

PYROBOR[®]

Dehydrated Borax

Material Safety Data Sheet



Manufactured by:
SEARLES VALLEY MINERALS
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SECTION 1: CHEMICAL PRODUCT & COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

PRODUCT NAME: PYROBOR[®], Dehydrated Borax
MANUFACTURER:
Searles Valley Minerals
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P.O. Box 367
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EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:
24 Hour Information Service: 760-372-2291
CHEMTREC: 800-424-9300
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SECTION 2: COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

NOTE: See Section 15 for Exposure Limits.

PRODUCT NAME: PYROBOR[®], Dehydrated Borax
FORMULA: Na₂B₄O₇
CHEMICAL NAME: Sodium Tetraborate, Anhydrous
SYNONYMS: Anhydrous Borax, Disodium Tetraborate,
Dehydrated Borax, Borax Glass

COMPONENTS:
Material: Sodium Tetraborate, Anhydrous
CAS Number: 1330-43-4
Composition: > 99%

Sodium Tetraborate, Anhydrous is hazardous under the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard based on animal chronic toxicity studies of similar organic Borates.

SECTION 3: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

NOTE: Sodium Tetraborate is chemically and toxicologically related to Boric Acid; the majority of the Borate chronic toxicology studies were conducted using Boric Acid. Sodium Tetraborate is converted to Boric Acid in biological systems. The Boric Acid data discussed in this section can be converted to Sodium Tetraborate equivalent data by dividing by a factor of 1.2292.

EMERGENCY OVERVIEW: Sodium Tetraborate is a white odorless, powdered substance that is not flammable, combustible, or explosive, and it presents no unusual hazard if involved in a fire. Sodium Tetraborate presents little or no hazard (to humans) and has low acute oral and dermal toxicities. Care should be taken to minimize the amount of Sodium Tetraborate released to the environment to avoid ecological effects.

ROUTES OF EXPOSURE: In the occupational setting, inhalation is the most important route of exposure. Dermal absorption is usually not important because Sodium Tetraborate is not absorbed through the intact skin.

INHALATION: Mild irritation to nose and throat may occur when the PEL or TLV are exceeded (see Section 15).

EYE CONTACT: Exposure to Sodium Tetraborate dust may cause eye irritation.

DERMAL CONTACT: Sodium Tetraborate is non-irritating to the intact skin. Can be readily absorbed through broken or abraded skin.

INGESTION: Sodium Tetraborate is not intended for ingestion. Amounts greater than one teaspoonful, when ingested, may cause gastrointestinal problems.

CANCER: Sodium Tetraborate is not considered a carcinogen.

REPRODUCTIVE: A human study of occupationally exposed Borate worker population showed no adverse reproductive effects. Animal studies of similar organic Borates demonstrated reproductive effects in males.

TARGET ORGANS: No target organs have been determined in humans. High dose animal ingestion studies indicate that the testes is the target organ.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE: Symptoms of accidental over-exposure to Borates have been associated with ingestion or absorption through large areas of damaged skin. These may include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, with delayed effects of skin redness and peeling.

See Section 11 for details on Toxicological Data.

SECTION 4: EMERGENCY & FIRST AID PROCEDURES

EYES: Continuously flush exposed eyes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower lids. Get medical attention if irritation persists for more than 30 minutes. **SKIN:** Sodium Tetraborate is non-irritating in the normal occupational setting. If irritation occurs, wash affected area with soap or mild detergent and large amounts of water. Get medical attention if irritation persists. **INHALATION:** No specific treatment is necessary since Sodium Tetraborate is not likely to be hazardous by inhalation. Prolonged exposure to dust levels in excess of regulatory limits

should always be avoided. **INGESTION:** If amounts greater than one teaspoon are swallowed, give two glasses of water to drink and seek medical attention. **NOTE TO PHYSICIAN:** Adult ingestion of a few grams requires observation only. For ingestion in excess of 6 grams, maintain adequate kidney function and force fluids. Gastric lavage is recommended for symptomatic patients only. Hemodialysis should be reserved for massive acute ingestion or patients with renal failure. Boron analysis of urine or blood is useful only for documenting exposure and should not be used for evaluating severity of poisoning or to guide treatment. [additional reference: Litovitz, T.L., Norman, S.A., Veltri, J.C., Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers Data Collection system. Am J. of Emergency Med. 1986; 4:427-458.]

SECTION 5: FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

GENERAL HAZARD: Sodium Tetraborate is not flammable, combustible, or explosive. Sodium Tetraborate presents no unusual hazards when involved in a fire. This product is an inherent fire retardant.

UEL/LEL: Not Applicable

FLASH POINT: Not Applicable

AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE: Not Applicable

FLAMMABILITY CLASSIFICATION: Flammability Classification (29 CFR 1910.1200), Non-flammable solid.

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA: Any fire extinguishing media may be used on nearby fires.

SECTION 6: ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

ACTION TO TAKE FOR SPILLS OR LEAKS: Borates may damage trees and vegetation (see Ecological Information, Section 12, for further information). For dry spills, sweep, vacuum, or shovel and place in containers for disposal in accordance with applicable regulations (refer to Sections 13 and 15 for additional references and information regarding California and EPA regulations). Avoid contamination of bodies of water during cleanup. Sodium Tetraborate will cause localized contamination of surrounding waters depending on amount dissolved in these waters. Some damage to local vegetation, fish, and other aquatic life may be expected (see Section 12). Under usual conditions, no protective equipment is required.

Sodium Tetraborate is a non-hazardous waste when spilled or disposed of, as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations (40 CFR 261). (See Section 15)

SECTION 7: HANDLING & STORAGE

GENERAL: Dry, indoor storage under normal atmospheric conditions is recommended. To maintain package integrity and to minimize caking of the product, bags should be handled on a "first-in-first-out" basis. Good housekeeping should be maintained to minimize dust accumulation and generation. Sodium Tetraborate may cake in moist conditions.

HYGIENIC PRACTICES: Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling and before eating, drinking, or smoking.

SECTION 8: EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

ENGINEERING CONTROLS: Use local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne levels below exposure limits (see Section 15).

EYE PROTECTION: Use goggles or vented safety glasses in excessively dusty conditions. **SKIN PROTECTION:** Not required under normal conditions. Use if excessively dusty or if skin is damaged. **RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** Use appropriate NIOSH/MSHA certified respirators when levels are expected to exceed exposure limits (see Section 15).

SECTION 9: PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

SOLUBILITY IN WATER: 2.5% at 20°C; 34.5% at 100°C

APPEARANCE AND ODOR: White granular solid, odorless.

MOLECULAR WEIGHT: 201.22

BOILING POINT: Not Applicable

MELTING POINT: 742°C

pH VALUE: At 20° C: 1% solution - 9.25

VAPOR PRESSURE: Not Applicable

FLASH POINT: None

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 2.37

VAPOR PRESSURE: Not Applicable

SECTION 10: STABILITY & REACTIVITY DATA

STABILITY: Stable under normal conditions; forms partial hydrate in moist air.

INCOMPATIBILITY: Reaction with strong reducing agents such as metal hydrides or alkali metals will generate hydrogen gas which could create an explosive hazard.

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: None known.

HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION: Will not occur.

SECTION 11: TOXICOLOGICAL EFFECTS

NOTE: Sodium Tetraborate is chemically and toxicologically related to Boric Acid; the majority of the Borate chronic toxicology studies were conducted using Boric Acid. Sodium Tetraborate is converted to Boric Acid in biological systems. The Boric Acid data discussed in this section can be converted to Sodium Tetraborate equivalent data by dividing by a factor of 1.2292.

EYES: Boric Acid, when applied to the eyes of albino rabbits (Draize test), produced effects of mild erythema and mild to moderate discharge in 5 of 6 rabbits. All signs subsided by the fourth day after application. Fifty years of occupational exposure history indicates no human eye injury from exposure to Sodium Tetraborate. **SKIN:** Boric Acid was applied to the skin of albino rabbits. Slight to no irritation persisted 72 hours after application. No evidence of tissue damage was found. Low acute dermal toxicity; LD₅₀ for rabbits is expected to be greater than 2,000 mg/kg of body weight (test conducted

per 16 CFR 1500.41). Sodium Tetraborate is not absorbed through intact skin. **INHALATION:** Human epidemiological studies show no increase in pulmonary disease in occupational populations with chronic exposure to Boric Acid and Sodium Borate dust. **INGESTION:** Low acute oral toxicity; LD₅₀ for Sprague-Dawley rats is 3,500 to 4,100 mg/kg of body weight. **CARCINOGENICITY:** Sodium Tetraborate is not listed as a carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of California, or the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). A report issued by the National Toxicology Program showed "no evidence of carcinogenicity" from a full two-year bioassay on Boric Acid on mice at feed doses of 2,500 to 5,000 ppm in the diet. No mutagenic activity was observed for Boric Acid in a recent battery of four short-term mutagenicity assays. **REPRODUCTIVE:** A human study of occupationally exposed Borate worker population showed no adverse reproductive effects. Animal studies indicate that Boric Acid reduces or inhibits sperm production, causes testicular atrophy, and, when given to pregnant animals during gestation, may cause developmental changes. These feed studies were conducted under chronic exposure conditions leading to doses many times in excess of those that could occur through inhalation of dust in the occupational setting.

Dietary levels of Boric Acid of 6,700 ppm in chronic feeding studies in rats and dogs produced testicular changes [Weir, Fisher, 1972]. In chronic feeding studies of mice on diets containing 5,000 ppm Boric Acid, testicular atrophy was present, while mice fed 2,500 ppm Boric Acid showed no significant increase in testicular atrophy. In another chronic Boric Acid study, degeneration of seminiferous tubules was present together with a reduction of germ cells in mice fed 4,500 ppm Boric Acid. In a reproduction study on rats, 2,000 ppm of dietary Boric Acid had no adverse effect on lactation, litter size, weight and appearance [Weir, Fisher, 1972]. In a continuous breeding study in mice, there was a reduction in fertility rates in males receiving 4,500 ppm Boric Acid, but not for females receiving 4,500 ppm Boric Acid [Fail et al., 1992].

Boric Acid at dietary levels of 1,000 ppm administered to pregnant female rats throughout gestation caused a slight reduction in fetal weight, but was considered close to NOAEL. Doses of 2,000 ppm and above caused fetal malformations and maternal toxicity. In mice, the no effect level for fetal weight reduction and maternal toxicity was 1,000 ppm Boric Acid. Fetal weight loss was noted at dietary levels of 2,000 ppm and above. Malformations (agenesis or shortening of the thirteenth rib) were seen at 4,000 ppm [Heindal et al., 1992].

SECTION 12: ECOLOGICAL DATA

NOTE: Boron is the element in Sodium Tetraborate which is used to characterize Borate product ecological effects. To convert Sodium Tetraborate data to Boron, multiply by 0.2149.

FISH TOXICITY: Boron naturally occurs in seawater at an average concentration of 5 mg B/liter. In laboratory studies the acute toxicity (96-hr LC₅₀) for under-yearling Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in seawater was determined as 40 mg B/L (added as Sodium Metaborate). The Minimum Lethal Dose for minnows exposed to Boric Acid at 20°C for 6 hours is 18,000 to 19,000 mg/l in distilled water, 19,000 to 19,500 in hard water.

Rainbow trout (*S. gairdneri*)
24-day LC₅₀ = 150.0 mg/B/L
36-day NOEC-LOEC = 0.75-1 mg/B/L
Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)
7-day NOEC-LOEC = 26.50 mg/B/L
3-day LC₅₀ = 178 mg/B/L

ENVIRONMENTAL FATE DATA:

Persistence/Degradation: Boron is naturally occurring and is commonly found in the environment. Sodium Tetraborate decomposes in the environment to natural Borate.

BIRD TOXICITY: Dietary levels of 100 mg/kg resulted in reduced growth of female mallards. As little as 30 mg/kg fed to mallard adults adversely affected the growth rate of offspring.

INVERTEBRATE TOXICITY: Daphnids

48-hour LC₅₀ = 133 mg/B/L
21-day NOEC-LOEC = 6-13 mg/B/L

PHYTOTOXICITY: Although boron is an essential micro-nutrient for healthy growth of plants, it can be harmful to boron-sensitive plants in higher quantities. Plants and trees can easily be exposed by root absorption to toxic levels of boron in the form of water soluble Borate leached into nearby waters or soil. Care should be taken to minimize the amount of boron released to the environment. **Soil Mobility:** The product is soluble in water and is leachable through normal soil.

SECTION 13: DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

DISPOSAL GUIDANCE: Small amounts of Sodium Tetraborate can usually be disposed of at municipal landfill sites, and requires no special treatment. Tonnage quantities are not however, recommended for the landfill, and if possible, should be re-used for an appropriate application. Refer to state and local regulations for applicable site-specific requirements. Sodium Tetraborate is not currently listed Under any section of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). **CALIFORNIA HAZARDOUS WASTE DESIGNATION:** California identifies substances with acute LD₅₀'s of less than 2,500 mg/kg as "hazardous wastes." Sodium Tetraborate is, therefore, not a "hazardous waste" if spilled in California.

See Section 15 for details on Regulatory Information.

SECTION 14: TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

US DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION (DOT) IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: Sodium Tetraborate is not a DOT Hazardous Material or Hazardous Substance. **INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION:** Sodium Tetraborate has no U.N. number and is not regulated under international rail, highway, water, or air transport regulations.

SECTION 15: REGULATORY INFORMATION

TSCA NUMBER: 1330-43-4

RCRA (40 CFR 261): Not listed under any section.

CERCLA (SUPERFUND): Not listed under any section.

CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA): Sodium Tetraborate, Anhydrous is not regulated by any water quality criteria under Section 304, is not listed as priority pollutant under Section 307, and is not listed as a hazardous substance under Section 311.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT (SDWA): Not regulated under SDWA, 42 USC 300g-1, 40 CFR 141 et seq. Consult state and local regulations for possible water quality advisories involving boron.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS: Pyrobor is listed/regulated by OSHA as "Particulate Not Otherwise Regulated" or "Nuisance Dust".

OSHA: Permissible Exposure Limit: 10 mg/m³, total dust
5 mg/m³, respirable dust

CALIFORNIA OSHA: Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) 5 mg/m³

ACGIH: Threshold Limit Value (TLV): 2 mg/m³

NTP ANNUAL REPORT ON CARCINOGENS: Not listed as a carcinogen.

OSHA CARCINOGEN: Not listed as an OSHA carcinogen.

CONEG MODEL LEGISLATION: Meets all the CONEG requirements relating to heavy metal limitations on components of packaging materials.

CLEAN AIR ACT (CAA): This product was not manufactured with and does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone depleting substances, and defined by EPA.

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY for RESEARCH on CANCER (IARC): Not listed as a carcinogen.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65: Not listed as a carcinogen or reproductive toxin.

SARA III: Section 302-No; 311-Yes; 312-Yes; 313-No

SECTION 16: OTHER INFORMATION

OTHER INFORMATION:

Product Label Text Hazard Information:

- May be harmful if swallowed.
- May cause reproductive harm or birth defects based on animal data.
- May cause eye irritation
- Avoid contamination of food or feed.
- Not for food, drug or pesticidal use.
- Practice good housekeeping.
- Refer to MSDS.
- KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Classification:

4 = Severe, 3 = Serious, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Slight, 0 = Minimal

Health 0
Flammability 0
Reactivity 0

Hazardous Materials Information Systems (HMIS):

4 = Extreme, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Slight, 0 = Insignificant

Blue: (Acute Health) 1*
Red: (Flammability) 0
Yellow: (Reactivity) 0

* Chronic Effects (for explanation see Section 11)

NOTICE

Judgements as to the suitability of information herein for purchaser's purposes are necessarily purchaser's responsibility. Therefore, although reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of such information, Searles Valley Minerals extends no warranties, makes no representations, and assumes no responsibility as to the accuracy or suitability of such information for application to purchaser's intended purposes or for consequences of its use.

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