

Methyl Ethyl Ketone

Your Right to Know

Summary:

Methyl Ethyl Ketone is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is regulated by OSHA and cited by ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, DEP, HHAG, NFPA, and EPA.

This chemical is on the Special Health Hazard Substance List because it is flammable.

Methyl Ethyl Ketone can cause health effects through inhalation, ingestion, and contact with the skin.

Exposure Risks

Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) can affect you when inhaled and by passing through your skin. Its vapor is irritating to mucous membranes, and conjunctiva. Breathing MEK can irritate the nose and throat causing wheezing and coughing.

MEK can irritate the skin causing a rash or burning feeling on contact. Repeated exposure can cause drying and cracking of the skin. Contact can severely irritate and burn the eyes, leading to permanent damage

Exposure can cause dizziness, lightheadedness, headache, nausea, blurred vision, and may cause you to pass out. Repeated high exposure can damage the nervous system and may affect the brain.

Acute (short-term) inhalation to MEK in humans results in irritation to the eyes, nose

and throat. Limited information is available on the chronic (long-term) effects of MEK in humans. Chronic inhalation studies in animals have reported slight neurological, liver, kidney, and respiratory effects. No information is available on the developmental, reproductive, or carcinogenic effects of MEK in human. Developmental effects, including decreased fetal weight and fetal malformations, have been reported in mice and rats exposed to MEK via inhalation and ingestion. [EPA]

The odor threshold is 16 ppm.

The EPA has classified MEK as a Group D, not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity, based on the lack of data.

Do You Know Your Methyl Ethyl Ketone Exposure?

Passive dosimeters are the most convenient way to monitor your environment!

The *Kem Medical VAPOR-TRAK*[®] 8630 methyl ethyl ketone monitor has been validated for the OSHA 8-hour TWA exposure limit of 200 ppm and for the NIOSH and ACGIH exposure limit of 300 ppm for a 15-minute STEL.

All VAPOR-TRAK[®] badges are:

- Accurate, with reproducible results
- Easy to Use
- Designed for personal and area monitoring
- Full validation studies available
- Phone Notification of High Results
- Technical Assistance
- Pre-paid return postage and laboratory analysis inclusive

