

# SULPHURIC ACID SAFETY DATA SHEET



## SECTION 1. IDENTIFICATION

**Product Identity:** Sulphuric Acid (93 percent).

**Trade Names and Synonyms:** Oil of vitriol, electrolyte acid, battery acid, matting acid, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

**Manufacturer:**

Teck Metals Ltd.  
Trail Operations  
Trail, British Columbia  
V1R 4L8  
Emergency Telephone: 250-364-4214

**Supplier:**

International Raw Materials Ltd.  
150 S Independence Mall W Ste 700  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Chemtrec 24 Hour Emergency  
Telephone: 1-800-424-9300  
Quantum Murray Emergency  
Telephone: 1-877-378-7745

**Preparer:**

Teck Metals Ltd.  
Suite 3300 – 550 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6C 0B3

**Date of Last Revision:** May 22, 2015.

**Date of Last Edit:** May 22, 2015.





**Product Use:** Used in the manufacture of chlorine dioxide (a pulp and paper bleaching chemical), in the manufacture of phosphate and sulphate fertilizers, in the manufacturing of metal sulphates, as a metal pickling chemical and as a component of lead storage batteries.

## SECTION 2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Health		Physical	Environmental
Acute Toxicity (Inhalation)	– Category 2	Corrosive to Metals – Category 1	Aquatic Toxicity – Short Term – Category 3
Skin Corrosion	– Category 1		
Eye Damage	– Category 1		
Specific Target Organ Toxicity			
Acute Exposure	– Category 3		
Chronic Exposure	– Category 2		

**LABEL:**

<b>Symbols:</b>	 	<b>Signal</b>	 	<b>Word: DANGER</b>
<b><u>Hazard Statements</u></b>			<b><u>Precautionary Statements:</u></b>	
<b>DANGER!</b> Causes severe skin burns and serious eye damage. May cause respiratory irritation. May cause damage to teeth through prolonged and repeated exposure to sulphuric acid mists. Fatal if inhaled. May be corrosive to metals. Harmful to aquatic life.			Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye and face protection. Wash exposed skin thoroughly after handling. Store and use only in a well-ventilated area. Keep containers tightly closed. In case of inadequate ventilation wear respiratory protection. Do not breathe mist. Avoid release to the environment. Absorb spillage. IF IN EYES: Rinse continuously with water for several minutes. Continue rinsing and immediately call a poison centre/doctor. Specific treatment is urgent. IF ON SKIN: Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water or shower. For large area burns, immediately call a poison centre/doctor. Wash contaminated clothing before reuse. IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. DO NOT induce vomiting. Get medical attention if you feel unwell. Store in corrosion resistant container with a resistant inner liner.	

**Emergency Overview:** A strong mineral acid present as a colourless and odourless oily liquid when pure but may appear yellow to dark brown when impure. Extremely corrosive to all body tissues, causing rapid tissue destruction and serious chemical burns. Skin or eye contact requires immediate first aid. Can decompose at high temperatures, forming toxic gases such as sulphur oxides. Non-flammable but reacts violently with water, generating large amounts of heat with potential for spattering of the acid. Can react with combustible materials to generate heat and ignition. Reacts with most metals, particularly when diluted with water, to form flammable hydrogen gas which may create an explosion hazard. It is highly toxic to aquatic organisms and plant life.

**Potential Health Effects:** Sulphuric acid is not very volatile and workplace exposures are therefore primarily due to accidental splashes or to processes or actions that generate an acid mist. It is extremely corrosive to all body tissues, causing rapid tissue destruction and serious chemical burns on contact with the skin or eyes. Skin or eye contact requires immediate first aid. Inhalation of sulphuric acid mist or fumes may produce irritation of the nose, throat and respiratory tract. High levels of acid mist are also irritating to the skin and eyes. Chronic inhalation of acid mist may cause pitting and erosion of tooth enamel. Sulphuric acid, per se, is not listed as a carcinogen by OSHA, NTP, IARC, or the ACGIH. However, IARC, the ACGIH and the NTP have concluded there is sufficient evidence that occupational exposure to strong inorganic acid mists containing sulphuric acid is carcinogenic or potentially carcinogenic to humans (see Toxicological Information, Section 11).

**Potential Environmental Effects:** Sulphuric acid is highly toxic to aquatic organisms and terrestrial plant life; however, it does not bioaccumulate or bioconcentrate through the food chain (see Ecological Information, Section 12).

### SECTION 3. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

HAZARDOUS COMPONENTS	CAS Registry No.	CONCENTRATION (% wgt/wgt)
Sulphuric Acid	7664-93-9	93%

Note: See Section 8 for Occupational Exposure Guidelines.

### SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

**Eye Contact:** *Symptoms:* Burning, pain, blurring. Avoid direct contact. Wear chemical protective gloves, if necessary. Quickly and gently blot excess acid off face. Immediately flush the contaminated eye(s) with lukewarm, gently flowing water, for at least 30 minutes, while holding the eyelid(s) open. If a contact lens is present, DO NOT delay irrigation or attempt to remove the lens. Neutral saline solution may be used as soon as it is available. DO NOT INTERRUPT FLUSHING. If necessary, continue flushing

during transport to emergency care facility. Take care not to rinse contaminated water into the unaffected eye or onto the face. Quickly transport victim to an emergency care facility.

**Skin Contact:** *Symptoms:* Burning, pain, ulceration. Avoid direct contact. Wear chemical protective clothing if necessary. As quickly as possible, remove contaminated clothing, shoes and leather goods (e.g., watchbands, belts), under shower if possible. Flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water for at least 30 minutes. DO NOT INTERRUPT FLUSHING. For acid splashes over large areas of the body transport quickly to an emergency care facility. If necessary, and if it can be done safely, continue flushing during transport to emergency care facility. Completely decontaminate clothing, shoes and leather goods before reuse or discard.

**Inhalation:** *Symptoms:* Nose throat and lung irritation, coughing, wheezing. Take precautions to ensure your own safety before attempting rescue (e.g., wear appropriate protective equipment, use the buddy system). Remove source of exposure or move person from exposure area to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. Call a Poison Centre/doctor or seek medical attention if you feel unwell.

**Ingestion:** *Symptoms:* Burning pain in mouth and throat. Have victim rinse mouth thoroughly with water. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. If vomiting occurs naturally, have person lie on their side in the recovery position. Have victim rinse mouth with water again. Quickly transport victim to an emergency care facility and bring a copy of this SDS.

## SECTION 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** Sulphuric acid is not flammable or combustible. However, fires may result from the heat generated by contact of concentrated sulphuric acid with combustible materials. Sulphuric acid reacts with most metals, especially when diluted with water, to produce hydrogen gas which can accumulate to explosive concentrations inside confined spaces. It reacts violently with water and organic materials evolving a considerable amount of heat and is very hazardous when in contact with carbides, cyanides, and sulfides.

**Extinguishing Media:** Use dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguishers to extinguish small fires in surrounding combustible materials. Use water spray or fog to cool fire-exposed containers and to knock down large fires. Use water streams only if absolutely necessary and DO NOT USE WATER DIRECTLY ON ACID as a violent reaction may occur resulting in spattering of the acid. Do not release runoff from fire control methods to sewers or waterways.

**Fire Fighting:** Fire fighters must be fully-trained and wear full protective clothing including an approved, self-contained breathing apparatus which supplies a positive air pressure within a full face-piece mask. For fires close to a spill or where vapours are present, use acid-resistant personal protective equipment.

## SECTION 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**Procedures for Cleanup:** Control source of release if possible to do so safely. Contain spill, isolate hazard area, and deny entry to unauthorized personnel. Prevent from entering sewage or drainage systems and bodies of water. Dike area around spill and pump uncontaminated acid back to process if possible. Neutralize spilled material with alkali such as sodium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate, soda ash, lime or limestone granules. If neutralized with lime rock or soda ash, good ventilation is required during neutralization because of the release of carbon dioxide gas. Allow to stand for 1-2 hours to complete neutralization, then absorb any liquid in solid absorbent such as vermiculite or clay absorbents. Place spilled material in suitable (corrosion resistant) labeled containers for final disposal. Treat or dispose of waste spilled material and/or contaminated absorbent material in accordance with all local, regional and national regulations.

**Personal Precautions:** Acid resistant protective clothing and gloves. Sleeves and pant legs should be worn outside, not tucked into gloves and rubber boots. Use close-fitting safety goggles or a combination of safety goggles and a face shield where splashing is a possibility. Respiratory protection equipment should be worn where exposure to hazardous levels of mist or fume is possible.

**Environmental Precautions:** This product has the potential to pose ecological risks to organisms in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Discharge of the product to soil and water should be prevented. Prevent spillage from entering sewers or natural watercourses.

## SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

Store in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area away from incompatible substances. Keep in tightly closed containers which are appropriately labeled. Do not allow contact with water. Do not store near alkaline substances.

## SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

### Occupational Exposure Guidelines:

<u>Component</u>	<u>ACGIH TLV</u>	<u>OSHA PEL</u>	<u>NIOSH REL</u>
Sulphuric Acid	0.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> Thoracic fraction	1 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

NOTE: OEGs for individual jurisdictions may differ from those given above. Check with local authorities for the applicable OEGs in your jurisdiction.

ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists; OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration; NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. TLV – Threshold Limit Value, PEL – Permissible Exposure Limit, REL – Recommended Exposure Limit.

NOTE: The selection of the necessary level of engineering controls and personal protective equipment will vary depending upon the conditions of use and the potential for exposure. The following are therefore only general guidelines that may not fit all circumstances. Control measures to consider include:

**Ventilation:** Use adequate local or general ventilation to maintain the concentration of sulphuric acid aerosol mists below recommended occupational exposure limits.

**Protective Clothing:** Protective clothing and gloves as well as glasses, goggles or face shield. Appropriate protective clothing and gloves should be worn where any possibility exists that skin contact can occur. Use close-fitting safety goggles or a combination of safety goggles and a face shield where any possibility exists that eye contact can occur. An eyewash and quick drench shower should be provided near the work area. Workers should wash immediately whenever skin becomes contaminated.

**Respirators:** Where sulphuric acid mists are generated and cannot be controlled to within acceptable levels, use appropriate NIOSH-approved respiratory protection equipment (a combination of a 42CFR84 Class N, R or P-100 particulate filter and an acid gas cartridge). Note: sulphuric acid mist also causes eye irritation at high concentrations and a full face respirator or supplied air respirator may be necessary in some cases.

**General Hygiene Considerations:** Always practice good personal hygiene. Refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in work areas. Thoroughly wash hands before eating, drinking, or smoking.

## SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

<b>Appearance:</b> Clear, colourless, oily liquid (may turn yellowish to amber upon aging)	<b>Odor:</b> Odorless when cold; acrid odour upon heating	<b>Odour Threshold:</b> > 1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (Acid mist will irritate the nose and may be sensed as a pungent odour)	<b>pH:</b> Concentration dependant <0.1 (93% Sol'n), 0.3 (5% or 1N Sol'n)
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b> <0.04 kPa (<0.3 mm Hg) @ 25°C	<b>Vapour Density:</b> 3.4 (air = 1)	<b>Melting Point/Range:</b> 280°C	<b>Boiling Point/Range:</b> -35°C
<b>Relative Density</b> (Water = 1): 1.84 (93% H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> )	<b>Evaporation Rate:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Coefficient of Water/Oil Distribution:</b> No Data Available	<b>Solubility:</b> Completely soluble with generation of significant heat.
<b>Flash Point:</b> Not Flammable	<b>Flammable Limits (LEL/UEL):</b> Not Applicable	<b>Auto-ignition Temperature:</b> None	<b>Decomposition Temperature:</b> Not Applicable

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability & Reactivity:** Sulphuric acid is stable and not considered reactive under normal temperatures and pressures. Hazardous polymerization or runaway reactions will not occur. Decomposes at 340°C into sulphur trioxide and water. Extremely reactive with metals, alkalis, reducing agents and many other organic and inorganic chemicals. Hazardous gases such as hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide and acetylene are evolved on contact with chemicals such as cyanides, sulfides and carbides respectively. Contact with combustible organic matter may cause fire or explosion. Dilution with water generates excessive heat and spattering or boiling may occur. Always add acid to water, NEVER ADD WATER TO ACID. Corrosive to most metals including mild steel, copper, aluminum, zinc, etc., especially when diluted to below 90%.

**Incompatibilities:** Combustible materials, organic materials, reducing agents, amines, bases, water, excess heat, and metals.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** Sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide and sulphuric acid fumes.

## SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**General:** Concentrated sulphuric acid is a direct acting toxicant, producing local effects at the site(s) of contact but no systemic effect. It exerts a strong corrosive action on all tissues due to its severe dehydration action (removing water from tissues). The severity of the chemical burn produced by the concentrated acid is proportional to the strength of the acid and the duration of contact. Burns are deep but typically not severely painful.

**Acute:**

**Skin/Eye:** Splashes can cause severe eye burns and may cause irreversible eye injury and possible blindness. Skin contact results in severe burns and may result in permanent scarring. High levels of sulphuric acid mists and aerosols are also irritating to the eyes and skin.

**Inhalation:** Inhalation may cause severe irritation of the respiratory tract with sore throat, coughing, shortness of breath, laryngeal spasm and delayed lung edema. These symptoms may be aggravated by physical exertion. Asthmatics may be more sensitive to inhaling sulphuric acid mists and asthma may be aggravated by exposure to sulphuric acid.

**Ingestion:** Ingestion is unlikely in industrial use but would result in severe burns to the mouth, throat, esophagus and stomach which could lead to permanent damage to the digestive tract. Small amounts of acid can also enter the lungs during ingestion or subsequent vomiting and cause serious lung injury.

**Chronic:** Prolonged exposure to dilute solutions or mists may result in eye irritation (chronic conjunctivitis) and produce skin dermatitis. Exposure to high concentrations of acid mist has caused erosion and discolouration of the anterior teeth. Inhalation of sulphuric acid mist may decrease the ability of the respiratory tract to remove other small particles which may be inhaled. Sulphuric acid, per se, is not listed as a carcinogen by OSHA, the National Toxicology Program (NTP), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), or the ACGIH. IARC has concluded that there is sufficient evidence that occupational exposure to strong inorganic acid mists containing sulphuric acid is carcinogenic to humans, resulting in an increased incidence of primarily laryngeal cancers. The ACGIH lists strong inorganic acid mists containing sulphuric acid as a suspected human carcinogen (A2) and the NTP have classified strong inorganic acid mists containing sulphuric acid as a known human carcinogen. OSHA does not list sulphuric acid mist as a carcinogen.

**Animal Toxicity:**

<u>Hazardous Ingredient:</u>	<u>Acute Oral Toxicity:</u>	<u>Acute Dermal Toxicity:</u>	<u>Acute Inhalation Toxicity:</u>
Sulphuric Acid	2140 mg/kg <sup>†</sup>		255 mg/m <sup>3</sup> /4Hr <sup>‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup> LD<sub>50</sub>, Rat, Oral, <sup>‡</sup> LC<sub>50</sub>, Rat, Inhalation, 4 hour

## SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Sulphuric acid is highly toxic to aquatic organisms and terrestrial plant life; however, it does not bioaccumulate or bioconcentrate through the food chain.

## SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Do not wash down drain or allow to reach natural watercourses. Dispose of neutralized waste consistent with regulatory requirements. If neutralized with lime rock or soda ash, good ventilation is required during neutralization because of the release of carbon dioxide gas.

## SECTION 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

PROPER SHIPPING NAME TRANSPORT CANADA.....	Sulphuric Acid
PROPER SHIPPING U.S. DOT .....	Sulfuric Acid
TRANSPORT CANADA CLASSIFICATION.....	Class 8 Packing Group II
U.S. DOT CLASSIFICATION .....	Class 8 Packing Group II (RQ) – 1,000 lbs.
PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER .....	UN1830
MARINE POLLUTANT .....	No
IMO CLASSIFICATION .....	Class 8

## SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

### U.S.

INGREDIENTS LISTED ON TSCA INVENTORY ..... Yes

HAZARDOUS UNDER HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD..... Yes

CERCLA SECTION 103 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ..... Sulfuric Acid.....Yes ... RQ: 1000 lbs. (454 kg.)

EPCRA SECTION 302 EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ..... Yes.....RQ: 1000 lbs. (454 kg.)  
Threshold Planning Quantity: 1000 lbs.

EPCRA SECTION 311/312 HAZARD CATEGORIES..... Immediate (Acute) Health Hazard - Corrosive  
Immediate (Acute) Health Hazard - Highly Toxic

EPCRA SECTION 313 TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY:..... Sulfuric Acid ..... CAS NO. 7664-93-9  
Percent by Weight: 93%

## SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION

**Date of Original Issue:** January 9, 1998 **Version:** 01 (*First edition*)

**Date of Latest Revision:** May 22, 2015 **Version:** 13

The information in this Safety Data Sheet is based on the following references:

- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2004, Documentation of the Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices, Seventh Edition plus updates.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2015, Guide to Occupational Exposure Values.
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 2015, Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices.
- Bretherick's Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards, 20th Anniversary Edition. (P. G. Urban, Ed.) 1995.
- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety CHEMINFO Record No. 122 - Sulphuric Acid, 2009-04.
- Commission de la santé et la sécurité du travail, Service du Répertoire toxicologique, Acide Sulfurique, 2006-02-08.
- Industry Canada, SOR/2015-17, 30 January 2015 - Hazardous Products Regulations.
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Man, 1972 – present, (multi-volume work), World Health Organization, Geneva.
- International Chemical Safety Cards (WHO/IPCS/ILO), ICSC:0362 – Sulphuric Acid (Revised Oct 2008).
- Merck & Co., Inc., 2001, The Merck Index, An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals, Thirteenth Edition.
- National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS), Sydney, Australia – Existing Chemicals Information Sheet – Sulphuric Acid, 30 June 2003.
- OECD Screening Information Data Base (SIDS) Initial Assessment Report – Sulphuric Acid, January 2001.
- Patty's Toxicology, Fifth Edition, 2001: E. Bingham, B. Cohnsen & C.H. Powell, Ed.
- Toxicology of the Eye, 2nd Ed. W. Morton Grant, MD, Charles C. Thomas, Publishers; Springfield. IL (1974).
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. CD-ROM Edition September 2005.
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS) CCOHS Web Access subscription.
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Sulfur Trioxide and Sulfuric Acid, December 1998.
- U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1989, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910.

### **Notice to Reader**

Although reasonable precautions have been taken in the preparation of the data contained herein, it is offered solely for your information, consideration and investigation. Teck Metals Ltd. extends no warranty and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the content and expressly disclaims all liability for reliance thereon. This safety data sheet provides guidelines for the safe handling and processing of this product; it does not and cannot advise on all possible situations. Therefore, your specific use of this product should be evaluated to determine if additional precautions are required. Individuals exposed to this product should read and understand this information and be provided pertinent training prior to working with this product.