



Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet

Common Name: **BENZ(a)ANTHRACENE**

Synonyms: Naphthanthracene; Tetraphene

Chemical Name: Benz[a]Anthracene

Date: August 2008 Revision: November 2016

CAS Number: 56-55-3

RTK Substance Number: 0193

DOT Number: UN 3077

Description and Use

Benz(a)Anthracene is an odorless, colorless to yellow brown flake, plate or powder. It is not produced commercially, but is used in research laboratories. It is also found in *Coal Tar*, roasted coffee, smoked foods, and automobile exhaust, and is formed as an intermediate during chemical manufacturing.

Reasons for Citation

- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** is on the Right to Know Hazardous Substance List because it is cited by OSHA, ACGIH, DOT, NIOSH, NTP, DEP, IARC, and EPA.
- ▶ This chemical is on the Special Health Hazard Substance List.

[SEE GLOSSARY ON PAGE 5.](#)

FIRST AID

Eye Contact

- ▶ Immediately flush with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting upper and lower lids. Remove contact lenses, if worn, while rinsing.

Skin Contact

- ▶ Remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with soap and water.

Inhalation

- ▶ Remove the person from exposure.
- ▶ Transfer promptly to a medical facility.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300

NJDEP Hotline: 1-877-927-6337

National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS >>>> SEE BACK PAGE

Hazard Summary

Hazard Rating	NJDHSS	NFPA
HEALTH	3	-
FLAMMABILITY	1	-
REACTIVITY	0	-
CARCINOGEN POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE		

Hazard Rating Key: 0=minimal; 1=slight; 2=moderate; 3=serious; 4=severe

- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** can affect you when inhaled.
- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** should be handled as a CARCINOGEN and MUTAGEN--WITH EXTREME CAUTION.
- ▶ For more information, consult the *Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet on COAL TAR PITCH*.

Workplace Exposure Limits

OSHA: The legal airborne permissible exposure limit (PEL) is **0.2 mg/m³** (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles, Benzene-soluble fraction*) averaged over an 8-hour workshift.

NIOSH: The recommended airborne exposure limit (REL) is **0.1 mg/m³** (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles, Cyclohexane-extractable fraction*) averaged over a 10-hour workshift.

ACGIH: Recommends that exposure by all routes be controlled to levels as low as possible.

- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** is a PROBABLE CARCINOGEN in humans. There may be no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen, so all contact should be reduced to the lowest possible level.

Determining Your Exposure

- ▶ Read the product manufacturer’s Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the label to determine product ingredients and important safety and health information about the product mixture.
- ▶ For each individual hazardous ingredient, read the New Jersey Department of Health Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, available on the RTK Program website (<http://nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/right-to-know/>) or in your facility’s RTK Central File or Hazard Communication Standard file.
- ▶ You have a right to this information under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act, the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act if you are a public worker in New Jersey, and under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) if you are a private worker.
- ▶ The New Jersey Right to Know Act and the PEOSH Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7) requires most employers to label chemicals in the workplace and requires public employers to provide their employees with information concerning chemical hazards and controls. The federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) requires private employers to provide similar information and training to their employees.

This Fact Sheet is a summary of available information regarding the health hazards that may result from exposure. Duration of exposure, concentration of the substance and other factors will affect your susceptibility to any of the potential effects described below.

Health Hazard Information

Acute Health Effects

The following acute (short-term) health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposure to **Benz(a)Anthracene**:

- ▶ No acute (short-term) health effects are known at this time.

Chronic Health Effects

The following chronic (long-term) health effects can occur at some time after exposure to **Benz(a)Anthracene** and can last for months or years:

Cancer Hazard

- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** is a PROBABLE CARCINOGEN in humans. There is evidence that it causes cancer in humans and it has been shown to cause liver and lung cancer in animals.
- ▶ Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen. Such substance may also have the potential for causing reproductive damage in humans.

Reproductive Hazard

- ▶ According to the information presently available to the New Jersey Department of Health, **Benz(a)Anthracene** has not been tested for its ability to affect reproduction.

Other Effects

- ▶ No chronic (long-term) health effects are known at this time.

Medical

Medical Testing

There is no special test for this chemical. However, seek medical attention if illness occurs or overexposure is suspected.

Any evaluation should include a careful history of past and present symptoms with an exam. Medical tests that look for damage already done are not a substitute for controlling exposure.

Request copies of your medical testing. You have a legal right to this information under the OSHA Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records Standard (29 CFR 1910.1020).

Workplace Controls and Practices

Very toxic chemicals, or those that are reproductive hazards or sensitizers, require expert advice on control measures if a less toxic chemical cannot be substituted. Control measures include: (1) enclosing chemical processes for severely irritating and corrosive chemicals, (2) using local exhaust ventilation for chemicals that may be harmful with a single exposure, and (3) using general ventilation to control exposures to skin and eye irritants. For further information on workplace controls, consult the NIOSH document on Control Banding at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ctrlbanding/.

The following work practices are also recommended:

- ▶ Label process containers.
- ▶ Provide employees with hazard information and training.
- ▶ Monitor airborne chemical concentrations.
- ▶ Use engineering controls if concentrations exceed recommended exposure levels.
- ▶ Provide eye wash fountains and emergency showers.
- ▶ Wash or shower if skin comes in contact with a hazardous material.
- ▶ Always wash at the end of the workshift.
- ▶ Change into clean clothing if clothing becomes contaminated.
- ▶ Do not take contaminated clothing home.
- ▶ Get special training to wash contaminated clothing.
- ▶ Do not eat, smoke, or drink in areas where chemicals are being handled, processed or stored.
- ▶ Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, drinking, applying cosmetics or using the toilet.

In addition, the following may be useful or required:

- ▶ Use a Class I, Type B, biological safety hood when mixing, handling, or preparing **Benz(a)Anthracene**.
- ▶ Use a vacuum or a wet method to reduce dust during clean-up. **DO NOT DRY SWEEP.**
- ▶ Use a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter when vacuuming. Do not use a standard shop vacuum.

Personal Protective Equipment

The OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standard (29 CFR 1910.132) requires employers to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for each hazard and to train employees on how and when to use protective equipment.

The following recommendations are only guidelines and may not apply to every situation.

Gloves and Clothing

- ▶ Avoid skin contact with **Benz(a)Anthracene**. Wear personal protective equipment made from material that can not be permeated or degraded by this substance. Safety equipment suppliers and manufacturers can provide recommendations on the most protective glove and clothing material for your operation.
- ▶ Safety equipment manufacturers recommend Nitrile or Natural Rubber for gloves and DuPont Tyvek®, or the equivalent, as a protective material for clothing.

Eye Protection

- ▶ Wear eye protection with side shields or goggles.

Respiratory Protection

Improper use of respirators is dangerous. Respirators should only be used if the employer has implemented a written program that takes into account workplace conditions, requirements for worker training, respirator fit testing, and medical exams, as described in the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

- ▶ Where the potential exists for exposure over **0.1 mg/m³** (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles*), use a NIOSH approved supplied-air respirator with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode. For increased protection use in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode.
- ▶ Exposure to **80 mg/m³** (as *Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles*) is immediately dangerous to life and health. If the possibility of exposure above **80 mg/m³** exists, use a NIOSH approved self-contained breathing apparatus with a full facepiece operated in a pressure-demand or other positive-pressure mode equipped with an emergency escape air cylinder.

Fire Hazards

If employees are expected to fight fires, they must be trained and equipped as stated in the OSHA Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156).

- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** may burn, but does not readily ignite.
- ▶ Use dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or foam as extinguishing agents.
- ▶ POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE.
- ▶ Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.

Spills and Emergencies

If employees are required to clean-up spills, they must be properly trained and equipped. The OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (29 CFR 1910.120) may apply.

If **Benz(a)Anthracene** is spilled, take the following steps:

- ▶ Evacuate personnel and secure and control entrance to the area.
- ▶ Eliminate all ignition sources.
- ▶ Moisten spilled material first or use a HEPA-filter vacuum for clean-up and deposit in sealed containers.
- ▶ Ventilate and wash area after clean-up is complete.
- ▶ DO NOT wash into sewer.
- ▶ It may be necessary to contain and dispose of **Benz(a)Anthracene** as a HAZARDOUS WASTE. Contact your state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or your regional office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific recommendations.

Handling and Storage

Prior to working with **Benz(a)Anthracene** you should be trained on its proper handling and storage.

- ▶ A regulated, marked area should be established where **Benz(a)Anthracene** is handled, used, or stored.
- ▶ **Benz(a)Anthracene** is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE).
- ▶ Store in tightly closed containers in a cool, well-ventilated area.

Occupational Health Information Resources

The New Jersey Department of Health, Occupational Health Service, offers multiple services in occupational health. These services include providing informational resources, educational materials, public presentations, and industrial hygiene and medical investigations and evaluations.

For more information, please contact:

New Jersey Department of Health
 Right to Know Program
 PO Box 368
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0368
 Phone: 609-984-2202
 Fax: 609-984-7407
 E-mail: rtk@doh.nj.gov
 Web address:
<http://nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/right-to-know/>

The Right to Know Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets are not intended to be copied and sold for commercial purposes.

GLOSSARY

ACGIH is the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. They publish guidelines called Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for exposure to workplace chemicals.

Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGs) are established by the EPA. They describe the risk to humans resulting from once-in-a-lifetime, or rare, exposure to airborne chemicals.

Boiling point is the temperature at which a substance can change its physical state from a liquid to a gas.

A **carcinogen** is a substance that causes cancer.

The **CAS number** is unique, identifying number, assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service, to a specific chemical.

CFR is the Code of Federal Regulations, which are the regulations of the United States government.

A **combustible** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that will burn.

A **corrosive** substance is a gas, liquid or solid that causes destruction of human skin or severe corrosion of containers.

DEP is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

DOT is the Department of Transportation, the federal agency that regulates the transportation of chemicals.

EPA is the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency responsible for regulating environmental hazards.

ERG is the Emergency Response Guidebook. It is a guide for emergency responders for transportation emergencies involving hazardous substances.

Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG) values are intended to provide estimates of concentration ranges where one reasonably might anticipate observing adverse effects.

A **fetus** is an unborn human or animal.

A **flammable** substance is a solid, liquid, vapor or gas that will ignite easily and burn rapidly.

The **flash point** is the temperature at which a liquid or solid gives off vapor that can form a flammable mixture with air.

IARC is the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a scientific group.

Ionization Potential is the amount of energy needed to remove an electron from an atom or molecule. It is measured in electron volts.

IRIS is the Integrated Risk Information System database maintained by federal EPA. The database contains information on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment.

LEL or Lower Explosive Limit, is the lowest concentration of a combustible substance (gas or vapor) in the air capable of continuing an explosion.

mg/m³ means milligrams of a chemical in a cubic meter of air. It is a measure of concentration (weight/volume).

A **mutagen** is a substance that causes mutations. A **mutation** is a change in the genetic material in a body cell. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association. It classifies substances according to their fire and explosion hazard.

NIOSH is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It tests equipment, evaluates and approves respirators, conducts studies of workplace hazards, and proposes standards to OSHA.

NTP is the National Toxicology Program which tests chemicals and reviews evidence for cancer.

OSHA is the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards.

PEOSHA is the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which adopts and enforces health and safety standards in public workplaces.

Permeated is the movement of chemicals through protective materials.

PIH is a DOT designation for chemicals which are Poison Inhalation Hazards.

ppm means parts of a substance per million parts of air. It is a measure of concentration by volume in air.

A **reactive** substance is a solid, liquid or gas that releases energy under certain conditions.

STEL is a Short Term Exposure Limit which is usually a 15-minute exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a work day.

A **teratogen** is a substance that causes birth defects by damaging the fetus.

UEL or Upper Explosive Limit is the highest concentration in air above which there is too much fuel (gas or vapor) to begin a reaction or explosion.

Vapor Density is the ratio of the weight of a given volume of one gas to the weight of another (usually *Hydrogen*), at the same temperature and pressure.

The **vapor pressure** is a measure of how readily a liquid or a solid mixes with air at its surface. A higher vapor pressure indicates a higher concentration of the substance in air and therefore increases the likelihood of breathing it in.

Common Name: **BENZ(a)ANTHRACENE**

Synonyms: Naphthanthracene; Tetraphene

CAS No: 56-55-3

Molecular Formula: C₁₈H₁₂

RTK Substance No: 0193

Description: Odorless, colorless to yellow brown flake, plate or powder

HAZARD DATA

Hazard Rating	Firefighting	Reactivity
3 - Health 1 - Fire 0 - Reactivity DOT#: UN 3077 ERG Guide #: 171 Hazard Class: 9 (Environmentally hazardous substance)	Benz(a)Anthracene may burn, but does not readily ignite. Use dry chemical, CO ₂ , water spray or foam as extinguishing agents. POISONOUS GASES ARE PRODUCED IN FIRE. Use water spray to keep fire-exposed containers cool.	Benz(a)Anthracene is not compatible with OXIDIZING AGENTS (such as PERCHLORATES, PEROXIDES, PERMANGANATES, CHLORATES, NITRATES, CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORINE).

SPILL/LEAKS

Isolation Distance:

Small Spill: 50 meters (150 feet)

Fire: 800 meters (1/2 mile)

Moisten spilled material first or use a HEPA-filter vacuum for clean-up and deposit in sealed containers.

Bioaccumulation may occur in seafood.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odor Threshold:	Odorless
Flash Point:	May burn
Vapor Pressure:	2 mm Hg at 68°F (20°C)
Specific Gravity:	1.3 (water = 1)
Water Solubility:	Insoluble
Boiling Point:	820°F (438°C)
Melting Point:	324°F (162°C)
Molecular Weight:	228.3

EXPOSURE LIMITS

OSHA:	0.2 mg/m ³ , 8-hr TWA (as <i>Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles, Benzene soluble fraction</i>)
NIOSH:	0.1 mg/m ³ , 10-hr TWA (as <i>Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles, Cyclohexane-extractable fraction</i>)
ACGIH:	Lowest level possible
IDLH:	80 mg/m ³ (as <i>Coal Tar Pitch Volatiles</i>)
PAC LEVELS:	PAC-1 = 0.6 mg/m ³ ; PAC-2 = 120 mg/m ³ ; PAC-3 = 700 mg/m ³

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Gloves:	Nitrile and Natural Rubber
Coveralls:	DuPont Tyvek®
Respirator:	>0.1 mg/m ³ - Supplied Air

HEALTH EFFECTS

Eyes:	No information available
Skin:	No information available
Inhalation:	No information available
Chronic:	Cancer (liver and lung) in animals

FIRST AID AND DECONTAMINATION

Remove the person from exposure.

Flush eyes with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses if worn.

Remove contaminated clothing and wash contaminated skin with soap and water.

Transfer to a medical facility.