

Glutaraldehyde

Your Right to Know

Summary:

Glutaraldehyde is on the Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by NIOSH and ACGIH. If glutaraldehyde is not neutralized prior to disposal it may be necessary to contain and dispose of glutaraldehyde as a hazardous waste.



Glutaraldehyde Monitors



Glutaraldehyde Neutralizer Products

Exposure Risks

There is a basis for concern regarding health-care exposure to glutaraldehyde. NIOSH recommends employee exposure to glutaraldehyde be less than 0.2 ppm for a ceiling value. The ACGIH recommends an even lower ceiling level at 0.05 ppm.

Glutaraldehyde is a powerful biocidal agent having the advantage of continued activity in the presence of organic material. It is used as the chemosterilization of equipment that cannot be sterilized by traditional physical methods.

Glutaraldehyde displays a broad spectrum of activity and rapid rate of kill against the majority of organisms. Importantly, is its ability to kill bacterial spores. However, not all species are equally susceptible. The most resistant organisms to glutaraldehyde is the *Bacillus Subtilis* spore and requires its longest

length of time for a complete kill.

Precautionary statements include: Avoid breathing vapor. Use with adequate ventilation. Glutaraldehyde may also be absorbed into the body via skin contact and ingestion. An important health aspect to be aware of is that exposure to glutaraldehyde may cause occupational asthma. High concentrations can affect the central nervous system, and it is a potent skin sensitizer. A recent survey reported an increase in skin rashes, eye irritations, headaches, shortness of breath, chest pain/discomfort, cough, and fatigue due to glutaraldehyde exposure.

Know what your glutaraldehyde exposure level is with the #8550 glutaraldehyde monitor, which is sensitive to 0.01 ppm..

Reduce Glutaraldehyde Exposure

- *Solution and Powder Neutralizers*
- *Spill Kits*
- *Neutralizing Mats/Wipes*

Kem Medical Products provide products designed to protect the employee against exposure to glutaraldehyde during the tasks that produce the highest exposure. Independent lab testing available Greater than 99.99% effective.

Title 22 fish toxicity studies available

Safe at levels 3,000 mg/L

Neutralizing Spill Kits and Neutralizing Mats/Wipes both absorb and neutralize, eliminating hazard disposal fees