Right to Know

Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **CADMIUM HYDROXIDE**

Synonyms: Cadmium Hydrate

Chemical Name: Cadmium Hydroxide

Date: February 2008

CAS Number: 21041-95-2

RTK Substance Number: 4089

DOT Number: UN 2570

Description and Use

Cadmium Hydroxide is a white powder. It is found in industrial *Nickel Cadmium* storage batteries, and may be used in *Cadmium* plating and in making *Cadmium salts*.

Reasons for Citation

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

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

- Remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with 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.
- Medical observation is recommended for 24 to 48 hours after overexposure, as pulmonary edema may be delayed.

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

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE BACK PAGE

Hazard Summary

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

CARCINOGEN
POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE
DOES NOT BURN

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

- **Cadmium Hydroxide** can affect you when inhaled.
- **Cadmium Hydroxide** is a CARCINOGEN. HANDLE WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- Contact can irritate the skin and eyes.
- Inhaling **Cadmium Hydroxide** can irritate the nose and throat.
- Exposure to **Cadmium Hydroxide** may cause a flu-like illness called *metal fume fever*.
- **Cadmium Hydroxide** can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.
- Inhaling **Cadmium Hydroxide** can irritate the lungs. Higher exposures may cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency.
- Repeated low exposures can cause liver and kidney damage, anemia, and loss of sense of smell.

Workplace Exposure Limits

The following exposure limits are for *Cadmium*:

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

NIOSH: Recommends that exposure to occupational carcinogens be limited to the lowest feasible concentration.

ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **0.01 mg/m^3** (as *total particulate*), and **0.002 mg/m^3** (as the *respirable fraction*), averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

- **Cadmium Hydroxide** 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.

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 **Cadmium Hydroxide**:

- Contact can irritate the skin and eyes.
- Inhaling **Cadmium Hydroxide** can irritate the nose and throat.
- Exposure to **Cadmium Hydroxide** may cause *"metal fume fever."* This is a flu-like illness with symptoms of metallic taste in the mouth, headache, fever and chills, aches, chest tightness and cough. The symptoms may be delayed for several hours after exposure and usually last for a day or two.
- **Cadmium Hydroxide** can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.
- Inhaling **Cadmium Hydroxide** can irritate the lungs causing coughing and/or shortness of breath. Higher exposures may cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath.

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

Cancer Hazard
- **Cadmium Hydroxide** is a CARCINOGEN in humans. There is evidence that *Cadmium* and *Cadmium compounds* cause lung and prostate cancer in humans and cause lung cancer in animals.
- Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen.

Reproductive Hazard
- While **Cadmium Hydroxide** has not been identified as a teratogen or a reproductive hazard, *Cadmium* and *Cadmium compounds* are teratogens and may also cause reproductive damage to the male reproductive system (including decrease of the sperm count). **Cadmium Hydroxide** should be handled WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

Other Effects
- **Cadmium Hydroxide** can irritate the lungs. Repeated exposure may cause bronchitis to develop with coughing, phlegm, and/or shortness of breath.
- Repeated low exposures can cause liver and kidney damage.
- Exposure can cause anemia, loss of sense of smell (anosmia), and/or discoloration of teeth.

Medical

Medical Testing
Before first exposure and every 12 months thereafter, OSHA requires your employer to provide (for persons exposed to greater than or equal to **0.0025 mg/m^3** of *Cadmium*) a work and medical history and exam which shall include:

- Blood test for *Cadmium* (levels should be less than **5 micrograms per liter** of whole blood)
- Urine test for *Cadmium* (levels should be less than **3 micrograms per liter** of urine)
- Urine test for Beta-2 microglobulin to detect kidney damage
- Liver and kidney function tests
- Lung function tests
- Complete blood count

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

- Consider chest x-ray after acute overexposure

OSHA requires your employer to provide you and your doctor with a copy of the OSHA *Cadmium* Standard (29 CFR 1910.1027 or 1926.1127).

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.
- More than light alcohol consumption can cause liver damage. Drinking alcohol can increase the liver damage caused by **Cadmium Hydroxide**.
- Cigarette smoke contains some *Cadmium*. Because it is hard for the body to eliminate *Cadmium*, it tends to build up in the body. Any workplace exposure adds to these levels.

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 *Cadmium* Standard (29 CFR 1910.1027 or 1926.1127).
- 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 **Cadmium Hydroxide**. 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 *Nitrile* and *Neoprene* for gloves and DuPont *Tyvek*®, or the equivalent, as a protective material 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.
- Do not wear contact lenses when working with this substance.

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 less than or equal to **0.05 mg/m^3** (as *Cadmium*), use a NIOSH approved air-purifying, particulate filter respirator with an N100, R100 or P100 filter.
- Where the potential exists for exposure less than or equal to **0.250 mg/m^3** (as *Cadmium*), use a NIOSH approved full facepiece air-purifying respirator with high efficiency filters.
- Where the potential exists for exposure less than or equal to **1.25 mg/m^3** (as *Cadmium*) use a NIOSH approved powered-air purifying respirator equipped with a tight-fitting full facepiece and high efficiency filters.
- Leave the area immediately if (1) while wearing a filter or cartridge respirator you can smell, taste, or otherwise detect **Cadmium Hydroxide**, (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 **5 mg/m^3** (as *Cadmium*), 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 **9 mg/m^3** (as *Cadmium*) is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **9 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. **Cadmium Hydroxide** itself does not burn.
- POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Cadmium Oxide*.
- Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.
- **Cadmium Hydroxide** may ignite combustibles (wood, paper and oil).

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 **Cadmium Hydroxide** 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.
- Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.
- DO NOT wash into sewer.
- It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Cadmium Hydroxide** 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 **Cadmium Hydroxide** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- A regulated, marked area should be established where **Cadmium Hydroxide** is handled, used or stored as required by the OSHA *Cadmium* Standard (29 CFR 1910.1027 or 1926.1127).
- *Cadmium dust* may be a fire or explosion hazard when exposed to HEAT; FLAME; SULFUR; OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); SELENIUM; TELLURIUM; AMMONIA; and METALS (such as ZINC, POTASSIUM and MAGNESIUM).
- Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from COMBUSTIBLES.

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: **CADMIUM HYDROXIDE**

Synonyms: Cadmium Hydrate
CAS No: 21041-95-2
Molecular Formula: CdH_2O_2
RTK Substance No: 4089
Description: White powder

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
4 - Health **0 - Fire** **0 - Reactivity** **DOT#:** UN 2570 **ERG Guide #:** 154 **Hazard Class:** 6.1 (Poison)	Extinguish fire using an agent suitable for type of surrounding fire. **Cadmium Hydroxide** itself does not burn. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including *Cadmium Oxide*. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool. **Cadmium Hydroxide** may ignite combustibles (wood, paper and oil).	*Cadmium dust* may be a fire or explosion hazard when exposed to HEAT; FLAME; SULFUR; OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE; SELENIUM, TELLURIUM, AMMONIA; and METALS (such as ZINC, POTASSIUM and MAGNESIUM).

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance:

Small Spills: 25 meters (75 feet)

Fire: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

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.

DO NOT wash into sewer.

Severe marine pollutant.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	No information
Flash Point:	Nonflammable
Specific Gravity:	4.8 (water =1)
Water Solubility:	Insoluble
Boiling Point:	No information
Freezing Point:	No information
Molecular Weight:	146.4

EXPOSURE LIMITS

OSHA:	0.005 mg/m^3, 8-hr TWA
NIOSH:	Lowest feasible concentration
ACGIH:	0.01 mg/m^3, 8-hr TWA (total particulate) 0.002 mg/m^3, 8-hr TWA (respirable fraction)
IDLH:	9 mg/m^3

(All of the above are for *Cadmium*)

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves:	Nitrile and Neoprene
Coveralls:	DuPont Tyvek®
Respirator:	>0.005 mg/m^3 - APR with High efficiency filters >0.05 mg/m^3 - Supplied air

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes:	Irritation
Skin:	Irritation
Inhalation:	Nose, throat and lung irritation with coughing and/or shortness of breath Nausea, vomiting, headache, fever and chills, aches, and chest tightness
Chronic:	Carcinogen - *Cadmium* and *Cadmium compounds* cause lung and prostate cancer in humans.

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.

Remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with soap and water.

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

Transfer to a medical facility.

Medical observation is recommended as symptoms may be delayed.