Occupational Health Guideline for alpha-Chloroacetophenone

INTRODUCTION

This guideline is intended as a source of information for employees, employers, physicians, industrial hygienists, and other occupational health professionals who may have a need for such information. It does not attempt to present all data; rather, it presents pertinent information and data in summary form.

SUBSTANCE IDENTIFICATION

- Formula: $C_6H_5COCH_2Cl$
- Synonyms: Phenyacyl chloride; omega=chloroacetophenone; chloroacetophenone; chloromethyl phenyl ketone; phenyl chloromethyl ketone; "tear gas"; CN
- Appearance and odor: Colorless to gray solid with a sharp, irritating odor.

PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE LIMIT (PEL)

The current OSHA standard for alpha-chloroacetophenone is 0.05 part of alpha-chloroacetophenone per million parts of air (ppm) averaged over an eight-hour work shift. This may also be expressed as 0.3 milligram of alpha-chloroacetophenone per cubic meter of air (mg/m^3).

HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

- **Routes of exposure**

alpha-Chloroacetophenone can cause irritation of the eyes and skin upon contact and irritation of the lungs if it is inhaled. It can also cause difficulty if it is swallowed.

- **Effects of overexposure**

alpha-Chloroacetophenone vapors may cause a tingling or runny nose, burning and/or pain of the eyes, blurred vision, and tears. Burning in the chest, difficult breathing, and nausea may occur. Skin irritation, rash, or burns may occur.

- **Reporting signs and symptoms**

A physician should be contacted if anyone develops any signs or symptoms and suspects that they are caused by exposure to alpha-chloroacetophenone.

- **Recommended medical surveillance**

The following medical procedures should be made available to each employee who is exposed to alpha-chloroacetophenone at potentially hazardous levels:

1. Initial Medical Screening: Employees should be screened for history of certain medical conditions (listed below) which might place the employee at increased risk from alpha-chloroacetophenone exposure.

—Chronic respiratory disease: In persons with impaired pulmonary function, especially those with obstructive airway diseases, the breathing of alpha-chloroacetophenone might cause exacerbation of symptoms due to its irritant properties or psychic reflex bronchospasm.

—Skin disease: alpha-Chloroacetophenone is irritating to the skin, especially if moist. Persons with pre-existing skin diseases may be more susceptible to the effects of alpha-chloroacetophenone.

—Eye disease: alpha-Chloroacetophenone is a potent lacrimator and eye irritant and may cause corneal damage. Persons with pre-existing eye diseases may be at increased risk from exposure.

2. Periodic Medical Examination: Any employee developing the above-listed conditions should be referred for further medical examination.

- **Summary of toxicology**

alpha-Chloroacetophenone is a highly irritating substance. Exposure to low concentrations produces lacrimation and irritation of the eyes and upper respiratory tract. Exposure to high concentrations produces marked conjunctivitis and may cause corneal damage. Pulmonary edema may occur, often delayed for some 12 hours after exposure. No chronic effects are reported.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

- **Physical data**
  1. Molecular weight: 155
  2. Boiling point (760 mm Hg): 247 C (477 F)
  3. Specific gravity (water = 1): 1.32
  4. Vapor density (air = 1 at boiling point of alpha-chloroacetophenone): 5.2
  5. Melting point: 59 C (138 F)
  6. Vapor pressure at 20 C (68 F): 0.012 mm Hg
  7. Solubility in water, g/100 g water at 20 C (68 F): Insoluble
  8. Evaporation rate (butyl acetate = 1): Very much less than 1
- **Reactivity**
  1. Conditions contributing to instability: Heat
  2. Incompatibilities: Water or steam
  3. Hazardous decomposition products: Toxic and corrosive vapors are produced when combined with steam or water.
  4. Special precautions: None
- **Flammability**
  1. Flash point: 118 C (244 F)
  2. Autoignition temperature: Data not available
  3. Flammable limits in air, % by volume: Not applicable
  4. Extinguishant: Carbon dioxide or dry chemical
- **Warning properties**
  1. Odor Threshold: According to the *Documentation of TLV's*, the odor threshold is 0.1 mg/m^3.
  2. Irritation Levels: According to the *Documentation of TLV's*, "irritation thresholds range from 0.15 to 0.4 mg/m^3, lacrimation thresholds from 0.3 to 0.4 mg/m^3 . . ."
  3. Evaluation of Warning Properties: Through its odor and irritant effects, alpha-chloroacetophenone can be detected below the permissible exposure limit; therefore, it is considered to have adequate warning properties.

MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES

- **General**

Measurements to determine employee exposure are best taken so that the average eight-hour exposure is based on a single eight-hour sample or on two four-hour samples. Several short-time interval samples (up to 30 minutes) may also be used to determine the average exposure level. Air samples should be taken in the employee's breathing zone (air that would most nearly represent that inhaled by the employee).

- **Method**

An analytical method for alpha-chloroacetophenone is in the *NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods*, 2nd Ed., Vol. 5, 1979, available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (GPO No. 017-033-00349-1).

RESPIRATORS

- Good industrial hygiene practices recommend that engineering controls be used to reduce environmental concentrations to the permissible exposure level. However, there are some exceptions where respirators may be used to control exposure. Respirators may be used when engineering and work practice controls are not technically feasible, when such controls are in the process of being installed, or when they fail and need to be supplemented. Respirators may also be used for operations which require entry into tanks or closed vessels, and in emergency situations. If the use of respirators is necessary, the only respirators permitted are those that have been approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (formerly Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration) or by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- In addition to respirator selection, a complete respiratory protection program should be instituted which includes regular training, maintenance, inspection, cleaning, and evaluation.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Employees should be provided with and required to use impervious clothing, gloves, face shields (eight-inch minimum), and other appropriate protective clothing necessary to prevent any possibility of skin contact with solid alpha-chloroacetophenone or liquids containing alpha-chloroacetophenone.
- If employees' clothing may have become contaminated with solid alpha-chloroacetophenone, employees should change into uncontaminated clothing before leaving the work premises.
- Clothing contaminated with alpha-chloroacetophenone should be placed in closed containers for storage until it can be discarded or until provision is made for the removal of alpha-chloroacetophenone from the clothing. If the clothing is to be laundered or otherwise cleaned to remove the alpha-chloroacetophenone, the person performing the operation should be informed of alpha-chloroacetophenone's hazardous properties.
- Non-impervious clothing which becomes contaminated with alpha-chloroacetophenone should be removed immediately and not reworn until the alpha-chloroacetophenone is removed from the clothing.
- Where there is any possibility that employees' eyes may be exposed to alpha-chloroacetophenone, an eyewash fountain should be provided within the immediate work area for emergency use.
- Employees should be provided with and required to use dust- and splash-proof safety goggles where there is any possibility of solid alpha-chloroacetophenone or liquids containing alpha-chloroacetophenone contacting the eyes.

SANITATION

• Skin that becomes contaminated with alpha-chloroacetophenone should be immediately washed or showered with soap or mild detergent and water to remove any alpha-chloroacetophenone.

• Eating and smoking should not be permitted in areas where solid alpha-chloroacetophenone is handled, processed, or stored.

• Employees who handle solid alpha-chloroacetophenone or liquids containing alpha-chloroacetophenone should wash their hands thoroughly with soap or mild detergent and water before eating, smoking, or using toilet facilities.

COMMON OPERATIONS AND CONTROLS

The following list includes some common operations in which exposure to alpha-chloroacetophenone may occur and control methods which may be effective in each case:

Operation	Controls
Liberation during loading of solutions for aerosols for law enforcement and civilian protective devices	General dilution ventilation; respiratory protective equipment
Liberation during manufacture	Process enclosure; general dilution ventilation
Liberation during denaturing of industrial alcohol	General dilution ventilation

EMERGENCY FIRST AID PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, institute first aid procedures and send for first aid or medical assistance.

• **Eye Exposure**

If alpha-chloroacetophenone gets into the eyes, wash eyes immediately with large amounts of water, lifting the lower and upper lids occasionally. Get medical attention as soon as possible. Contact lenses should not be worn when working with this chemical.

• **Skin Exposure**

If alpha-chloroacetophenone gets on the skin, immediately wash the contaminated skin using soap or mild detergent and water. If alpha-chloroacetophenone soaks through the clothing, remove the clothing immediately and wash the skin using soap or mild detergent and water. When there are chemical burns or evidence of skin irritation, get medical attention.

• **Breathing**

If a person breathes in large amounts of alpha-chloroacetophenone, move the exposed person to fresh air at once. If breathing has stopped, perform artificial respiration. Keep the affected person warm and at rest. Get medical attention as soon as possible.

• **Swallowing**

When alpha-chloroacetophenone has been swallowed, get medical attention immediately. If medical attention is not immediately available, get the afflicted person to vomit by having him touch the back of his throat with his finger or by giving him syrup of ipecac as directed on the package. This non-prescription drug is available at most drug stores and drug counters and should be kept with emergency medical supplies in the workplace. Do not make an unconscious person vomit.

• **Rescue**

Move the affected person from the hazardous exposure. If the exposed person has been overcome, notify someone else and put into effect the established emergency rescue procedures. Do not become a casualty. Understand the facility's emergency rescue procedures and know the locations of rescue equipment before the need arises.

SPILL AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

• Persons not wearing protective equipment and clothing should be restricted from areas of spills until cleanup has been completed.

• If alpha-chloroacetophenone is spilled, the following steps should be taken:

1. Ventilate area of spill.
2. For small quantities, sweep onto paper or other suitable material, place in an appropriate container and burn in a safe place (such as a fume hood). Large quantities may be reclaimed; however, if this is not practical, dissolve in a flammable solvent (such as alcohol) and atomize in a suitable combustion chamber equipped with an appropriate effluent gas cleaning device.

• Waste disposal methods:

alpha-Chloroacetophenone may be disposed of:

1. By making packages of alpha-chloroacetophenone in paper or other flammable material and burning in a suitable combustion chamber equipped with an appropriate effluent gas cleaning device.
2. By dissolving alpha-chloroacetophenone in a flammable solvent (such as alcohol) and atomizing in a suitable combustion chamber equipped with an appropriate effluent gas cleaning device.

REFERENCES

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RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR ALPHA-CHLOROACETOPHENONE

Condition	Minimum Respiratory Protection* Required Above 0.05 ppm
Particulate and Vapor Concentration	
15 mg/m³ (2.5 ppm) or less	A chemical cartridge respirator with a full facepiece and an organic vapor cartridge(s) and high efficiency particulate filter(s). A gas mask with a chin-style or a front- or back-mounted organic vapor canister with a high efficiency particulate filter. Any supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece, helmet, or hood. Any self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece.
100 mg/m³ (16 ppm) or less	A Type C supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in pressure-demand or other positive pressure mode or with a full facepiece, helmet, or hood operated in continuous-flow mode.
Greater than 100 mg/m³ (16 ppm) or entry and escape from unknown concentrations	Self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in pressure-demand or other positive pressure mode. A combination respirator which includes a Type C supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in pressure-demand or other positive pressure or continuous-flow mode and an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus operated in pressure-demand or other positive pressure mode.
Fire Fighting	Self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in pressure-demand or other positive pressure mode.
Escape	Any gas mask with a full facepiece providing protection against organic vapors and particulates. Any escape self-contained breathing apparatus.

*Only NIOSH-approved or MSHA-approved equipment should be used.