

CLIP, Chemical Laboratory Information Profile

"Only when you know the hazards, can you take the necessary precautionary measures."

Sodium Nitrate**CAS No.: 7631-99-4**

Synonyms: Chile saltpeter

Physical Properties**Exposure Limits**

White hygroscopic crystals.

Vapor pressure at 20 °C: negligible

Melting point: 307 °C

Boiling point: 380 °C (decomposes)

OSHA PEL: NE

ACGIH TLV: NE

Hazardous Characteristics

Overall toxicity	Flammability	Destructive to skin/eye	Absorbed through skin	Sensitizer?	Self-reactive?	Incompatible with:
1	0	1	0	No	No	Flammables, combustibles, other reducing agents, many organic compounds, metals, strong acids.*

0: None (or very low); 1: Slight; 2: Moderate; 3: High; 4: Severe.

***Reactivity Hazards**

Sodium nitrate is a strong oxidizing agent; it reacts violently with flammables, combustibles, many organic compounds, and other reducing agents such as granulated or powdered aluminum, magnesium, and other metals, often causing fires and explosions. When reacted with strong acids, it forms toxic nitrogen dioxide. See Bretherick's *Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards* for details and for other incompatibilities.

Cited as known to be or reasonably anticipated to be carcinogenic in NTP-9? No

Identified as a reproductive toxin in Frazier and Hage, *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace?* No**Typical symptoms of acute exposures:**

In the eyes: pain, blurred vision. On the skin: irritation. When ingested: abdominal spasm, fainting, blue skin, muscular spasm.

Principal target organ(s) or system(s):

Eyes, skin.

Storage Requirements

Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location, away from flammables, combustibles, and other reducing agents.

Additional Remarks

Sodium nitrate decomposes when heated above its boiling point, forming oxygen and toxic nitrogen dioxide.

Notes**ReadMe**

This Chemical Laboratory Information Profile is *not* a Material Safety Data Sheet. It is a brief summary for teachers and their students that describes some of the hazards of this chemical as it is typically used in laboratories. On the basis of your knowledge of these hazards and before using or handling this chemical, *you need to select the precautions and first-aid procedures to be followed*. For that information as well as for other useful information, refer to Material Safety Data Sheets, container labels, and references in the scientific literature that pertain to this chemical.

Reproductive Toxins

Some substances that in fact are reproductive toxins are not yet recognized as such. For the best readily available and up-to-date information, refer to "DART/ETIC". See the TOXNET home page at www.sis.nlm.nih.gov and click on "Toxicology search". *Note that some of the data in DART/ETIC have not been peer-reviewed*. See also Linda M. Frazier and Marvin L. Hage, *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace*, Wiley, 1998; and T. H. Shepard, *Catalog of Teratogenic Agents*, 9th ed.; Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Abbreviations

ACGIH TLV—American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists—Threshold Limit Value. C—Ceiling. CAS—Chemical Abstracts Service. mg/m³—milligrams per cubic meter. NA—Not applicable. NE—Not established. NI—No information. NTP-9—National Toxicology Program, Ninth Annual Report on Carcinogens. OSHA PEL—Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Permissible Exposure Limit. ppm—parts per million. STEL/C—Short-term exposure limit and ceiling.

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