

Revision: 000

Date: 12th October 2004

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE AND COMPANY UNDERTAKING

General Chemical Name Tantalum(V)-oxide

Intended/recommended use: Research

Supplier (Distributor): New Metals & Chemicals Ltd.
Newmet House, Rue de St. Lawrence
Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 1PF
Telephone +44 (0)1992 711111

2. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Ingredient Name	Concentration	Classification*	CAS number	EINECS No.
Tantalum(V)-oxide	100%	Xi: R36/37/38	1314-61-0	215-238-2

*see 16. OTHER INFORMATION for full text of R-phrases.

3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Irritating to eyes, respiratory system and skin.

4. FIRST AID MEASURES

Inhalation If signs/symptoms like coughing or burning occur, remove person from exposure to fresh air immediately and administer 100 percent humidified supplement oxygen with assisted ventilation as required. If breathing has ceased DO NOT use mouth-to-mouth respiration. Apply artificial respiration using oxygen and a suitable mechanical device such as a bag and a mask. Seek immediate medical attention.

Skin Contact	Flush skin with large amounts of water. Remove contaminated clothing. If irritation persists, seek medical attention
Eye Contact	DO NOT allow patient to rub or keep eyes closed. Irrigate with copious quantities of water for at least 15 minutes. Flush under eyelids by lifting lid. DO NOT use a static eye bath. Seek immediate medical attention.
Ingestion	DO NOT induce vomiting. If patient is conscious and alert, wash out mouth with water. Give 2 cupfuls of milk with great care. Give nothing by mouth if patient is unconscious. Seek immediate medical attention.

5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Precautions against fire and explosion

Not flammable

Extinguishing media which must not be used for safety reasons

None.

Exposure hazards arising from substance, combustion products, resulting gases

Metal oxide particles and fumes may be formed in fire which are irritant .

Special protective equipment for fire fighters

Wear full protective clothing, including self-contained breathing apparatus.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Personal Precautions:

Remove or extinguish all ignition sources. Evacuate all but essential authorised control personnel. Wear self-contained breathing apparatus and gloves to avoid inhalation, skin and eye contact. Provide sufficient ventilation.

Environmental Precautions

Prevent entry into drains, surface and ground water, soil and confined areas.

Methods for Cleaning up

Only trained, authorised personnel should be involved. Fully encapsulating protective clothing and self contained breathing apparatus should be worn for spills and leaks with no fire. Do not touch damaged containers or spilled material unless wearing appropriate protective clothing.

Stop leak if you can do it without risk. Cover spills with dry sand, dry diatomaceous earth or dry salt followed with plastic sheet to minimise spreading . Place in a closed plastic container, suitably marked, and dispose of through a licensed disposal contractor.

7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Precautions for safe handling

To be handled by qualified and trained staff only. Avoid breathing dusts and direct contact with skin and eyes. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. See section 8 for personal protective equipment. Ensure good ventilation/exhaustion at the workplace.

Precautions for safe storage

Keep container cool, dry and tightly closed when not in use.

Store away from oxidisers, acids, halogens and other materials listed under incompatibility (see section 10).

Specific use

Research.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

Exposure limit values

Ingredient name	OES LTEL (8 hr TWA)	OES STEL (15 min)	MEL(LT)	MEL(ST)
Tantalum	5mg/m ³	10mg/m ³		

The usual precautionary measures should be adhered to in handling chemicals. Keep away from foodstuffs, beverages and food. Instantly remove any soiled and impregnated garments. Wash hands during breaks and at end of the work. Avoid contact with the eyes and skin.

Occupational exposure controls

Eye Protection	Wear appropriate protective eyeglasses, chemical safety goggles or full face shield to European Standard EN 166.
Hand protection	Wear appropriate gloves when handling this material. Suitable material is butyl rubber. However, due regard must be taken that heavy gloves will interfere with the wearer's sense to touch and may contribute to a dangerous situation. Thinner gloves of nitrile and PVC may be used as disposable gloves and must be discarded immediately after use. Gloves should comply with European Standard EN 465-3 class 3.
Skin Protection	Use one or more of the following personal protection items as necessary to prevent skin contact: Full chemical protective suit to EN 465 standard, PVC apron, helmet and boots.
Respiratory Protection	Avoid inhalation of dust. Select the following respirator based on airborne concentration of contaminants: Full face dust respirator. Half -mask air-supplied respirator to EN 147. Full-face high efficiency filter respirator to EN 147 or EN 12941/12942. Full-face or hood compressed air breathing apparatus to EN 139 or EN 270/271. Use appropriate local exhaust ventilation, to maintain airborne exposure below control limits.
Ingestion:	Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. Do not ingest. Exhibit the strictest hygiene control.

Environmental exposure controls

The material is not listed as a hazardous pollutant. However, in accordance with best practice only use in a fume cupboard or with local exhaust ventilation, ventilated to a scrubbing system. In case of fire, spillage, or leakage, prevent material from entering water courses, sewers or soil.

9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

General information

Appearance	White powder
Odour	Odourless

Important health, safety and environmental information

pH	N/A
Boiling point/boiling range	N/A
Melting point/melting range	1872 ⁰ C
Flash point	N/A
Flammability (solid, gas)	Not flammable
Autoignition temperature	N/A
Explosive properties	Not explosive
Oxidising properties	Not oxidising
Vapour Pressure	N/A
Relative density	8.2g/cm ³ at 20 ⁰ C
Solubility Water	Insoluble

10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Stability	Stable.
Conditions to avoid	Avoid creating dusts.
Materials to avoid	Oxidising agents, halogens, interhalogens, alkali metals Reacts violently with interhalogens.
Hazardous Decomposition Products	Decomposition products include irritating metal oxides.

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

The systemic toxicity of tantalum oxide, as well as that of metallic tantalum, is low, which is probably due to its poor solubility. It does however, represent a skin, eye and respiratory hazard. Tantalum has been attributed an etiological role in hard-metal pneumoconiosis and in the skin affection caused by hard-metal dust.

A specific review on the clinical effects and treatment of individuals exposed to this agent has

not yet been prepared. The following pertains to the general evaluation and treatment of individuals exposed to potentially toxic chemicals.

No toxic manifestations have been reported in experimental animals or man.

The material is an irritant to skin, eyes and mucous membranes.

Effects from eye contact	May cause severe irritation and damage to the eyes. Symptoms include irritation, redness and conjunctivitis.
Effects from skin contact	May cause skin irritation and sensitisation. Prolonged exposure may cause allergic dermatitis.
Effects from inhalation	May cause irritation to mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract. Symptoms include irritation of the eyes, nose and upper respiratory tract. May cause sensitisation.
Effects from ingestion	Irritating to digestive tract. Symptoms include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting diarrhoea, soreness/redness of the mouth and throat and dysphagia.

(a) Acute toxicity (oral, inhalation, dermal)

LD₅₀ oral rat 8000mg/kg

Immediately dangerous to life or health 2500mg/m³ (as Ta)

(b) Corrosive/irritation (eye, skin, respiratory tract)

Irritant for eye, skin and respiratory tract.

(c) Sensitisation (skin, respiratory)

not tested/no data

(d) Repeated-dose toxicity

not tested/no data

(e) Mutagenicity

not tested/no data

(f) Carcinogenicity

Not classified as a human carcinogen. Inadequate data on which to classify the agent in terms of its carcinogenicity in humans and/or animals.

(g) Reproductive toxicity

not tested/no data

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

(1) Ecotoxicity

(a) Aquatic toxicity

(i) acute and chronic for fish

not tested/no data

- (ii) acute and chronic for daphnia not tested/no data
- (iii) acute and chronic for algae not tested/no data
- (iv) acute and chronic for other aquatic plants not tested/no data

(b) Soil toxicity

- (i) macro organisms not tested/no data
- (ii) micro organisms not tested/no data
- (iii) birds not tested/no data
- (iv) bees not tested/no data
- (v) plants not tested/no data
- (vi) fauna not tested/no data

(2) Mobility

Tantalum compounds will not volatilise from dry or moist soil surfaces or from water due to their ionic character. Tantalum compounds will exist solely in the particulate phase in the ambient atmosphere. Particulate-phase tantalum compounds will be removed from the atmosphere by wet and dry deposition. There is very little geographical variability or environmental mobilisation of tantalum, possibly due to its very low solubility. Tantalum begins to precipitate out of solution below pH 10. Occupational exposure to tantalum and tantalum compounds may occur through inhalation of dust, and by dermal contact with this compound at workplaces where tantalum is produced or used.

(3) Persistence and degradability

see above

(4) Bioaccumulation potential

Insufficient data available

(5) Other adverse effects

No other effects are known.

There is little information available on the toxicity of tantalum, particularly in the environment. However, it would be prudent not to allow material to be released to the environment.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

All waste material to be contained in a plastic sealed bin, duly marked, and disposed of as special waste through a licensed waste contractor in accordance with “The Special Waste Regulations 1996”. See sections 6 and 7.

14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Airfreight (IATA)	Seafreight (IMDG)	Road (ADR)	Rail (RID)
(a) UN number			N/A
(b) Class			N/A
(c) Proper shipping name			N/A
(d) Packing group			N/A
(e) Marine pollutant			N/A
(f) Other applicable information			N/A

Tantalum(V)-oxide is not restricted for shipment

15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

EC Supply: Chip-3 regulations 2002

Xi: Irritant

Risk Phrases:

36/37/38: Irritating to eyes, respiratory system and skin.

Safety Phrases:

22: Do not breathe dust.

26: In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

36/37/39: Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection.

This material is subject to the COSHH regulations 2002. See COSHH Essentials for further information.

16. OTHER INFORMATION

R Phrases Full Text:

36/37/38: Irritating to eyes, respiratory system and skin.

Abbreviations used:

CAS	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Numbers
EINECS	European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
TWA	Time Weighted Average
OES	Occupational Exposure Standards

This material should only be handled by qualified, trained persons, fully familiar with its dangerous properties. During use or handling, a minimum of two persons should always be available.

References:

Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002

Approved classification and labelling guide. Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 Guidance on Regulations L131

Approved Supply List. Information Approved for the Classification and labelling of Substances and Preparations Dangerous for Supply. Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002. Approved List L129

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

COSHH Essentials: Easy Steps to Control Chemicals. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

Occupational Exposure Limits 2001/2002 EH40

European Inventory of Existing Commercial Substances (EINECS) available on the European Chemicals Bureau website at www.ecb.jrc.it/existing-chemicals

First Aid at Work. The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. Approved Code of Practice and Guidance L74

Personal Protective Equipment (EC Directive) Regulations 1992

The Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Equipment: A Practical Guide HSG53

Cost and Effectiveness of Chemical Protective Gloves for the Workplace.

Guidance for Employers and Health and Safety Specialists. HSG206

Environmental Protection Act 1990 c43

Environmental Act 1995 c25

The Special Waste Regulations 1996

The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002