping, good hygiene practices, and personal protective equipment including respirators. In addition, they can help to interpret the results of industrial hygiene survey data.

Medical Evaluation
If you think you are becoming sick because of exposure to chemicals at your workplace, you may call personnel at the Department of Health and Senior Services, Occupational Health Service, who can help you find the information you need.

Public Presentations
Presentations and educational programs on occupational health or the Right to Know Act can be organized for labor unions, trade associations and other groups.

Right to Know Information Resources
The Right to Know Infoline (609) 984-2202 can answer questions about the identity and potential health effects of chemicals, list of educational materials in occupational health, references used to prepare the Fact Sheets, preparation of the Right to Know survey, education and training programs, labeling requirements, and general information regarding the Right to Know Act. Violations of the law should be reported to (609) 984-2202.
DEFINITIONS

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. It recommends upper limits (called TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

A **carcinogen** is a substance that causes cancer.

The **CAS number** is assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service to identify a specific chemical.

A **combustible** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that will burn.

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes irreversible damage to human tissue or containers.

**DEP** is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**DOT** is the Department of Transportation, the federal agency that regulates the transportation of chemicals.

**EPA** is the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for regulating environmental hazards.

A **fetus** is an unborn human or animal.

A **flammable** substance is a solid, liquid, vapor or gas that will ignite easily and burn rapidly.

The **flash point** is the temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor that can form a flammable mixture with air.

**HHAG** is the Human Health Assessment Group of the federal EPA.

**IARC** is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group that classifies chemicals according to their cancer-causing potential.

A **miscible** substance is a liquid or gas that will evenly dissolve in another.

**mg/m^3** means milligrams of a chemical in a cubic meter of air. It is a measure of concentration (weight/volume).

**MSHA** is the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the federal agency that regulates mining. It also evaluates and approves respirators.

A **mutagen** is a substance that causes mutations. A **mutation** is a change in the genetic material in a body cell. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

**NAERG** is the North American Emergency Response Guidebook. It was jointly developed by Transport Canada, the United States Department of Transportation and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation of Mexico. It is a guide for first responders to quickly identify the specific or generic hazards of material involved in a transportation incident, and to protect themselves and the general public during the initial response phase of the incident.

**NCI** is the National Cancer Institute, a federal agency that determines the cancer-causing potential of chemicals.

**NFPA** is the National Fire Protection Association. It classifies substances according to their fire and explosion hazard.

**NIOSH** is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It tests equipment, evaluates and approves respirators, conducts studies of workplace hazards, and proposes standards to OSHA.

**NTP** is the National Toxicology Program which tests chemicals and reviews evidence for cancer.

**OSHA** is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

**PEOSH** is the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, a state law which sets PELs for New Jersey public employees.

**ppm** means parts of a substance per million parts of air. It is a measure of concentration by volume in air.

A **reactive** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that releases energy under certain conditions.

A **teratogen** is a substance that causes birth defects by damaging the fetus.

**TLV** is the Threshold Limit Value, the workplace exposure limit recommended by ACGIH.

The **vapor pressure** is a measure of how readily a liquid or a solid mixes with air at its surface. A higher vapor pressure indicates a higher concentration of the substance in air and therefore increases the likelihood of breathing it in.
Common Name: METHYL IODIDE  
DOT Number: UN 2644  
NAERG Code: 151  
CAS Number: 74-88-4

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<th>Hazard rating</th>
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<th>NFPA</th>
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<td>REACTIVITY</td>
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POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE  
CONTAINERS MAY EXPLODE IN FIRE

Hazard Rating Key: 0=Minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=Severe

**FIRE HAZARDS**

* Methyl Iodide is a noncombustible liquid.  
* Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray, alcohol or polymer foam extinguishers.  
* POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including Hydrogen Iodide.  
* CONTAINERS MAY EXPLODE IN FIRE.  
* Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.  
* If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in OSHA 1910.156.

**SPILLS AND EMERGENCIES**

If Methyl Iodide is spilled or leaked, take the following steps:

* Evacuate persons not wearing protective equipment from area of spill or leak until clean-up is complete.  
* Cover with dry lime, sand or soda ash, and place in covered containers for disposal.  
* Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.  
* It may be necessary to contain and dispose of Methyl Iodide as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.  
* If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. OSHA 1910.120(q) may be applicable.

FOR LARGE SPILLS AND FIRES immediately call your fire department. You can request emergency information from the following:

CHEMTREC: (800) 424-9300  
NJDEP HOTLINE: (609) 292-7172

**HANDLING AND STORAGE** (See page 3)

**FIRST AID**

In NJ, for POISON INFORMATION call 1-800-764-7661

**Eye Contact**

* Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, occasionally lifting upper and lower lids.

**Skin Contact**

* Quickly remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.  
* If burning and pain persist seek medical attention immediately.

**Breathing**

* Remove the person from exposure.  
* Begin rescue breathing (using universal precautions) if breathing has stopped and CPR if heart action has stopped.  
* Transfer promptly to a medical facility.  
* Medical observation is recommended for 24 to 48 hours after breathing overexposure, as pulmonary edema may be delayed.

**PHYSICAL DATA**

Vapor Pressure: 400 mm Hg at 68°F (20°C)  
Water Solubility: Soluble

**OTHER COMMONLY USED NAMES**

Chemical Name: Methane, Iodo-  
Other Names: Iodomethane; Monoiodomethane; Halon 10001

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
Right to Know Program  
PO Box 368, Trenton, NJ 08625-0368  
(609) 984-2202

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