Common Name: **TETRAFLUOROMETHANE**

CAS Number: 75-73-0  
DOT Number: UN 1982

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**HAZARD SUMMARY**

* **Tetrafluoromethane** can affect you when breathed in.
* High levels of **Tetrafluoromethane** in the air can decrease the amount of **Oxygen**. This can cause you to feel dizzy, lightheaded and to pass out. Very high levels could cause death.
* Skin contact with **Tetrafluoromethane** can cause frostbite.
* Similar chemicals can affect the heartbeat causing irregular rhythms and skipped beats. It is not known whether **Tetrafluoromethane** has this effect.

**IDENTIFICATION**

**Tetrafluoromethane** is a colorless and odorless gas which is often found as a compressed liquid. It is used as a low temperature refrigerant.

**REASON FOR CITATION**

* **Tetrafluoromethane** is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by DOT.
* 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.

* Exposure to hazardous substances should be routinely evaluated. This may include collecting personal and area air samples. You can obtain copies of sampling results from your employer. You have a legal right to this information under OSHA 1910.1020.
* If you think you are experiencing any work-related health problems, see a doctor trained to recognize occupational diseases. Take this Fact Sheet with you.

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**WORKPLACE EXPOSURE LIMITS**

No occupational exposure limits have been established for **Tetrafluoromethane**. This does not mean that this substance is not harmful. Safe work practices should always be followed.

**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.
* On skin contact with **Tetrafluoromethane**, immediately submerge the affected body part in warm water.
* Wash thoroughly 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 **Tetrafluoromethane** 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 Tetrafluoromethane:

* High levels of Tetrafluoromethane in the air can decrease the amount of Oxygen. This can cause you to feel dizzy, lightheaded and to pass out. Very high levels could cause death.
* Skin contact with Tetrafluoromethane can cause frostbite.
* Similar chemicals can affect the heartbeat causing irregular rhythms and skipped beats. It is not known whether Tetrafluoromethane has this effect.

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

Cancer Hazard
* According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Tetrafluoromethane has not been tested for its ability to cause cancer in animals.

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

Other Long-Term Effects
* No chronic (long-term) health effects are known at this time.

MEDICAL

Medical Testing
There is no special test for this chemical. However, if illness occurs or overexposure is suspected, medical attention is recommended.

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 OSHA 1910.1020.

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 controls are recommended:

* Where possible, automatically transfer Tetrafluoromethane from cylinders or other storage containers to process containers.
* Before entering a confined space where Tetrafluoromethane is present, check to make sure sufficient Oxygen (19%) exists.
* Specific engineering controls are required for this chemical by OSHA. Refer to the OSHA Standard: 29 CFR 1910.101 Compressed Gases.

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

* Workers whose clothing has been contaminated by Tetrafluoromethane should change into clean clothing promptly.
* 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 Tetrafluoromethane, immediately wash or shower to remove the chemical.
* Do not eat, smoke, or drink where Tetrafluoromethane 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 Tetrafluoromethane. Wear protective gloves and clothing. Safety equipment suppliers/manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove/clothing material for your operation.
* Where exposure to cold equipment, vapors, or liquid may occur, employees should be provided with special clothing designed to prevent the freezing of body tissues.
* All protective clothing (suits, gloves, footwear, headgear) should be clean, available each day, and put on before work.
* Safety equipment manufacturers recommend Neoprene as a protective material.

**Eye Protection**
* Wear non-vented, impact resistant goggles when working with fumes, gases, or vapors.
* 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.

* High levels of Tetrafluoromethane are dangerous because it can replace Oxygen and lead to suffocation. Only NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in the positive pressure mode should be used in Oxygen deficient environments.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

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.
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) 984-7407 (fax)

Web address: http://www.state.nj.us/health/ehp/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.

CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations, which consists of 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 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.

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

IRIS is the Integrated Risk Information System database of the federal EPA.

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

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.

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.

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.

PEL is the Permissible Exposure Limit which is enforceable by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

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.

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: TETRAFLUOROMETHANE
DOT Number: UN 1982
NAERG Code: 126
CAS Number: 75-73-0

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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

* Extinguish fire using an agent suitable for type of surrounding fire. Tetrafluoromethane itself does not burn.
* POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE, including Hydrogen Fluoride.
* 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 Tetrafluoromethane is leaked, take the following steps:

* Evacuate persons not wearing protective equipment from area of leak until clean-up is complete.
* Ventilate area of leak to disperse the gas.
* Stop flow of gas. If source of leak is a cylinder and the leak cannot be stopped in place, remove the leaking cylinder to a safe place in the open air, and repair leak or allow cylinder to empty.
* It may be necessary to contain and dispose of Tetrafluoromethane 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.
* If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. OSHA 1910.120(q) may be applicable.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

* Prior to working with Tetrafluoromethane you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.
* Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area away from POWDERED METALS (such as ALUMINUM, ZINC and BERYLLIUM) and from open flames or temperatures above 125°F (51.6°C)

FIRST AID

For POISON INFORMATION call 1-800-222-1222

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

Skin Contact
* Immerse affected part in warm water. Seek medical attention.

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.

PHYSICAL DATA

Water Solubility: Insoluble

OTHER COMMONLY USED NAMES

Chemical Name:
Methane, Tetrafluoro-
Other Names:
Arcton 0; Carbon Fluoride; Freon 14; Halon 14

Not intended to be copied and sold for commercial purposes.

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

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

CHEMTREC: (800) 424-9300
NJDEP HOTLINE: 1-877-WARN-DEP