

Spec Tool
P.O. Box 2845
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(616) 887-1714

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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Chemical Name: Cemented Carbide Product with Cobalt binder
Trade Name and Synonyms: All Spec Tool Tungsten Carbide Grades
Chemical Family: Refractory Metal Carbide
Molecular Weight: N/A

PHYSICAL DATA

Appearance and Odor:	Dark Gray Metal/No Odor		
Boiling Point:	N/A	Specific Gravity (H₂O = 1):	11.0 to 15.5
Vapor Pressure (mm Hg):	N/A	Percent Volatile by Volume:	0
Vapor Density (Air = 1):	N/A	Evaporation rate:	N/A
Solubility in Water:	Insoluble	How Best Monitored:	Air sample

HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

Material	Percent by WEIGHT		OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV
Tungsten Carbide (limits for Tungsten dust)	65-97%	*	—	5 mg/m ³
Cobalt	2.0-25%	*	0.1 mg/m ³	0.1 mg/m ³
Tantalum Carbide (limits for Tantalum dust)	0.0-50%	*	5 mg/m ³	5 mg/m ³
Titanium Carbide (limits for Titanium dust)	0.0-25%	*	No limit established at present	
Niobium Carbide	0.0-25%	*	No limit established at present	

* Depending on Grade Specifications

HEALTH HAZARD DATA

Routes of exposure: Grinding cemented carbide product will produce dust of potentially hazardous ingredients which can be inhaled, swallowed or come in contact with the skin or eyes.

Effects of Overexposure:

Inhalation — Dust from grinding can cause irritation of the nose and throat. It also has the potential for causing transient or permanent respiratory disease, including occupational asthma and interstitial fibrosis, in a small percentage of exposed individuals. It is reported that cobalt dust is the most probable cause of such respiratory diseases. Symptoms include productive cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and weight loss. Interstitial fibrosis (lung scarring) can lead to permanent disability or death. Certain pulmonary conditions may be aggravated by exposure.

Skin Contact — Can cause irritation or an allergic skin rash due to cobalt sensitization. Certain skin conditions, such as dry skin, may be aggravated by exposure.

Eye Contact — Can cause irritation.

Ingestion — Reports outside the industry suggest that ingestion of significant amounts of cobalt has the potential for causing blood, heart and other organ problems.

Emergency and First Aid Procedures: Applicable for dusts or mists.

Inhalation — If symptoms of pulmonary involvement develop (coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, etc.), remove from exposure and seek medical attention.

Skin Contact — If irritation or rash occurs, thoroughly wash affected area with soap and water and isolate from exposure. If irritation or rash persists, seek medical attention.

Eye Contact — If irritation occurs, flush with copious amounts of water. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.

Ingestion — If substantial quantities are swallowed, dilute with a large amount of water, induce vomiting and seek medical attention.

Carcinogenic Assessment (NTP Annual Report, IARC Monographs, other): None of the components of this material

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REACTIVITY DATA

Stability:

Unstable
Stable X

Conditions to Avoid: N/A

Incompatibility: Contact of dust with strong oxidizers may cause fire or explosion.

Materials to Avoid: Strong acids

Hazardous Decomposition Products: None

Hazardous Polymerization:

May Occur
Will Not Occur X

Conditions to Avoid: N/A

SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES

Steps to be Taken in Case Material is Released or Spilled: Ventilate area of spill. Clean up using methods which avoid dust generation such as vacuum (with appropriate filter to prevent airborne dust levels which exceed the PEL or TLV), wet dust mop or wet clean-up. If airborne dust is generated, use an appropriate NIOSH approved respirator.

Waste Disposal Method: Dispose of in accordance with appropriate government regulations. May be sold as scrap for reclaim.

SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

Respiratory Protection: Use an appropriate NIOSH approved respirator if airborne dust concentrations exceed the appropriate PEL or TLV. All appropriate requirements set forth in 29 CFR 1910.134 should be met.

Ventilation: Use local exhaust ventilation which is adequate to limit personal exposure to airborne dust to levels which do not exceed the PEL or TLV. If such equipment is not available use respirators as specified above.

Protective Gloves: Protective Gloves or Barrier cream are recommended when contact with dust or mist is likely. Prior to applying the Barrier cream or use of protective gloves, wash thoroughly.

Eye Protection: Safety glasses with the side shields or goggles are recommended.

Other Protective Equipment: N/A

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Precautions to be Taken in Handling and Storage: Maintain good housekeeping procedures to prevent dust accumulation during grinding. Avoid dust inhalation and direct skin contact with dust.

Other Precautions: Clean up using methods which avoid dust generation such as vacuum (with appropriate filter to prevent airborne dust levels which exceed PEL or TLV), wet dust mop or wet clean-up. If airborne dust is generated, use an appropriate NIOSH approved respirator.

Wash hands thoroughly after handling, before eating or smoking. Wash exposed skin at the end of work shift. Do not shake clothing, rags or other items to remove dust. Dust should be removed by washing or vacuuming (with appropriate filters) the clothing, rags, or other items.

Periodic medical examinations are recommended for individuals regularly exposed to dust or mist.

For inquiries call or write:

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For any additional medical information
consult a medical doctor, or pulmonary
specialist.