

Acetic Acid

Summary:

Exposure to acetic acid occurs through breathing it in the workplace air, and/or contact with the skin. Repeated exposure to acetic acid can cause thickening and cracking of the skin, particularly the skin of the hands. Delayed exposure effects included irritation of the respiratory tract, chronic bronchitis, and erosion of teeth. Acetic acid is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is regulated by OSHA and cited by ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, SPA, and NFPA. This chemical is also on the Special Health Hazard Substance List because it is corrosive.

Your Right to Know

Exposure Risks

Repeated exposure to acetic acid may cause bronchitis to develop, with cough, phlegm and/or shortness of breath.

Ingestion of acetic acid causes severe pain in the mouth, gullet and stomach, possibly circulatory collapse, uremia, and death.

Acetic acid can affect you when breathed in. It can irritate the mouth, throat, and nose. It can irritate the lungs, causing coughing and/or shortness of breath. Higher exposures can cause a build up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath.

Acetic acid is a corrosive chemical and contact can cause severe irritation, burns, and permanent damage to the eyes.

Avoid skin contact with acetic acid. Contact

can irritate and severely burn the skin. Wear proper protective equipment.

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 acetic acid to potentially exposed workers.

Exposure to hazardous substances should be routinely evaluated. This may include collecting personal and area air samples.

Do You Know Your Acetic Acid Exposure?

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

The *Kem Medical VAPOR-TRAK® 8520* acetic acid monitor is validated at the O S H A 8 - h o u r T W A exposure limit of 10 ppm and the NIOSH and ACGIH recommended 15-minute STEL of 15 ppm.

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

