

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

For the handling of ethidium bromide

Please adhere to this procedure when using ethidium bromide in the Gel Doc

Thanks

Rob Richards

Safe Operating Procedure for the use of Ethidium Bromide

- Richards' Laboratory 16th May, 2007
- The following relevant excerpts are taken from the ChemWatch MSDS for Ethidium Bromide
- Please adhere to these procedures when using ethidium bromide in the Gel Doc apparatus and ensure that the apparatus is clean from ethidium bromide contamination when you are finished working with it.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING

Avoid generating and breathing dust.

- Limit all unnecessary personal contact.
- Wear protective clothing when risk of exposure occurs.
- Use in a well-ventilated area.
- Avoid contact with incompatible materials.
- When handling, DO NOT eat, drink or smoke.
- Keep containers securely sealed when not in use.
- Avoid physical damage to containers.
- Always wash hands with soap and water after handling.
- Work clothes should be laundered separately.
- Use good occupational work practice.
- Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.
- Atmosphere should be regularly checked against established exposure standards to ensure safe working conditions are maintained.

SUITABLE CONTAINER

Glass container.

Plastic container.

Multi-ply woven plastic or paper bag with sealed plastic liner

NOTE: Bags should be stacked, blocked, interlocked, and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse.

- Check that containers are clearly labelled

Packaging as recommended by manufacturer.

STORAGE INCOMPATIBILITY

Avoid reaction with oxidising agents.

STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Store in original containers.
- Keep containers securely sealed.
- No smoking, naked lights or ignition sources.
- Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area.
- Store away from incompatible materials and foodstuff containers.
- Protect containers against physical damage and check regularly for leaks.
- Observe manufacturer's storing and handling recommendations.

Section 8 - EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

EXPOSURE CONTROLS

The following materials had no OELs on our records

- ethidium bromide: CAS:1239-45-8

MATERIAL DATA

No exposure limits set by NOHSC or ACGIH.

PERSONAL PROTECTION



EYE

- Safety glasses with side shields
- Chemical goggles.
- Contact lenses may pose a special hazard; soft contact lenses may absorb and concentrate irritants. A written policy document, describing the wearing of lens or restrictions on use, should be created for each workplace or task. This should include a review of lens absorption and adsorption for the class of chemicals in use and an account of injury experience. Medical and first-aid personnel should be trained in their removal and suitable equipment should be readily available. In the event of chemical exposure, begin eye irrigation immediately and remove contact lens as soon as practicable. Lens should be removed at the first signs of eye redness or irritation - lens should be removed in a clean environment only after workers have washed hands thoroughly. [CDC NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin 59]

HANDS/FEET

Wear general protective gloves: i.e. Disposable polythene gloves or Cotton gloves or Light weight rubber gloves, with Barrier cream preferably Safety footwear.

OTHER

- Overalls.
- Barrier cream
- Eyewash unit.

RESPIRATOR

Protection Factor	Half-Face Respirator	Full-Face Respirator	Powered Air Respirator
10 x ES	P1 Air-line*	- -	PAPR-P1 -
50 x ES	Air-line**	P2	PAPR-P2
100 x ES	-	P3	-

		Air-line*	-
100+ x ES	-	Air-line**	PAPR-P3

* - Negative pressure demand ** - Continuous flow.

The local concentration of material, quantity and conditions of use determine the type of personal protective equipment required.

For further information consult site specific CHEMWATCH data (if available), or your Occupational Health and Safety Advisor.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS

Use in a well-ventilated area.

- Local exhaust ventilation is required where solids are handled as powders or crystals; even when particulates are relatively large, a certain proportion will be powdered by mutual friction.
- Exhaust ventilation should be designed to prevent accumulation and recirculation of particulates in the workplace.
- If in spite of local exhaust an adverse concentration of the substance in air could occur, respiratory protection should be considered. Such protection might consist of:

(a): particle dust respirators, if necessary, combined with an absorption cartridge;

(b): filter respirators with absorption cartridge or canister of the right type;

(c): fresh-air hoods or masks

- Build-up of electrostatic charge on the dust particle, may be prevented by bonding and grounding.
- Powder handling equipment such as dust collectors, dryers and mills may require additional protection measures such as explosion venting.

Air contaminants generated in the workplace possess varying "escape" velocities which, in turn, determine the "capture velocities" of fresh circulating air required to efficiently remove the contaminant.

Type of Contaminant:	Air Speed:
direct spray, spray painting in shallow booths, drum filling, conveyer loading, crusher dusts, gas discharge (active generation into zone of rapid air motion)	1-2.5 m/s (200-500 f/min.)
grinding, abrasive blasting, tumbling, high speed wheel generated dusts (released at high initial velocity into zone of very high rapid air motion).	2.5-10 m/s (500-2000 f/min.)

Within each range the appropriate value depends on:

Lower end of the range	Upper end of the range
1: Room air currents minimal or favourable to capture	1: Disturbing room air currents
2: Contaminants of low toxicity or of	2: Contaminants of high toxicity

nuisance value only	
3: Intermittent, low production.	3: High production, heavy use
4: Large hood or large air mass in motion	4: Small hood-local control only

Simple theory shows that air velocity falls rapidly with distance away from the opening of a simple extraction pipe. Velocity generally decreases with the square of distance from the extraction point (in simple cases). Therefore the air speed at the extraction point should be adjusted, accordingly, after reference to distance from the contaminating source. The air velocity at the extraction fan, for example, should be a minimum of 4-10 m/s (800-2000 f/min) for extraction of crusher dusts generated 2 metres distant from the extraction point. Other mechanical considerations, producing performance deficits within the extraction apparatus, make it essential that theoretical air velocities are multiplied by factors of 10 or more when extraction systems are installed or used.