



Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **STYRENE MONOMER**

Synonyms: Cinnamene; Ethenylbenzene; Phenylethylene;
Vinyl Benzene

Chemical Name: Benzene, Ethenyl-

Date: November 2011 Revision: June 2016

CAS Number: 100-42-5

RTK Substance Number: 1748

DOT Number: UN 2055

Description and Use

Styrene Monomer is a clear, colorless to yellow, oily liquid, with a sweet odor at low concentrations. It is used to make plastics, paints, synthetic rubbers, protective coatings, and resins.

- ▶ **ODOR THRESHOLD = 0.04 to 0.32 ppm**
- ▶ Odor thresholds vary greatly. Do not rely on odor alone to determine potentially hazardous exposures.

Reasons for Citation

- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by OSHA, ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, DEP, IARC, IRIS, NFPA, NTP, 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

- ▶ 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

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE LAST PAGE

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDHSS	NFPA
HEALTH	-	2
FLAMMABILITY	-	3
REACTIVITY	-	2
CARCINOGEN FLAMMABLE AND REACTIVE POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE CONTAINERS MAY EXPLODE IN FIRE POLYMERIZER		

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

- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** can affect you when inhaled and by passing through the skin.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** should be handled as a CARCINOGEN--WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** can irritate the skin, causing a rash, dryness, redness and burning feeling on contact.
- ▶ Exposure can irritate the eyes, nose and throat.
- ▶ Exposure to high levels can cause headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out.
- ▶ Repeated exposure to lower levels can cause problems with concentration, memory, balance and learning ability, and can result in confusion and slowed reflexes.
- ▶ Very high levels may affect brain and liver function.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** is a FLAMMABLE LIQUID and a DANGEROUS FIRE HAZARD.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** can POLYMERIZE resulting in uncontrolled reactions. These reactions may be explosive.

Workplace Exposure Limits

- OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is **100 ppm** averaged over an 8-hour workshift; **200 ppm**, not to be exceeded during any 15-minute work period; and **600 ppm** as a 5-minute maximum peak exposure in any 3-hour period.
- NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **50 ppm** averaged over a 10-hour workshift and **100 ppm**, not to be exceeded during any 15-minute work period.
- ACGIH: The threshold limit value (TLV) is **20 ppm** averaged over an 8-hour workshift and **40 ppm** as a STEL (short-term exposure limit).

- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** may be 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 and Senior Services Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK Program website (<http://www.state.nj.us/health/workplacehealthandsafety/right-to-know/>) 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 and 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 **Styrene Monomer**:

- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** can irritate the skin, causing a rash, dryness, redness and burning feeling on contact.
- ▶ Exposure can irritate the eyes, nose and throat.
- ▶ Exposure can cause headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out.

Chronic Health Effects

The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to **Styrene Monomer** and can last for months or years:

Cancer Hazard

- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** may be a CARCINOGEN in humans since it has been shown to cause lung cancer in animals.
- ▶ Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen.

Reproductive Hazard

- ▶ There is no evidence that **Styrene Monomer** affects reproduction. This is based on test results presently available to the NJDHSS from published studies.

Other Effects

- ▶ Repeated exposure to lower levels can cause problems with concentration, memory, balance and learning ability, and can result in confusion and slowed reflexes.
- ▶ Very high levels may affect brain and liver function.

Medical

Medical Testing

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

- ▶ Exam of the nervous system
- ▶ Liver function tests

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

- ▶ EEG (brain wave study)

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.

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

Mixed Exposures

- ▶ More than light alcohol consumption can cause liver damage. Drinking alcohol may increase the liver damage caused by **Styrene Monomer**.

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:

- ▶ Before entering a confined space where **Styrene Monomer** may be present, check to make sure that an explosive concentration does not exist.

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 **Styrene Monomer**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material that 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.
- ▶ The recommended glove materials for **Styrene Monomer** are Silver Shield®/4H®, Viton and Barrier®.
- ▶ The recommended protective clothing materials for **Styrene Monomer** are Tychem® F, CPF3, BR, CSM and TK; and Trelchem® HPS and VPS, or the equivalent.
- ▶ All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.

Eye Protection

- ▶ Wear indirect vent goggles when working with liquids that may splash, spray or mist. A face shield is also required if the liquid is severely irritating or corrosive to the skin and eyes.
- ▶ 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 over **20 ppm**, use a NIOSH approved respirator with an organic vapor cartridge. 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 **Styrene Monomer**, (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 **200 ppm**, 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 or an emergency escape air cylinder.
- ▶ Exposure to **700 ppm** is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **700 ppm** 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).

- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** is a FLAMMABLE LIQUID.
- ▶ Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or foam as extinguishing agents.
- ▶ POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE.
- ▶ CONTAINERS MAY EXPLODE IN FIRE.
- ▶ Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.
- ▶ Vapor is heavier than air and may travel a distance to cause a fire or explosion far from the source and flash back.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** can POLYMERIZE resulting in uncontrolled reactions. These reactions may be explosive.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** may accumulate static electricity.

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 **Styrene Monomer** is spilled or leaked, take the following steps:

- ▶ Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- ▶ Eliminate all ignition sources.
- ▶ Absorb liquids in vermiculite, dry sand, earth, or a similar material and place into sealed containers for disposal.
- ▶ Ventilate area of spill or leak.
- ▶ Keep **Styrene Monomer** out of confined spaces, such as sewers, because of the possibility of an explosion.
- ▶ DO NOT wash into sewer.
- ▶ It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Styrene Monomer** 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 **Styrene Monomer** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- ▶ *Unstabilized Styrene Monomer* can POLYMERIZE VIOLENTLY on exposure to HEAT; LIGHT; OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); OXYGEN; and PEROXIDES (such as *Dibenzoyl Peroxide*) or when CONTAMINATED.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** can form unstable *Peroxides* in AIR that may explode spontaneously.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** reacts violently with STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC, NITRIC and OLEUM) and METAL SALTS (such as IRON CHLORIDE and ALUMINUM CHLORIDE).
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** attacks RUBBER, COPPER and COPPER ALLOYS.
- ▶ Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from HEAT SOURCES and protect from SUNLIGHT and CONTAMINATION.
- ▶ Store **Styrene Monomer** with an inhibitor such as *p-tert-Butyl Catechol* and *Hydroquinone*.
- ▶ Sources of ignition, such as smoking and open flames, are prohibited where **Styrene Monomer** is used, handled, or stored.
- ▶ Metal containers involving the transfer of **Styrene Monomer** should be grounded and bonded.
- ▶ Use explosion-proof electrical equipment and fittings wherever **Styrene Monomer** is used, handled, manufactured, or stored.
- ▶ Use only non-sparking tools and equipment, especially when opening and closing containers of **Styrene Monomer**.
- ▶ **Styrene Monomer** may accumulate static electricity.

Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Occupational Health Service, 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 & Senior Services
 Right to Know Program
 PO Box 368
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0368
 Phone: 609-984-2202
 Fax: 609-984-7407
 E-mail: rtk@doh.nj.gov
 Web address:
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/workplacehealthandsafety/right-to-know/>

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.

The **critical temperature** is the temperature above which a gas cannot be liquefied, regardless of the pressure applied.

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 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 on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals, maintained by federal EPA.

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/m³ 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.

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

Protective Action Criteria (PAC) are values established by the Department of Energy and are based on AEGLs and ERPGs. They are used for emergency planning of chemical release events.

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 *Air*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a force exerted by the vapor in equilibrium with the solid or liquid phase of the same substance. The higher the vapor pressure the higher concentration of the substance in air.

Common Name: **STYRENE MONOMER**

Synonyms: Cinnamene; Ethenylbenzene; Phenylethylene; Vinyl Benzene

CAS No: 100-42-5

Molecular Formula: C₈H₈

RTK Substance No: 1748

Description: Clear, colorless to yellow, oily liquid, with a sweet odor at low concentrations

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
<p>2 - Health</p> <p>3 - Fire</p> <p>2- Reactivity</p> <p>DOT#: UN 2055</p> <p>ERG Guide #: 128P</p> <p>Hazard Class: 3 (Flammable)</p>	<p>Styrene Monomer is a FLAMMABLE LIQUID. Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or foam as extinguishing agents.</p> <p>POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE. CONTAINERS MAY EXPLODE IN FIRE.</p> <p>Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.</p> <p>Vapor is heavier than air and may travel a distance to cause a fire or explosion far from the source and flash back.</p> <p>Styrene Monomer can POLYMERIZE resulting in uncontrolled reactions. These reactions may be explosive.</p> <p>Styrene Monomer may accumulate static electricity.</p>	<p><i>Unstabilized Styrene Monomer</i> can POLYMERIZE VIOLENTLY on exposure to HEAT; LIGHT; OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE); OXYGEN; PEROXIDES (such as <i>Dibenzoyl Peroxide</i>) or when CONTAMINATED.</p> <p>Styrene Monomer can form unstable <i>Peroxides</i> in AIR that may explode spontaneously.</p> <p>Styrene Monomer reacts violently with STRONG ACIDS (such as HYDROCHLORIC, SULFURIC, NITRIC and OLEUM) and METAL SALTS (such as IRON CHLORIDE and ALUMINUM CHLORIDE).</p> <p>Styrene Monomer attacks RUBBER, COPPER and COPPER ALLOYS.</p>

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance:

Spill: 50 meters (150 feet)

Fire: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

Absorb liquids in vermiculite, dry sand, earth, or a similar material and place into sealed containers for disposal.

Use only non-sparking tools and equipment, especially when opening and closing containers of **Styrene Monomer**.

Ground and bond containers when transferring **Styrene Monomer**.

Keep **Styrene Monomer** out of confined spaces, such as sewers, because of the possibility of an explosion.

DO NOT wash into sewer.

Styrene Monomer is toxic to aquatic organisms.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	0.04 to 0.32 ppm
Flash Point:	88°F (31°C)
LEL:	1%
UEL:	7%
Auto Ignition Temp:	914°F (490°C)
Vapor Density:	3.6 (air = 1)
Vapor Pressure:	5 mm Hg at 68°F (20°C)
Specific Gravity:	0.91 (water = 1)
Water Solubility:	Very slightly soluble
Boiling Point:	293°F (145°C)
Freezing Point:	-23°F (-31°C)
Ionization Potential:	8.4 eV
Molecular Weight:	104.2

EXPOSURE LIMITS

OSHA: 100 ppm, 8-hr TWA; 200 ppm Ceiling; 600 ppm, 5-min peak

NIOSH: 50 ppm, 10-hr; 100 ppm Ceiling

ACGIH: 20 ppm, 8-hr TWA; 40 ppm Ceiling

IDLH: 700 ppm

The Protective Action Criteria values are:

PAC-1 = 20 ppm PAC-2 = 130 ppm

PAC-3 = 1,100 ppm

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves:	Silver Shield®/4H®, Viton and Barrier® (>8-hr breakthrough)
Coveralls:	Tychem® F, CPF3, BR, CSM and TK; Trelchem® HPS and VPS (>8-hr breakthrough)
Respirator:	>20 ppm - full facepiece APR with <i>Organic vapor</i> cartridges >200 ppm - SCBA

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes: Irritation, rash, dryness, redness and burning feeling on contact

Skin: Irritation

Inhalation: Nose and throat irritation
Headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, and passing out

Chronic: Cancer (lung) in 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.

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 promptly to a medical facility.