



## WORKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORMALDEHYDE/FORMALIN



### Hazard statements

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|-------------|---|
| H226        | Flammable liquid and vapor.                             |
| H301 + H311 | Toxic if swallowed or in contact with skin.             |
| H314        | Causes severe burns to skin and eye damage.             |
| H317        | May cause an allergic skin reaction.                    |
| H330        | Fatal if inhaled.                                       |
| H335        | May cause respiratory irritation.                       |
| H341        | Suspected to cause genetic defects.                     |
| H350        | May cause cancer.                                       |
| H370        | Causes damage to organs (eyes, central nervous system). |

### Precautionary statements

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| P202               | Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.  |
| P210               | Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources.<br>No smoking.                                    |
| P280               | Use protective gloves/ protective clothing/eye protection/ face protection.  |
| P303 + P361 + P353 | IF ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rins skin with water.  |
| P304 + P340 + P310 | IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.<br>Immediately call a POISON CENTER/ doctor.              |
| P305 + P351 + P338 | IF IN THE EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. |

### Purchase

Contact the purchaser in your research group.

### Use

Formaldehyde/formalin is used to fix sample materials. Precautions should therefore be taken for treatment of fixed sample material and the storage of fixed samples. It is very important that fixed samples are handled correctly to avoid harming yourself or others. These chemicals are particularly dangerous since they accumulate in the body and one can develop hyperallergy over time.

- Read the safety data sheet for the chemical before using it.
- Register work with formaldehyde/formalin in the exposure register.
- Use suitable protective equipment.



- All work with formaldehyde/formalin must take place in a fume hood or by using under-ventilated benches.
- Fixed sample materials must be stored in a ventilated cupboard, in a poison cabinet or in special storage rooms designed for the storage of fixed material.
- When transporting and storing fixed samples, it is important that sample glasses are securely closed so that spills and evaporation from the fixing solution do not occur.
- The research groups that use formaldehyde/formalin as fixatives must incorporate work routines and create work instructions for use and storage.

### Protective equipment

- Wear a lab coat, safety shoes, safety glasses and suitable gloves. For most of these types of chemicals, the nitrile glove TouchNTuff will be the right protective glove. An overview of gloves and permeability of different chemicals can be found on the HSE portal.
- Acquaint yourself with the “emergency kit” for chemical spillage located near your lab.

### Waste management

- Formaldehyde/formalin solution diluted in PBS that is removed from preparations can be transferred to a suitable plastic container and declared with waste number 7135. Contact the laboratory manager for exact procedures in the laboratory.
- If the main ingredient of the waste is organic solvent, then 7152 must be used.
- Smaller tubes with fixed materials can be disposed directly in yellow container for incineration.

For any questions related to handling waste, contact the lab manager or the waste contacts at BIO, see the HSE manual for a list of contact persons.

### Preparedness

Secure area in the event of an accident

- Locate the chemical “emergency kit” is located near your laboratory.
- Report incident

### First Aid

- For first aid measures, read section 4 of safety data sheet.
- In general: Alert medical staff and bring safety data sheet. Legevakt 116117
- Poison Information Centre 24 hr emergency service: 22 59 13 00

References:

[At-a-glance chart or checking gloves](#)



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