Right to Know

Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **ZINC POTASSIUM CHROMATE**

Synonyms: Buttercup Yellow; Citron Yellow; Zinc Yellow

Chemical Name: Potassium Zinc Chromate Hydroxide

Date: September 1998 Revision: February 2008

CAS Number: 11103-86-9

RTK Substance Number: 2042

DOT Number: None

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE BACK PAGE

Description and Use

Zinc Potassium Chromate is a green-yellow, odorless solid or powder. It is used as a rust inhibitor in metal paints and as an artist's color.

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDOH	NFPA
HEALTH	4	-
FLAMMABILITY	0	-
REACTIVITY	0	-

CARCINOGEN
POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE

Hazard Rating Key: 0=minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=severe

Reasons for Citation

- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by OSHA, ACGIH, NIOSH, NTP, DEP, IARC, IRIS and EPA.
- This chemical is on the Special Health Hazard Substance List.

- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** can affect you when inhaled and by passing through the skin.
- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** is a CARCINOGEN. HANDLE WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- Contact can irritate the skin and eyes.
- Inhaling **Zinc Potassium Chromate** can irritate the nose, throat and lungs.
- Inhaling **Zinc Potassium Chromate** can cause a sore and/or a hole in the "bone" (septum) dividing the inner nose.
- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** may cause a skin allergy.

SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5.

FIRST AID

Eye Contact

- Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while rinsing.

Skin Contact

- Quickly remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.

Inhalation

- 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.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300
NJDEP Hotline: 1-877-927-6337
National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

Workplace Exposure Limits

The following exposure limits are for *hexavalent Chromium* (or *Cr VI*) *compounds* (measured as Cr):

OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is **0.005 mg/m^3** averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **0.001 mg/m^3** averaged over a 10-hour workshift.

ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **0.01 mg/m^3** averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** is a CARCINOGEN in humans. There may be no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen, so all contact should be reduced to the lowest possible level.
- The above exposure limits are for air levels only. When skin contact also occurs, you may be overexposed, even though air levels are less than the limits listed above.

Determining Your Exposure

- Read the product manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the label to determine product ingredients and important safety and health information about the product mixture.
- For each individual hazardous ingredient, read the New Jersey Department of Health Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK website (www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb) or in your facility's RTK Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- You have a right to this information under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act, the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act if you are a public worker in New Jersey, and under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) if you are a private worker.
- 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 concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7) require employers to provide similar information and training to their employees.

This Fact Sheet is a summary of available information regarding the 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 **Zinc Potassium Chromate**:

- Contact can irritate the skin and eyes.
- Inhaling **Zinc Potassium Chromate** can irritate the nose and throat.

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

Cancer Hazard
- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** is a CARCINOGEN in humans. There is evidence that *hexavalent Chromium* (or *Chromium VI) compounds* cause lung cancer in humans and animals.
- Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen.

Reproductive Hazard
- While **Zinc Potassium Chromate** has not been identified as a teratogen or a reproductive hazard, *hexavalent Chromium* (or *Chromium VI) compounds* have been determined to be teratogens and may also cause reproductive damage, such as reduced fertility and interference with menstrual cycles. **Zinc Potassium Chromate** should be handled WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

Other Effects
- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** can irritate the lungs. Repeated exposure may cause bronchitis to develop with cough, phlegm, and/or shortness of breath.
- Inhaling **Zinc Potassium Chromate** can cause a sore and/or a hole in the "bone" (septum) dividing the inner nose, sometimes with bleeding, discharge, and/or formation of a crust.
- **Zinc Potassium Chromate** may cause a skin allergy. If allergy develops, very low future exposure can cause itching and a skin rash.
- Repeated skin contact may cause rash and skin ulcers.

Medical

Medical Testing
For frequent or potentially high exposure (half the PEL or greater), the following are recommended before beginning work and at regular times after that:

- Lung function tests

If symptoms develop or overexposure is suspected, the following are recommended:

- Evaluation by a qualified allergist can help diagnose skin allergy
- Check your skin daily for little bumps or blisters, the first sign of "Chrome ulcers." If not treated early, these can last for years after exposure

Periodic medical surveillance, consisting of medical examinations and biological monitoring, must be provided by your employer.

OSHA requires your employer to provide you and your doctor with a copy of the OSHA *Chromium VI* Standard (29 CFR 1910.1026).

Any evaluation should include a careful history of past and present symptoms with an exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are not a substitute for controlling exposure.

Request copies of your medical testing. You have a legal right to this information under the OSHA Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records Standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

Mixed Exposures
- Smoking can cause heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema, and other respiratory problems. It may worsen respiratory conditions caused by chemical exposure. Even if you have smoked for a long time, stopping now will reduce your risk of developing health problems.

Workplace Controls and Practices

Very toxic chemicals, or those that are reproductive hazards or sensitizers, require expert advice on control measures if a less toxic chemical cannot be substituted. Control measures include: (1) enclosing chemical processes for severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, (2) using local exhaust ventilation for chemicals that may be harmful with a single exposure, and (3) using general ventilation to control exposures to skin and eye irritants. For further information on workplace controls, consult the NIOSH document on Control Banding at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/.

The following work practices are also recommended:

- Label process containers.
- Provide employees with hazard information and training.
- Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- Use engineering controls if concentrations exceed recommended exposure levels.
- Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- Wash or shower if skin comes in contact with a hazardous material.
- Always wash at the end of the workshift.
- Change into clean clothing if clothing becomes contaminated.
- Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- Get special training to wash contaminated clothing.
- Do not eat, smoke, or drink in areas where chemicals are being handled, processed or stored.
- Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

In addition, the following may be useful or required:

- Specific engineering controls are required for this chemical by OSHA. Refer to the OSHA *Chromium VI* Standard (29 CFR 1910.1026).
- Use a vacuum or a wet method to reduce dust during clean-up. DO NOT DRY SWEEP.
- Use a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter when vacuuming. Do not use a standard shop vacuum.

Personal Protective Equipment

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard (29 CFR 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.

Gloves and Clothing

- Avoid skin contact with **Zinc Potassium Chromate**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material which can not be permeated or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove and clothing material for your operation.
- Safety equipment manufacturers recommend *Rubber* or *Nitrile* gloves and DuPont *Tychem® Polycoat, CPF 1, QC, CPF 2* and *SL*, or equivalent, as protective materials for clothing.
- All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

Eye Protection

- Wear eye protection with side shields or goggles.

Respiratory Protection

Improper use of respirators is dangerous. Respirators should only be used if the employer has implemented a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing, and medical exams, as described in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

- Where the potential exists for exposure over **0.001 mg/m^3** (as *hexavalent Chromium*), use a NIOSH approved air-purifying, particulate filter respirator with an N95 filter. More protection is provided by a full facepiece respirator than by a half-mask respirator, and even greater protection is provided by a powered-air purifying respirator.
- Leave the area immediately if (1) while wearing a filter or cartridge respirator you can smell, taste, or otherwise detect **Zinc Potassium Chromate**, (2) while wearing particulate filters abnormal resistance to breathing is experienced, or (3) eye irritation occurs while wearing a full facepiece respirator. Check to make sure the respirator-to-face seal is still good. If it is, replace the filter or cartridge. If the seal is no longer good, you may need a new respirator.
- Consider all potential sources of exposure in your workplace. You may need a combination of filters, prefilters or cartridges to protect against different forms of a chemical (such as vapor and mist) or against a mixture of chemicals.
- Where the potential exists for exposure over **0.01 mg/m^3** (as *hexavalent Chromium*), use a 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.
- Exposure to **15 mg/m^3** (as *Chromates*) is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **15 mg/m^3** exists, use a NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode equipped with an emergency escape air cylinder.

Fire Hazards

If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in the OSHA Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156).

- Extinguish fire using an agent suitable for type of surrounding fire. **Zinc Potassium Chromate** itself does not burn.
- POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Zinc Oxide* and *Dipotassium Oxide*.
- Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.

Spills and Emergencies

If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

If **Zinc Potassium Chromate** is spilled, take the following steps:

- Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- Eliminate all ignition sources.
- Moisten spilled material first or use a HEPA-filter vacuum for clean-up.
- Collect powdered material in the most convenient and safe manner and deposit in sealed containers.
- It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Zinc Potassium Chromate** as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

Handling and Storage

Prior to working with **Zinc Potassium Chromate** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- A regulated, marked area should be established where **Zinc Potassium Chromate** is handled, used, or stored as required by the OSHA *Chromium VI* Standard (29 CFR 1910.1026).
- *Zinc Chromates* are *oxidizers* which may react with REDUCING AGENTS (such as LITHIUM, SODIUM, ALUMINUM and their HYDRIDES); ALCOHOLS; COMBUSTIBLES; ORGANIC MATERIALS; ETHERS; HYDRAZINES; and METAL POWDERS.
- Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area.

Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health offers multiple services in occupational health. These services include providing informational resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations.

For more information, please contact:

New Jersey Department of Health
Right to Know
PO Box 368
Trenton, NJ 08625-0368
Phone: 609-984-2202
Fax: 609-984-7407
E-mail: rtk@doh.state.nj.us
Web address: http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/rtkweb

The Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets are not intended to be copied and sold for commercial purposes.

GLOSSARY

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. They publish guidelines called Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) are established by the EPA. They describe the risk to humans resulting from once-in-a lifetime, or rare, exposure to airborne chemicals.

Boiling point is the temperature at which a substance can change its physical state from a liquid to a gas.

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

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

CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations, which are the regulations of the United States government.

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

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes destruction of human skin or severe corrosion of 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.

ERG is the Emergency Response Guidebook. It is a guide for emergency responders for transportation emergencies involving hazardous substances.

Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG) values are intended to provide estimates of concentration ranges where one reasonably might anticipate observing adverse effects.

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.

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group.

Ionization Potential is the amount of energy needed to remove an electron from an atom or molecule. It is measured in electron volts.

IRIS is the Integrated Risk Information System database maintained by federal EPA. The database contains information on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment.

LEL or **Lower Explosive Limit**, is the lowest concentration of a combustible substance (gas or vapor) in the air capable of continuing an explosion.

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

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.

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 federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

PEOSHA is the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards in public workplaces.

Permeated is the movement of chemicals through protective materials.

PIH is a DOT designation for chemicals which are Poison Inhalation Hazards.

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.

STEL is a Short Term Exposure Limit which is usually a 15-minute exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a work day.

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

UEL or **Upper Explosive Limit** is the highest concentration in air above which there is too much fuel (gas or vapor) to begin a reaction or explosion.

Vapor Density is the ratio of the weight of a given volume of one gas to the weight of another (usually *Hydrogen*), at the same temperature and pressure.

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.

Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Emergency Responders Quick Reference

Common Name: **ZINC POTASSIUM CHROMATE**

Synonyms: Buttercup Yellow; Citron Yellow; Zinc Yellow
CAS No: 11103-86-9
Molecular Formula: $KZn_2(CrO_4)_2(OH)$
RTK Substance No: 2042
Description: Green-yellow, odorless solid or powder

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
4 - Health **0 - Fire** **0 - Reactivity** **DOT#:** None **ERG Guide #:** None **Hazard Class:** None	Extinguish fire using an agent suitable for type of surrounding fire. **Zinc Potassium Chromate** itself does not burn. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Zinc Oxide* and *Dipotassium Oxide*. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.	Zinc Chromates are oxidizers which may react with REDUCING AGENTS (such as LITHIUM, SODIUM, ALUMINUM and their HYDRIDES); ALCOHOLS; COMBUSTIBLES; ORGANIC MATERIALS; ETHERS; HYDRAZINES; and METAL POWDERS.

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance:

Small Spills: 50 meters (150 feet)

Fires: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

Moisten spilled material first or use a HEPA-filter vacuum for clean-up.

This substance is very toxic to aquatic organisms.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	Odorless
Flash Point:	Not combustible
Auto Ignition:	752°F (400°C)
Specific Gravity:	3.4 (water = 1) (as basic *Zinc Chromate*)
Water Solubility:	Insoluble
Boiling Point:	482°F (250°C) (as *Chromates*)
Melting Point:	600°F (316°C) (as basic *Zinc Chromate*)
Molecular Weight:	418

EXPOSURE LIMITS

OSHA:	0.005 mg/m^3, 8-hr TWA
NIOSH:	0.001 mg/m^3, 10-hr TWA
ACGIH:	0.01 mg/m^3, 8-hr TWA
IDLH LEVEL:	15 mg/m^3 (as *Chromates*)
	All the above are for *hexavalent Chromium* (*Cr VI*)

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves:	Rubber or Nitrile
Coveralls:	DuPont Tychem® Polycoat, CPF 1, QC, CPF 2 and SL, or equivalent
Respirator:	>0.001 mg/m^3 - APR with High efficiency filters
	>0.01 mg/m^3 - Supplied air

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes:	Irritation
Skin:	Irritation, itching, rash and skin ulcers
Inhalation:	Nose, throat and lung irritation with cough, phlegm and/or shortness of breath
Chronic:	*Hexavalent Chromium* (or *Chromium VI*) *compounds* cause lung cancer in humans and animals

FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION

Remove the person from exposure.

Flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses if worn.

Quickly remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.

Begin artificial respiration if breathing has stopped and CPR if necessary.

Transfer to a medical facility.